

I. The Milnor Conjecture

II. Squeezed knots

III. Slice torus invariants
and squeezed knots

IV. Obstructions

V. Future directions

SQUEEZED KNOTS & SLICE TORUS INVARIANTS

Gary D Dunckerley

Oral Examination

NOVEMBER 15th 2023

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- Khovanov homology
- Lee homology
- The s -invariant
- Smooth 4-genus bound
- Proof of Milnor Conjecture

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In this presentation, everything is smooth.

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Theorem (Kronheimer-Mrowka '93)

$$\underbrace{g_4(T_{p,q})}_{\text{smooth 4-genus}} = \underbrace{g_3(T_{p,q})}_{\text{Seifert genus}} = \frac{(|p| - 1)(|q| - 1)}{2}$$

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We will present a simpler proof of the above first noticed by Jake Rasmussen.

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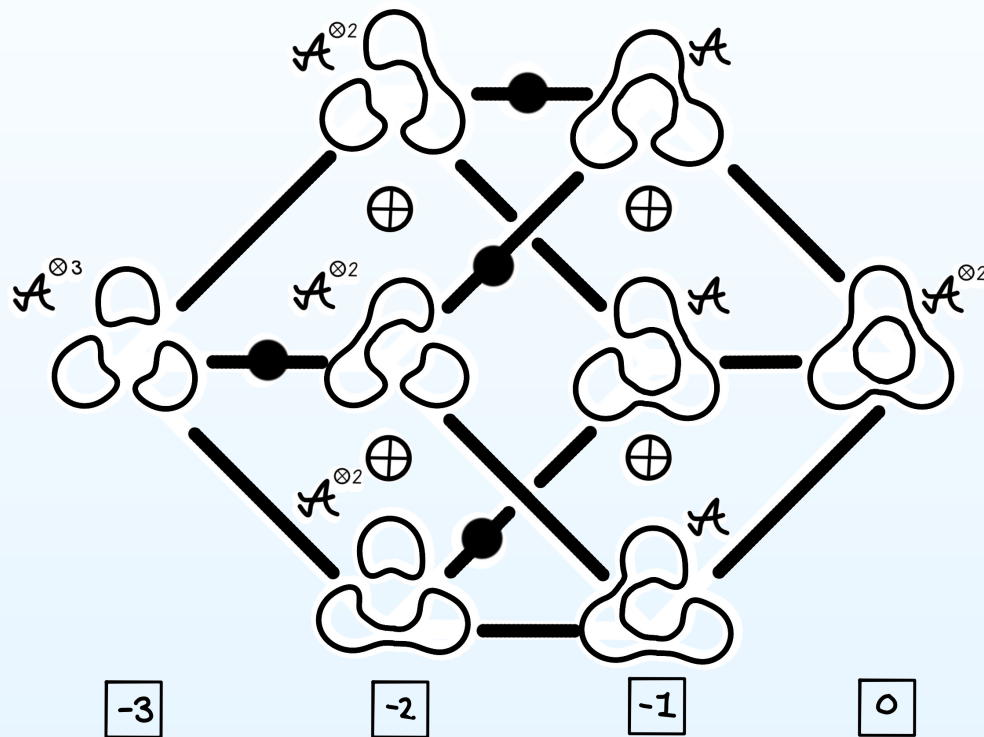
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Khovanov defined a bigraded (co)homology for knots using the cube of resolutions of a diagram D .

$$\text{CKh}(\mathcal{S})$$



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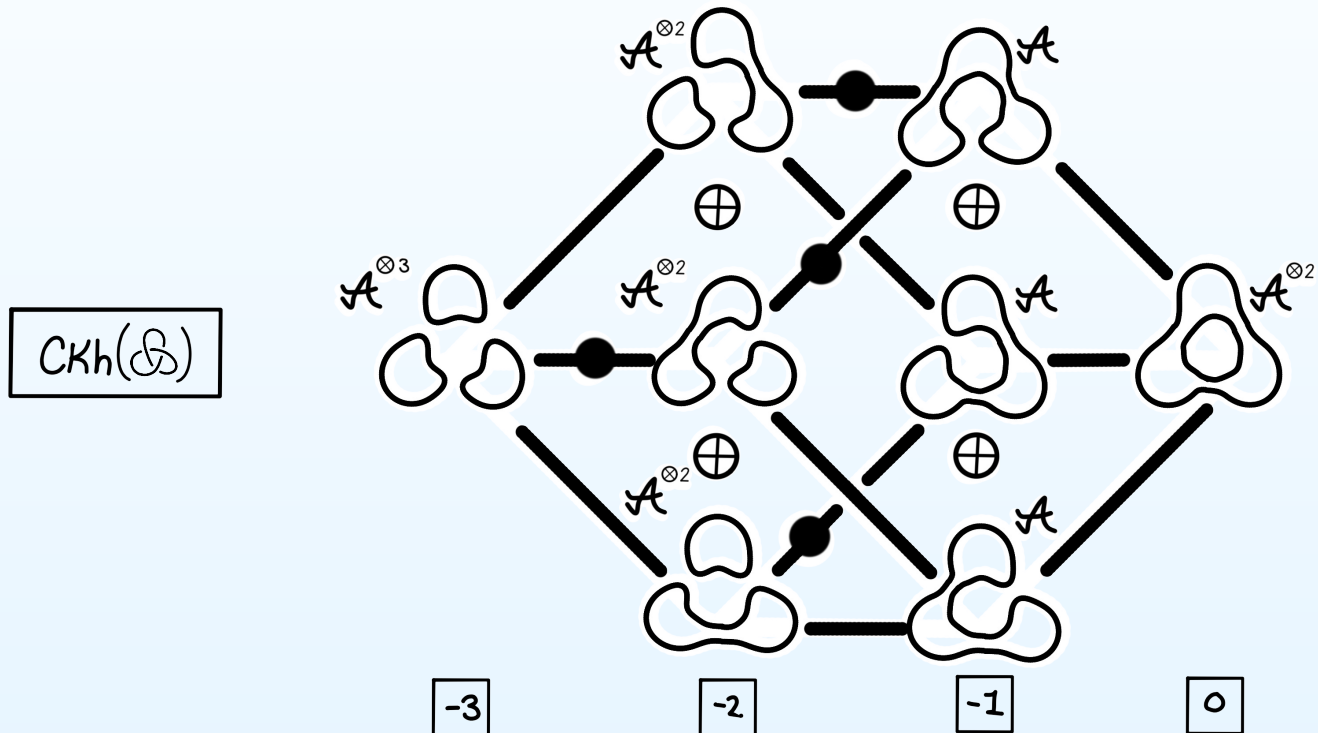
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Khovanov defined a bigraded (co)homology for knots using the **cube of resolutions** of a diagram D .



Generators are resolutions with components labeled by generators $\{v_{\pm}\}$ of the Frobenius algebra $\mathcal{A} \cong \frac{\mathbb{F}[x]}{(x^2)}$. Differential is defined using the multiplication and comultiplication of \mathcal{A} .

Gradings: (co)homological and quantum

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Let N be the number of crossings in D and let $\epsilon \in \{0, 1\}^N$ encode a resolution D_ϵ with C components.

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Let $\alpha = v_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes v_C \in \mathcal{A}^{\otimes C} =: \mathcal{A}(D_\epsilon)$.

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$$|\epsilon| := \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon(i)$$

$$N_{\pm} := \#(\pm\text{-crossings})$$

$$\deg(v_{\pm 1}) = \pm 1$$

$$\deg(\otimes^i v_i) := \sum \deg(v_i)$$

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(co)homological grading

$$gr_h(\alpha) := |\epsilon| - N_-$$

quantum grading

$$gr_q(\alpha) := \deg(\alpha) + gr_h(\alpha) + N_+ - N_-$$

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The q -grading on Khovanov homology defines a (descending) filtration of $\mathrm{CKh}(K; \mathbb{F})$:

$$\mathcal{F}_j = \{\alpha \in \mathrm{CKh}(K; \mathbb{F}) \mid gr_q(\alpha) \geq j\}$$

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$$\text{Kh}_{Lee}(K) = \bigoplus_{h,s \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{Kh}_{Lee}^{h,s}(K)$$

where the s -grading is induced by the filtration \mathcal{F}_\bullet .

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For Σ a connected, oriented cobordism between knots K_0 and K_1 , there's a filtered isomorphism $\phi_S : \text{Kh}_{Lee}(K_0) \rightarrow \text{Kh}_{Lee}(K_1)$ of degree $-2g(\Sigma)$.

Lee generators

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For L a link on n -components, Lee also proved $\text{Kh}_{Lee}(L) \cong \mathbb{Q}^{2n}$ via a concrete bijection of generators and orientations on L . We will use the basis

$$a = v_- + v_+ \quad b = v_- - v_+$$

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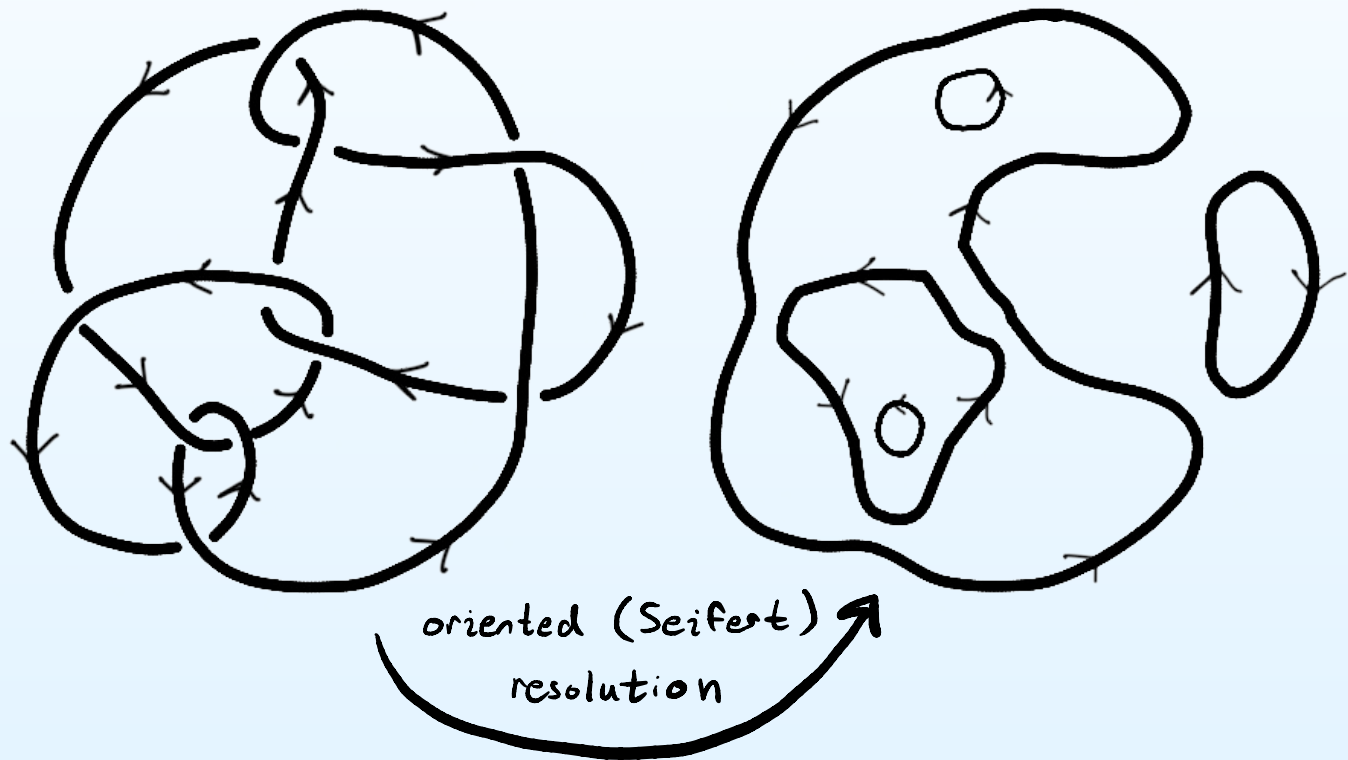
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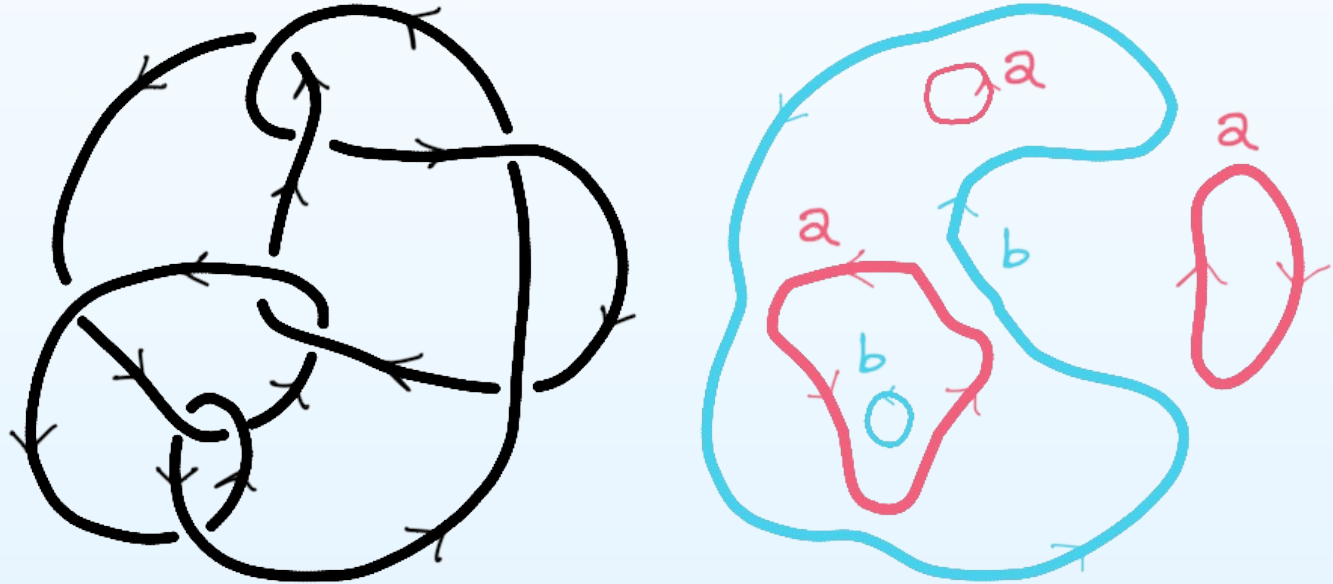
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```
if ( count(C) + isCounterClockwise(C) = 0 mod 2 ):  
    label(C) = a  
else:  
    label(C) = b
```

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- For a knot K , Rasmussen noticed the largest s grading supported in $\text{Kh}_{Lee}(K)$ is always 2 more than the smallest supported s -grading.

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- For a knot K , Rasmussen noticed the largest s grading supported in $\text{Kh}_{Lee}(K)$ is always 2 more than the smallest supported s -grading.

$$s(K) := s_{\max}(K) - 1 = s_{\min}(K) + 1$$

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$$s : \mathcal{C}_s \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

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- Additionally, if \mathfrak{s}_o is the Lee class for an orientation o on K , Rasmussen proved $s(\mathfrak{s}_o) = s_{\min}(K)$
- With these, he was able to show $|s(K)| \leq 2g_4(K)$ and in particular $|s(T_{p,q})| = 2g_4(T_{p,q})$. We offer the proof.

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S_+ induces a filtered isomorphism ϕ_{S_+} of degree $-2g_4(K)$, so...

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$$s_{\max}(U) = 1$$

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$$2g_4(K) + 1 \geq s(\alpha) = s_{\max}(K)$$

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$$2g_4(K) \geq s(\alpha) - 1 = s(K)$$

Let S_- be the mirror of S_+ : this gives a cobordism from the concordance inverse $-K$ to the unknot U . By same argument get

$$s(-K) \leq 2g_4(K)$$

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Therefore $|s(K)| \leq 2g_4(K)$.



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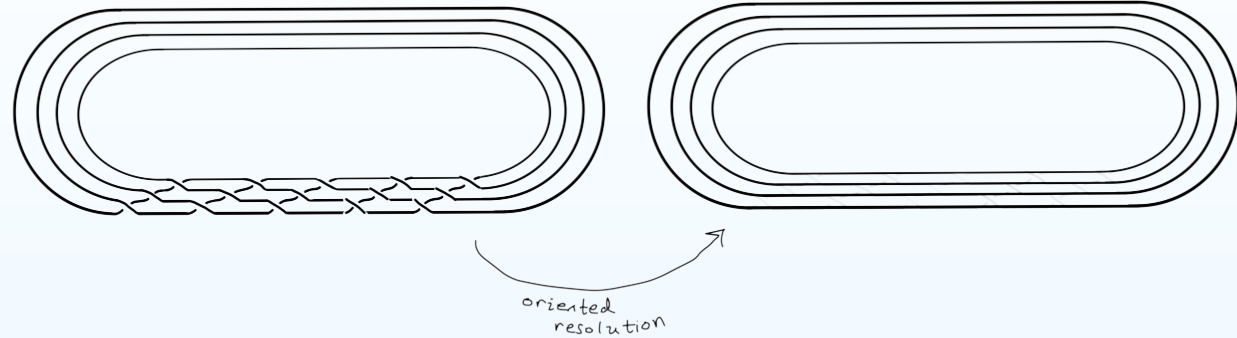
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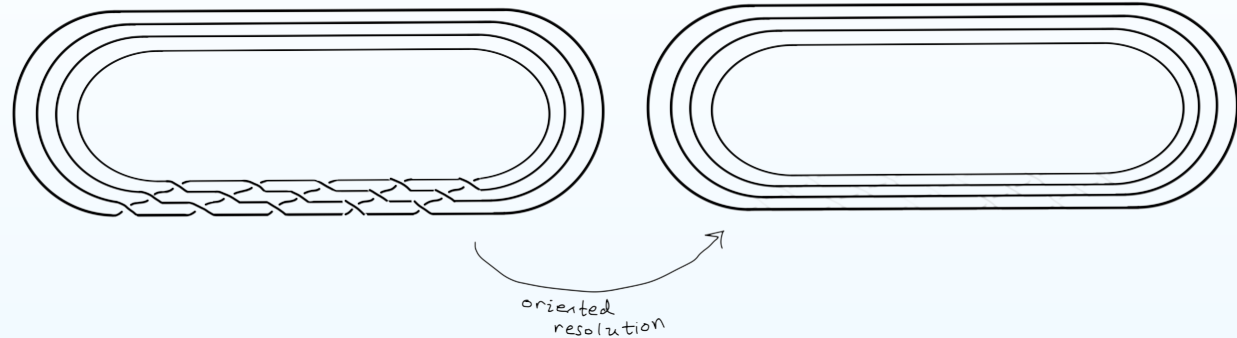
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note for any orientation o , we have

$$gr_h(\mathfrak{s}_o) = 0$$

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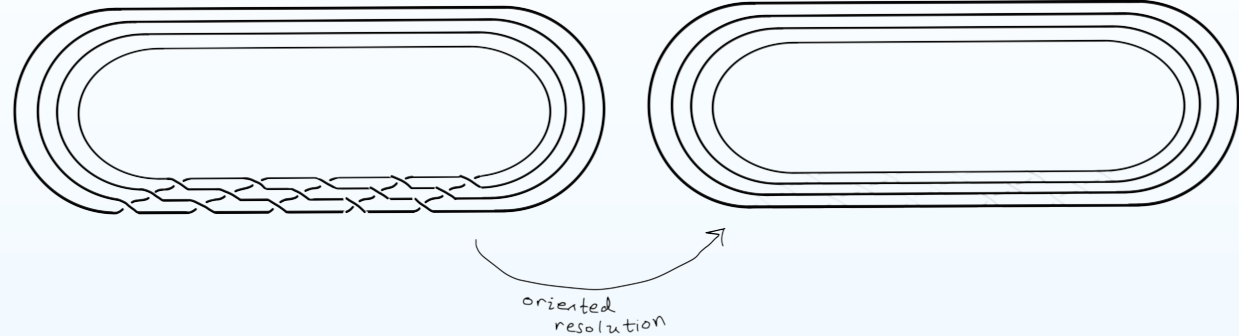
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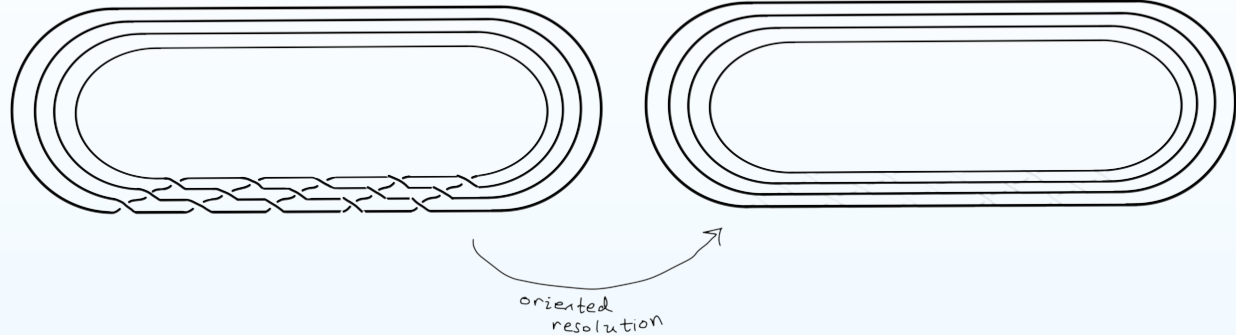
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$$\underbrace{gr_h(\mathfrak{s}_o)}_{\text{(lowest possible)}} = 0 \xrightarrow{[\alpha] = [\mathfrak{s}_o] \Leftrightarrow \alpha = \mathfrak{s}_o}$$

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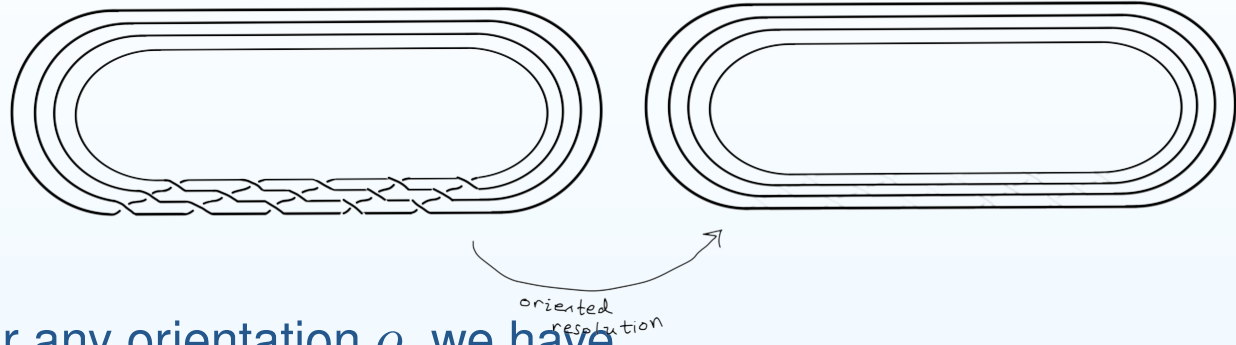
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$$\underbrace{gr_h(\mathfrak{s}_o) = 0}_{\text{(lowest possible)}} \xrightarrow{[\alpha] = [\mathfrak{s}_o] \Leftrightarrow \alpha = \mathfrak{s}_o} s[\mathfrak{s}_0] = \text{smallest } q\text{-grading of summand in } \mathfrak{s}_o$$

Proof of Milnor Conjecture

I. The Milnor Conjecture

- Khovanov homology
- Lee homology
- The s -invariant
- Smooth 4-genus bound
- **Proof of Milnor Conjecture**

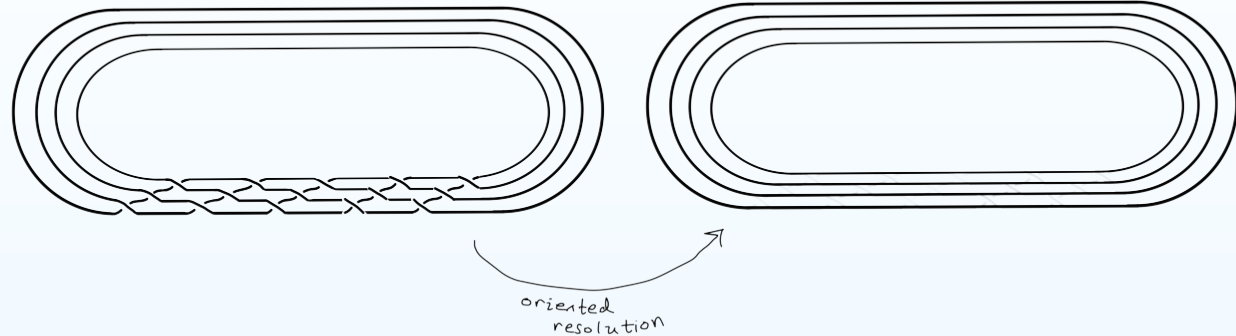
II. Squeezed knots

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$$= \underbrace{-(\# \text{components})}_{\deg(v_- \otimes \cdots \otimes v_-)} + \underbrace{0}_{gr_h(\mathfrak{s}_0)} + N_+ - \underbrace{0}_{N_-}$$

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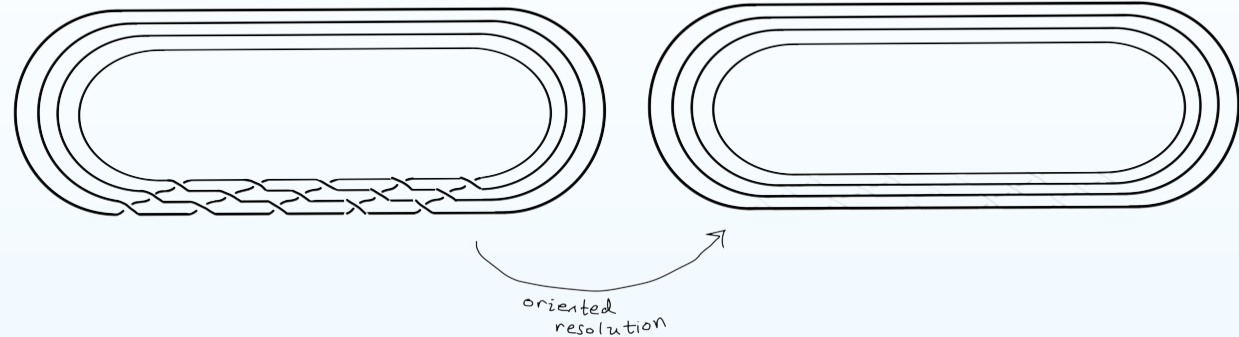
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Observe diagram gives Seifert surface with

$$\chi(\Sigma) = -s(\mathfrak{s}_o) = -s_{\min}(K)$$

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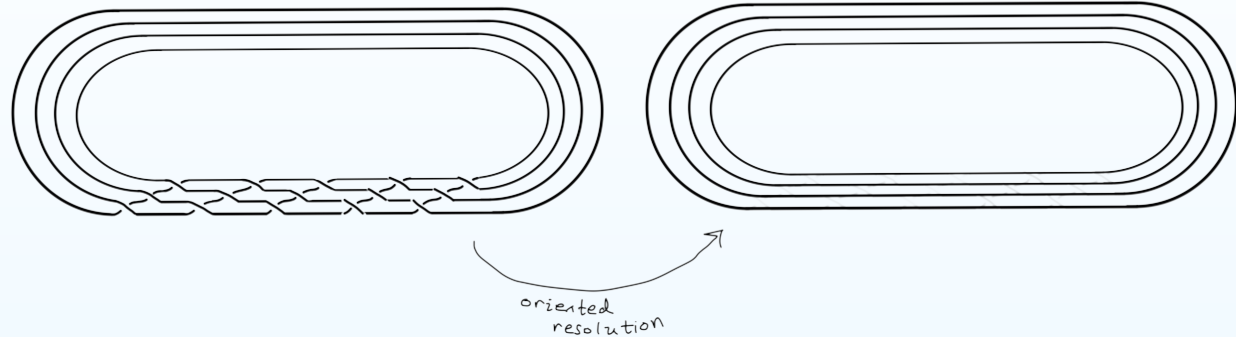
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Observe diagram gives Seifert surface with

$$\chi(\Sigma) = -s(\mathfrak{s}_o) = -s_{\min}(K) \Rightarrow -\chi(\Sigma) + 1 = s(K)$$

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Finally, conclude

$$2g_3(K)$$

Proof of Milnor Conjecture

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Finally, conclude

$$2g_3(K) \leq 2g(\Sigma)$$

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$$2g_3(K) \leq \underbrace{2g(\Sigma) = 2 - \chi(\Sigma) - 1}_{\text{genus formula}} = s(K) \leq 2g_4(K)$$

Since $g_3(K) \geq g_4(K)$ in general, have equality.



I. The Milnor Conjecture

II. Squeezed knots

- The cobordism distance
- Species of squeezed knots
- Quasipositive knots
- Ribbon Cobordisms

III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

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II. Squeezed knots

The cobordism distance

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● **The cobordism distance**

● Species of squeezed knots

● Quasipositive knots

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III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

IV. Obstructions

V. Future directions

Let K and J be knots. Define their cobordism distance to be

$$d_{cob}(K, J) := g_4(K \# - J)$$

The cobordism distance

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Let K and J be knots. Define their **cobordism distance** to be

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This is not a metric on knots, but does define a metric on the **smooth concordance group** \mathcal{C}_s .

The cobordism distance

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This is not a metric on knots, but does define a metric on the **smooth concordance group** \mathcal{C}_S .

Squeezed knots are cross-sections of genus minimizing cobordisms between a positive torus knot and a negative torus knot.

Species of squeezed knots

I. The Milnor Conjecture

II. Squeezed knots

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- **Species of squeezed knots**
- Quasipositive knots
- Ribbon Cobordisms

III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

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V. Future directions

Other than torus knots, many natural and interesting classes are squeezed!

- **Positive knots**
Knots that admit diagrams with only positive / negative crossings.
- **Alternating knots**
Knots that admits a diagram whose crossings alternate between over and under.
- **Quasipositive knots** Knots arising as closures of braid words consisting of conjugated Artin generators.
- **Quasihomogenous knots** Knots arising from an ribbon-immersed plumbing of two surfaces together along a disk: one bounded by a quasipositive knot and the other bounded by a quasinegative knot.

Quasipositive knots

I. The Milnor Conjecture

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• Quasipositive knots

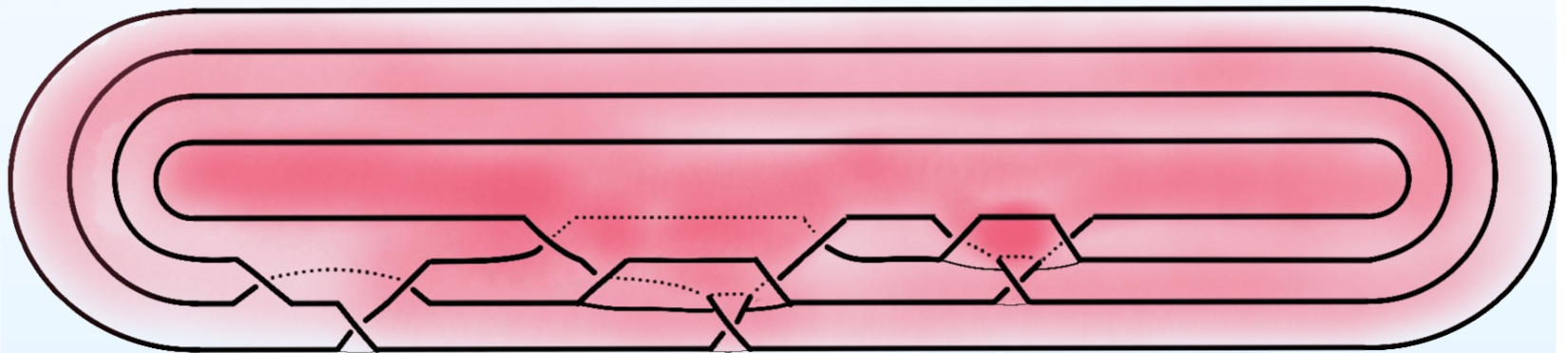
- Ribbon Cobordisms

III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

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- Choose a quasipositive braid β , the conjugated Artin generators in β give ribbon-immersed bands between the Seifert circles of $\overline{\beta}$. Result is the **Rudolph surface** of $\overline{\beta}$.



- Puncturing one of the Seifert disks of $\overline{\beta}$ turns R into a cobordism from $\overline{\beta}$ to the unknot.

Quasipositive knots are squeezed

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II. Squeezed knots

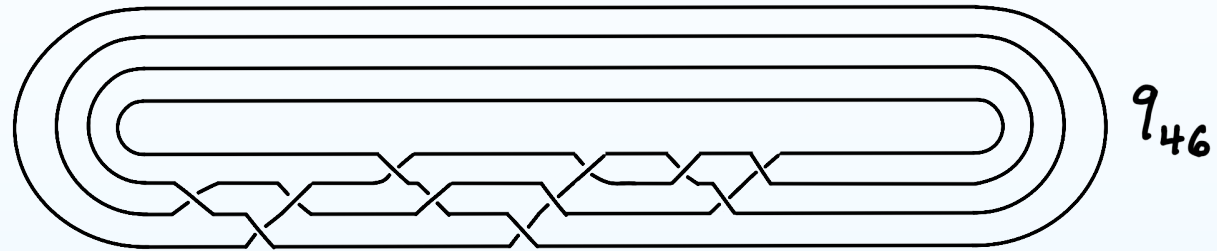
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III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

IV. Obstructions

V. Future directions

- Let $\beta \in B_n$ be a quasipositive braid word.



Quasipositive knots are squeezed

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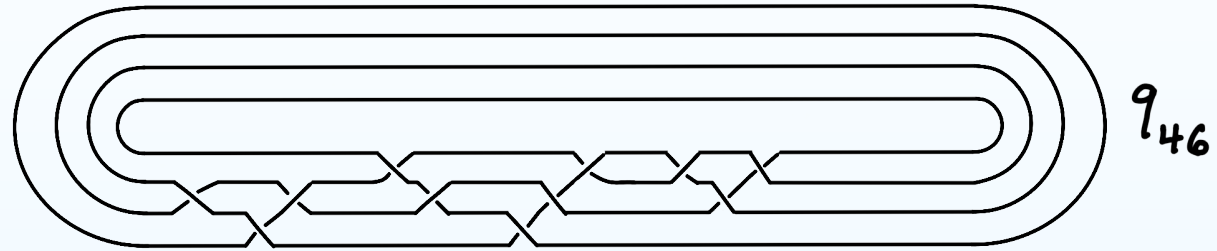
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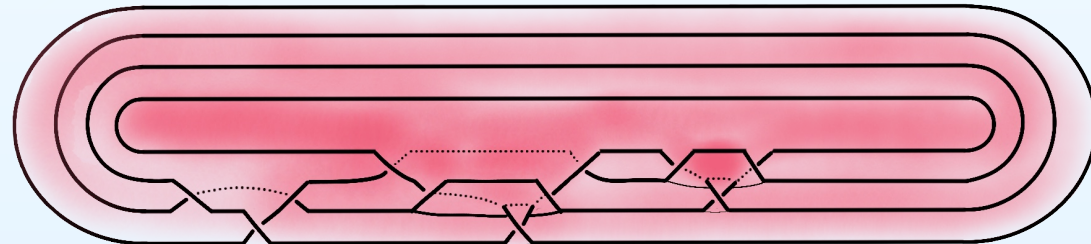
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- Let $\beta \in B_n$ be a quasipositive braid word.



- Suppose β has I inverse Artin generators and $A + I$ Artin generators and let R be its associated (once-punctured) Rudolph surface.



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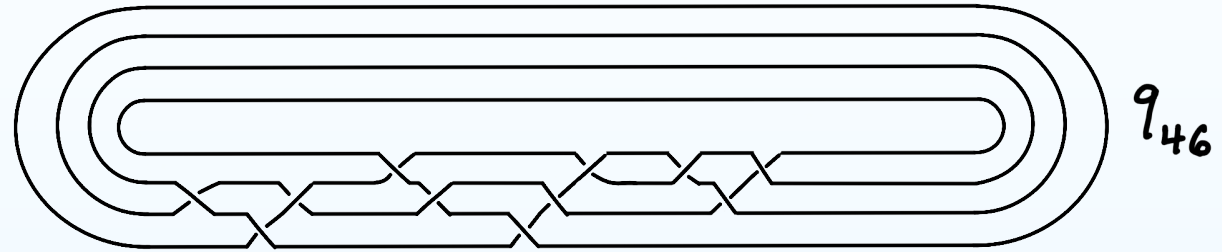
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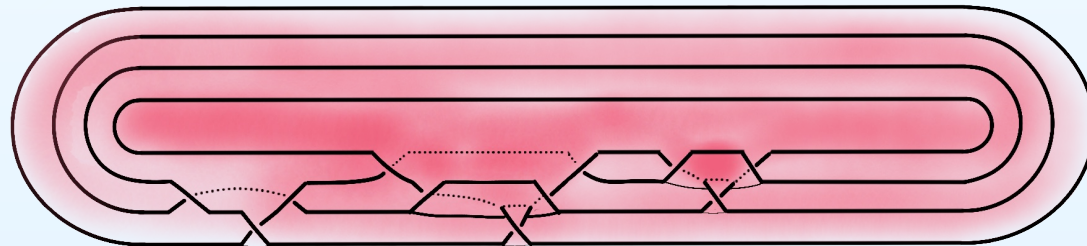
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- Goal: extend R to get a cobordism Σ from a torus knot to the unknot and then show that cobordism has minimal genus.

Quasipositive knots are squeezed

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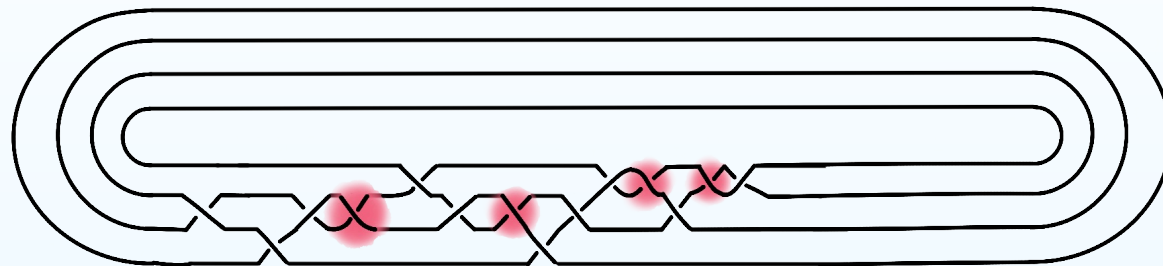
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III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

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- Add I positive bands to the braid to cancel the inverse Artin generators.



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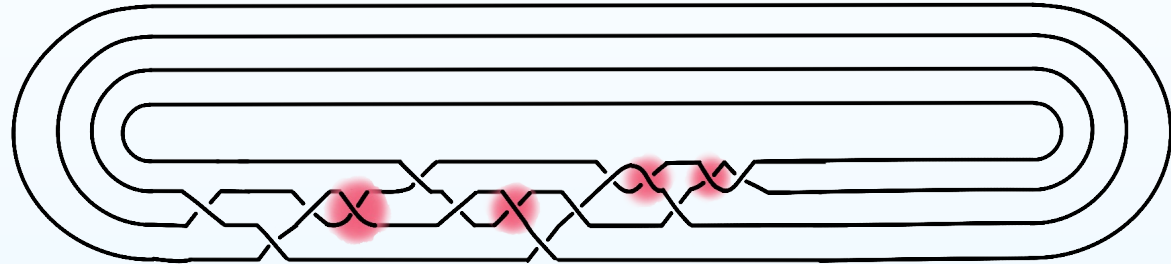
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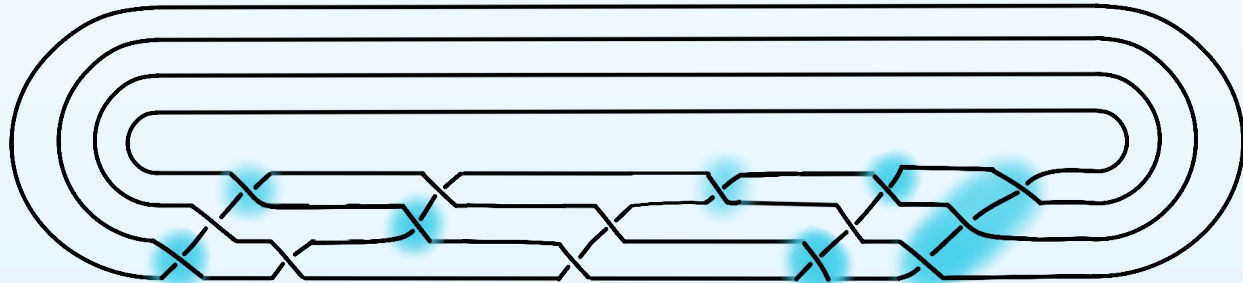
IV. Obstructions

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- For some p , we can add $p(n - 1) - (A + I)$ additional positive bands to get a braid whose closure is $T_{n,p}$.



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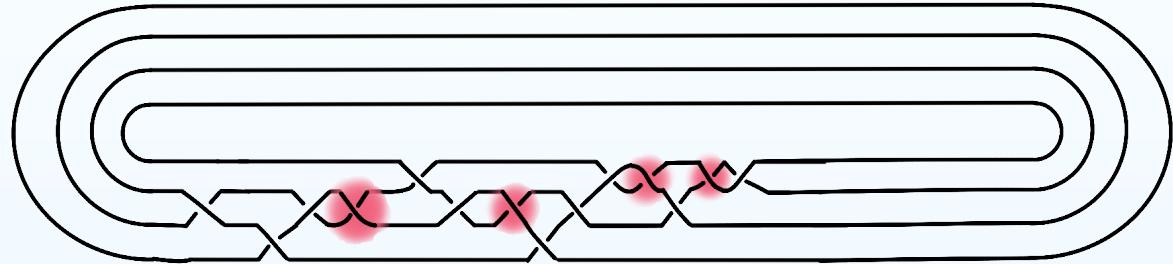
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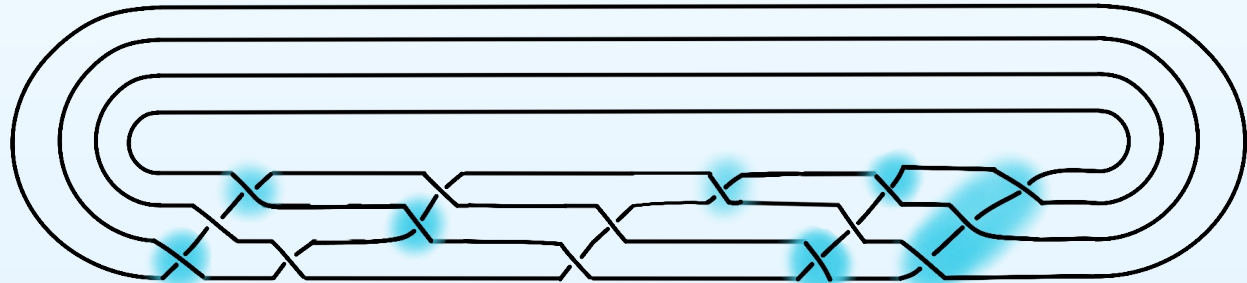
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- Adding these bands to $\bar{\beta}$ gives a cobordism C from $\bar{\beta}$ to $T_{n,p}$.

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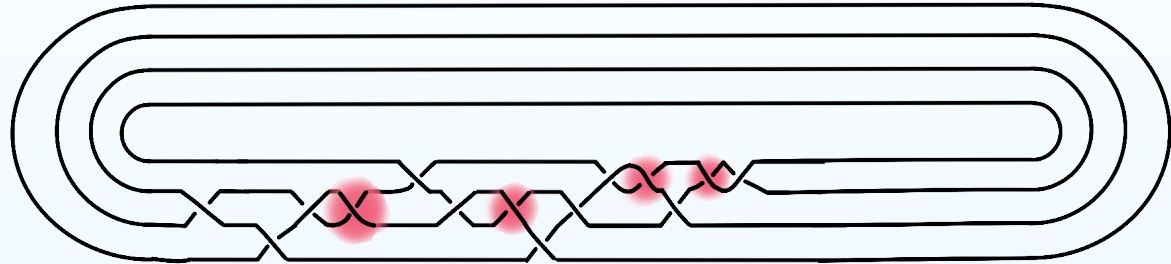
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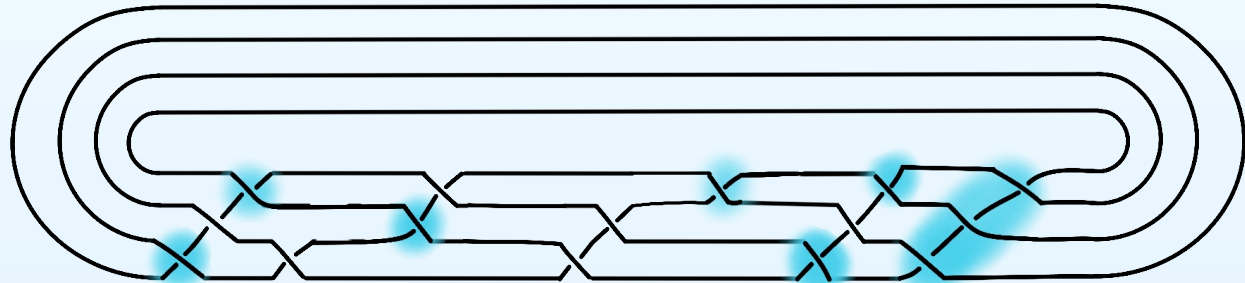
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Quasipositive knots are squeezed

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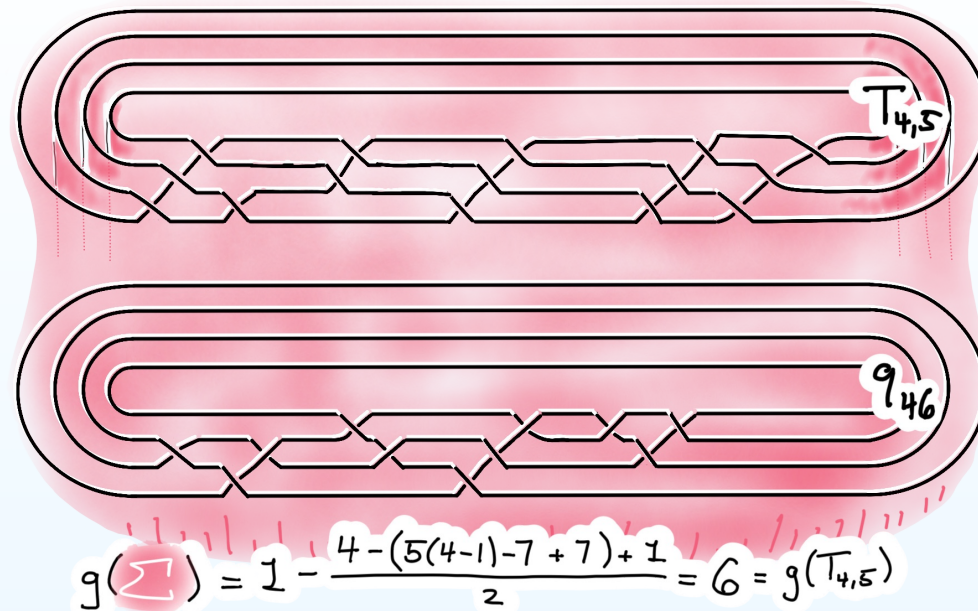
• Quasipositive knots

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III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

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V. Future directions



Note the Euler characteristic of Σ is

$$n - \left((p(n-1) - (A+I)) + (A+I) \right) = n - pn + p$$

From which the genus formula yields

$$g(\Sigma) = 1 - \frac{(n-pn+p)+1}{2} = \frac{(n-1)(p-1)}{2} = g_4(T_{n,p})$$

Therefore Σ is genus minimizing. \square

Consequences

I. The Milnor Conjecture

II. Squeezed knots

- The cobordism distance
- Species of squeezed knots

● Quasipositive knots

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Corollary

If R is a Rudolph surface for a quasipositive knot K , then $g_4(K) = g(R)$.

Consequences

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If R is a Rudolph surface for a quasipositive knot K , then $g_4(K) = g(R)$.

Corollary

g_4 is additive on quasipositive knots (and therefore, on positive torus knots).

Squeezing with qpos. and qneg. knots

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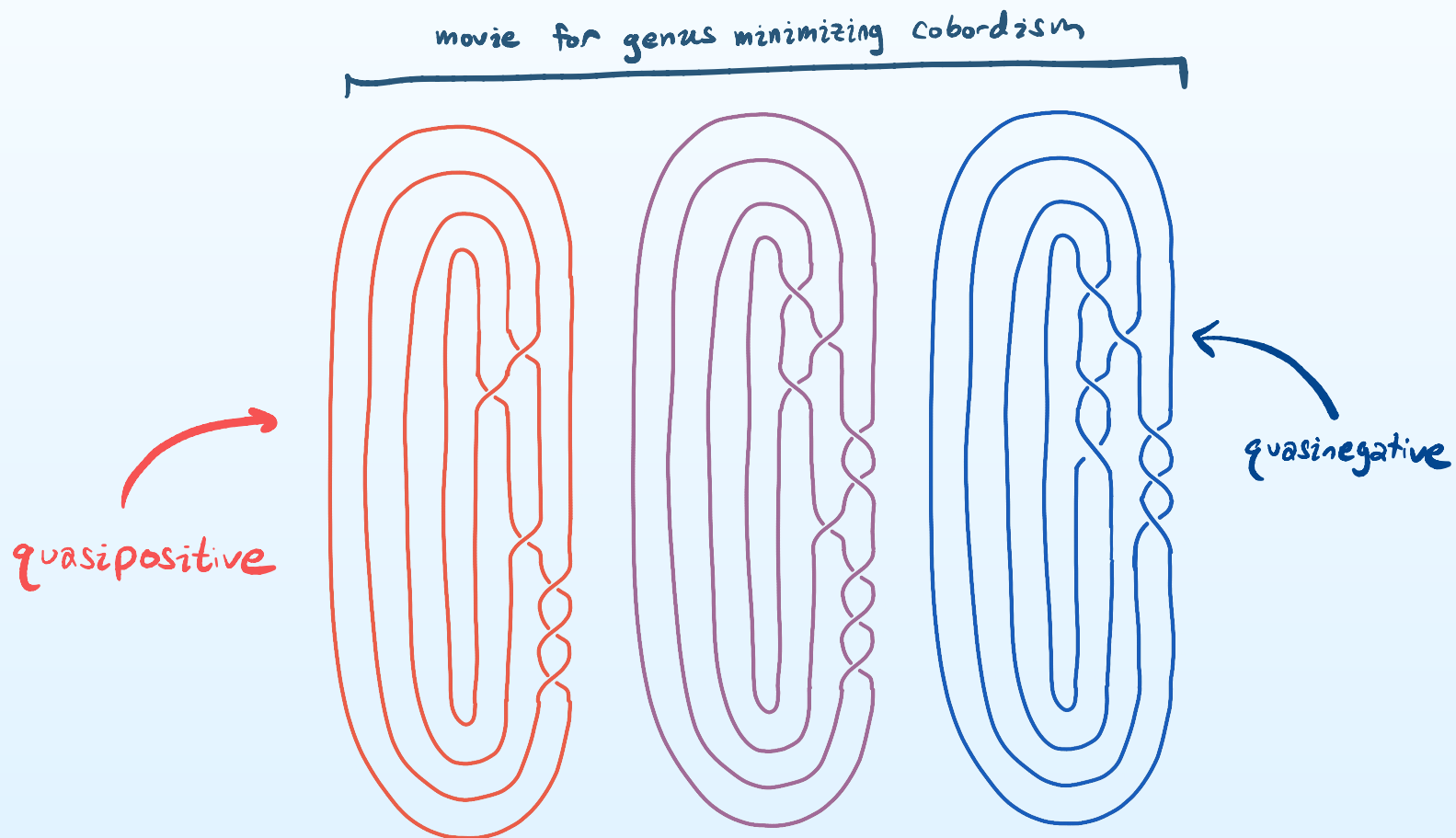
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Lemma

If K is a slice of a (connected) genus minimizing cobordism from a (quasi)positive knot to a (quasi)negative knot, then K is squeezed.



Squeezing with qpos. and qneg. knots

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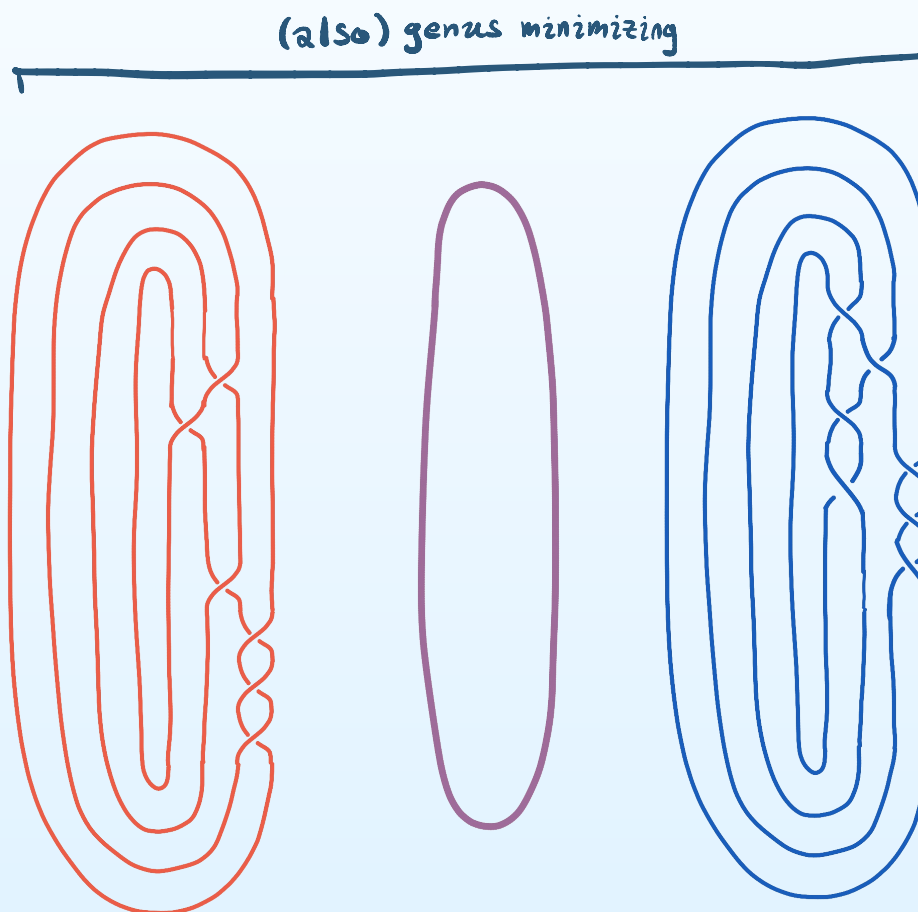
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Proof



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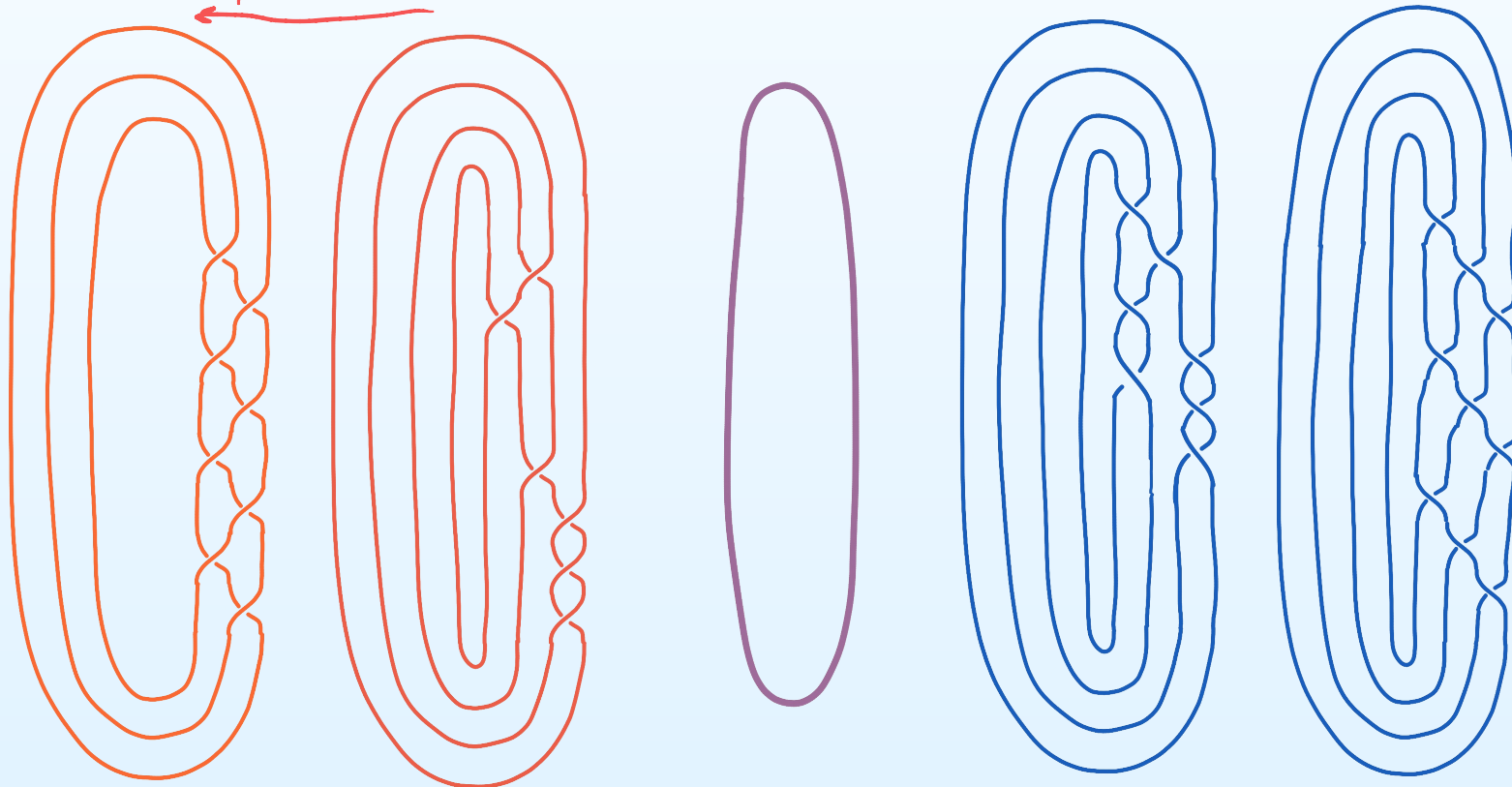
If K is a slice of a (connected) genus minimizing cobordism from a (quasi)positive knot to a (quasi)negative knot, then K is squeezed.

Proof

$$\text{genus is } g_4(T_+ \# -T_-) = d_{\text{cob}}(T_+, T_-)$$

add bands until positive torus

add bands until negative torus



Squeezing with qpos. and qneg. knots

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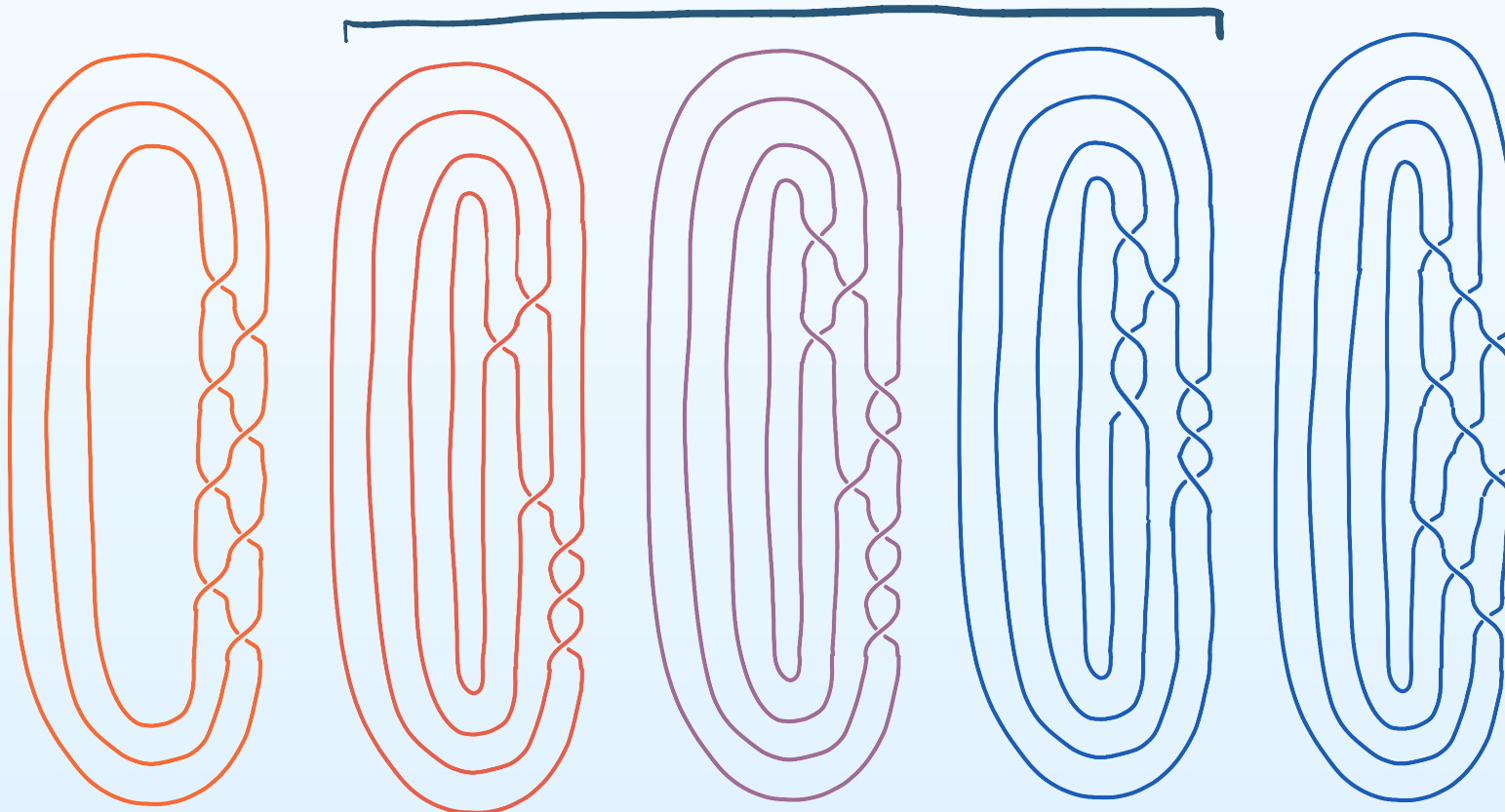
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Lemma

If K is a slice of a (connected) genus minimizing cobordism from a (quasi)positive knot to a (quasi)negative knot, then K is squeezed.

Proof

replace one genus minimizing cobordism w/ another



Squeezing with qpos. and qneg. knots

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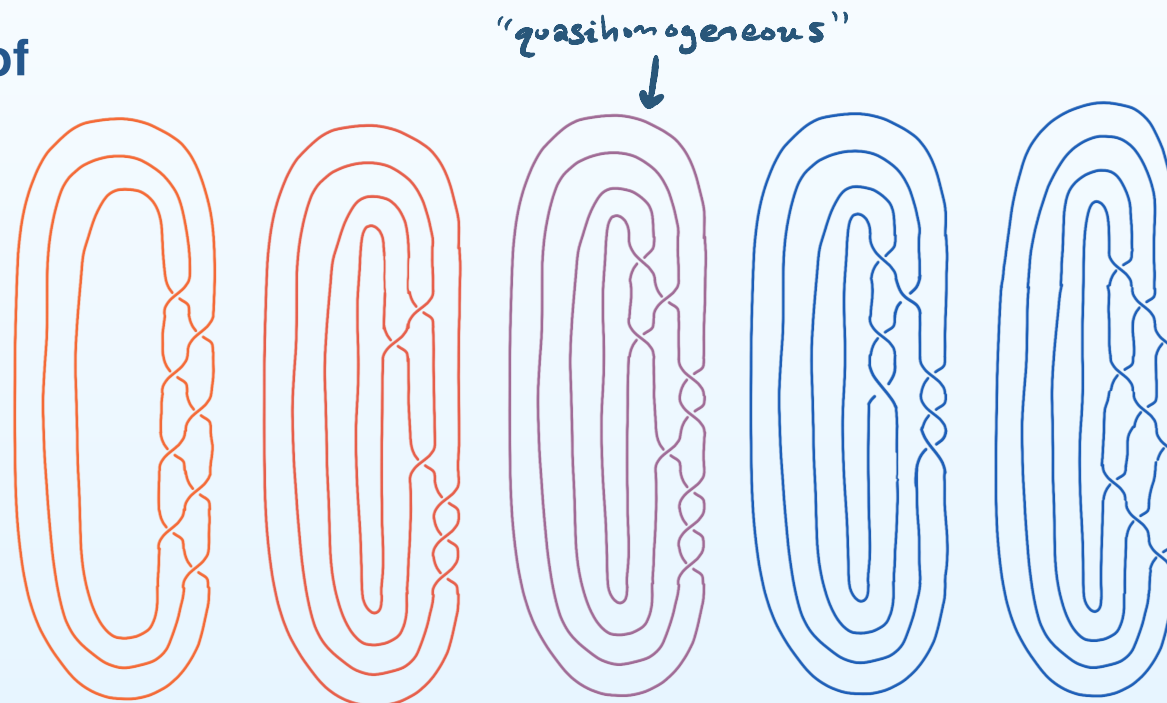
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Lemma

If K is a slice of a (connected) genus minimizing cobordism from a (quasi)positive knot to a (quasi)negative knot, then K is squeezed.

Proof



Using this lemma, Feller, Lewark, and Lobb prove that alternating and quasihomogeneous knots are squeezed.

Ribbon Cobordisms

I. The Milnor Conjecture

II. Squeezed knots

- The cobordism distance
- Species of squeezed knots
- Quasipositive knots
- **Ribbon Cobordisms**

III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

IV. Obstructions

V. Future directions

In showing alternating knots are squeezed, we showed an arbitrary alternating knot resides in a ribbon cobordism

$$(1) \quad T_+ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}_1} A_+ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}_2} A \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}_3} A_- \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}_4} T_-$$

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Similarly, quasihomogenous knots live in a “co-span” of ribbon cobordisms

$$(2) \quad T_+ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}_+} Q \xleftarrow{\mathcal{R}_-} T_-$$

All squeezing cobordisms given by Feller, Lewark, and Lobb fall into one of these cases.

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Question

Are all squeezed knots contained in cobordisms of forms 1 or 2?

I. The Milnor Conjecture

II. Squeezed knots

III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

- Slice torus invariants
- Stable invariants
- The

Feller-Lewark-Lobb
theorems

- $\ell(K)$ is well-defined
- K squeezed
 $\Rightarrow \ell(K) = -\ell(-K)$
- $\{\phi(K)\}_{\phi \in \mathcal{ST}} =$
 $[-\ell(-K), \ell(K)]$

IV. Obstructions

V. Future directions

III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

Slice torus invariants

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Only known method for proving a knot is squeezed is to exhibit a genus minimizing cobordism.

Slice torus invariants

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Only known method for proving a knot is squeezed is to exhibit a genus minimizing cobordism.

Let $\phi : \mathcal{C}_S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a group homomorphism.

Slice torus invariants

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Only known method for proving a knot is squeezed is to exhibit a genus minimizing cobordism.

Let $\phi : \mathcal{C}_S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a group homomorphism.

ϕ is a **slice torus invariant** if for any knot K we have

Slice torus invariants

I. The Milnor Conjecture

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Feller-Lewark-Lobb theorems

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IV. Obstructions

V. Future directions

Only known method for proving a knot is squeezed is to exhibit a genus minimizing cobordism.

Let $\phi : \mathcal{C}_s \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a group homomorphism.

ϕ is a slice torus invariant if for any knot K we have

$$|\phi[K]| \leq g_4(K)$$

Slice torus invariants

I. The Milnor Conjecture

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- Stable invariants
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Examples include $\frac{s}{2}$ and Ozsváth and Szabó's τ invariant.

Denote the collection of all slice torus invariants by \mathcal{ST} .

Stable invariants

I. The Milnor Conjecture

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$$\widehat{g}_4(K) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g_4(\#^n K)}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g_4(\overbrace{K \# K \# \cdots \# K}^{n\text{-fold connect sum}})}{n}$$

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Feller, Lewark, and Lobb define the ℓ -invariant of K to be

$$\ell(K) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{g}_4(K \# T_{p,p+1}) - \widehat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1})$$

The Feller-Lewark-Lobb theorems

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Squeezed knot valuation theorem (Feller, Lewark, Lobb '21)

If K is squeezed, then $\ell(K) = -\ell(-K)$.

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Slice torus value theorem (Feller, Lewark, Lobb '21)

The set of all values in \mathbb{R} taken on by K under slice torus invariants is $[-\ell(-K), \ell(K)]$.

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Corollary

All slice torus invariants agree on squeezed knots.

$\ell(K)$ is well-defined

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Lemma (Livingston '10)

\widehat{g}_4 is well-defined and induces a seminorm on the topological vector space $\mathcal{C}_s \otimes \mathbb{R}$.

This implies

$$t_p(K) := \widehat{g}_4(K \# T_{p,p+1}) - \widehat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}) \geq 0.$$

So ℓ will be well-defined if we can show $t_p(K)$ is monotone decreasing.

$$\underline{\ell(K) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}(K) - \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}))}$$

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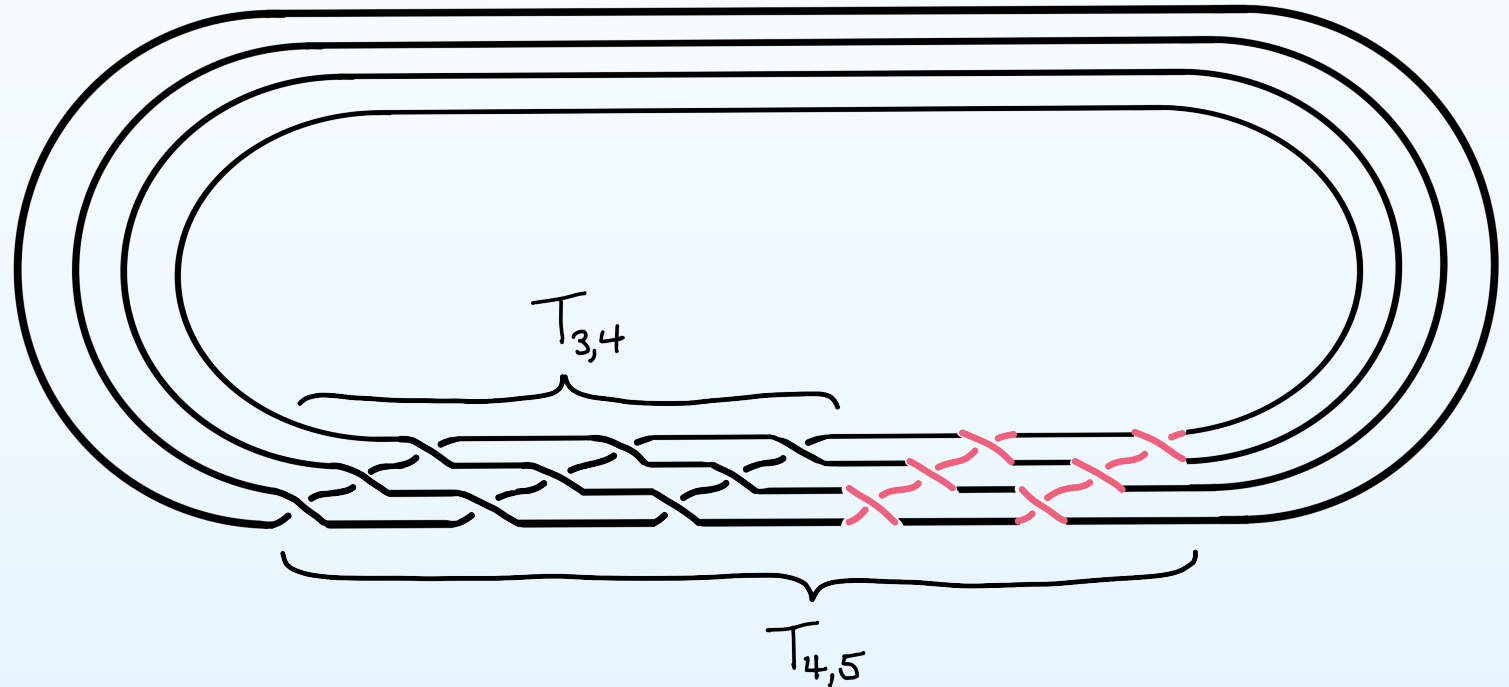
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$$\{\phi(K)\}_{\phi \in \mathcal{ST}} = [-\ell(-K), \ell(K)]$$

IV. Obstructions

V. Future directions

Recall $T_{p-1,p}$ is the closure of $\beta = (\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{p-1})^{p-1}$



Adding $2(p - 1)$ bands gives a cobordism

$$C : T_{p-1,p} \rightarrow T_{p,p+1} \quad g(C) = \frac{2(p-1)}{2} = p-1$$

$$\underline{\ell(K) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}(K) - \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}))}$$

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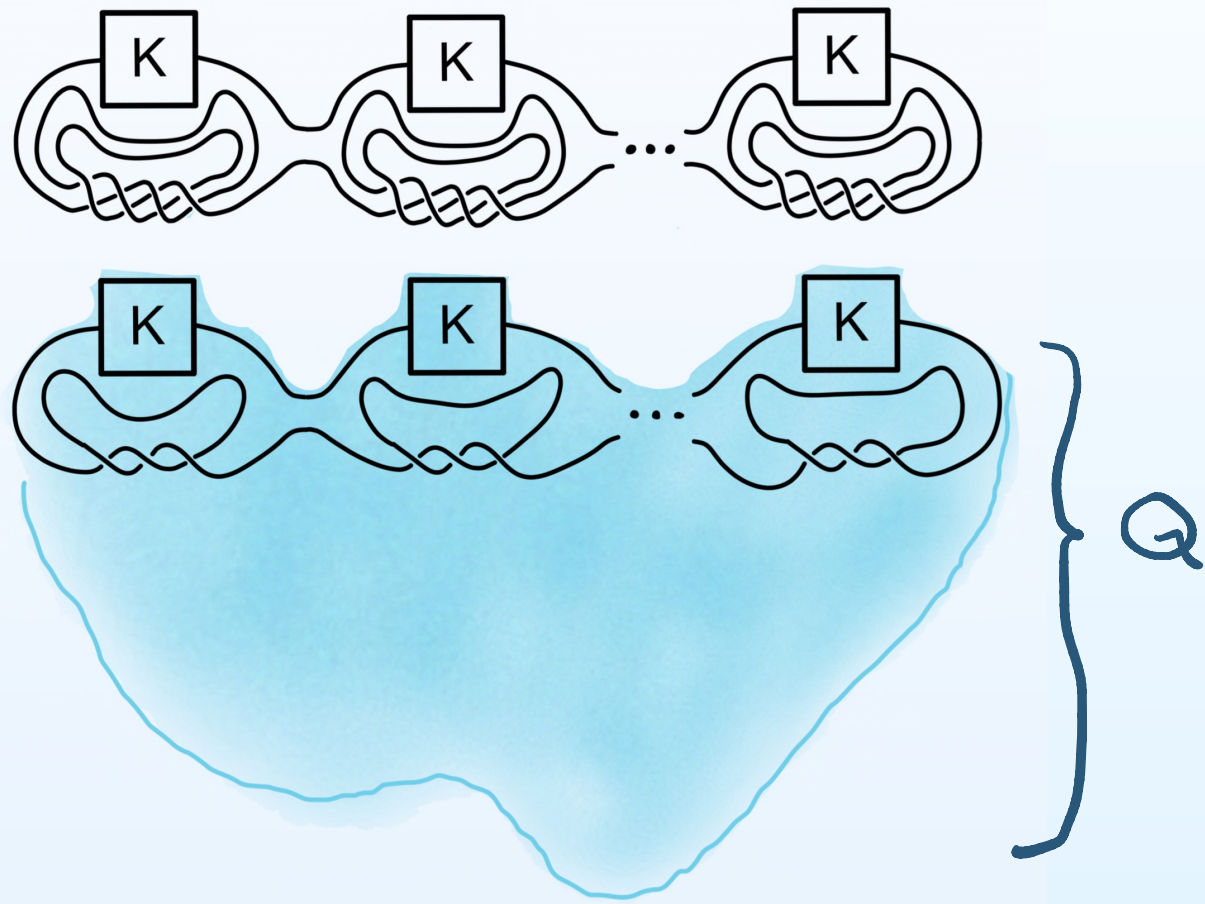
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Let Q be a genus minimizing cobordism from $\#^n(T_{p-1,p}\#K)$ to the unknot.



$$\underline{\ell(K) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}(K) - \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}))}$$

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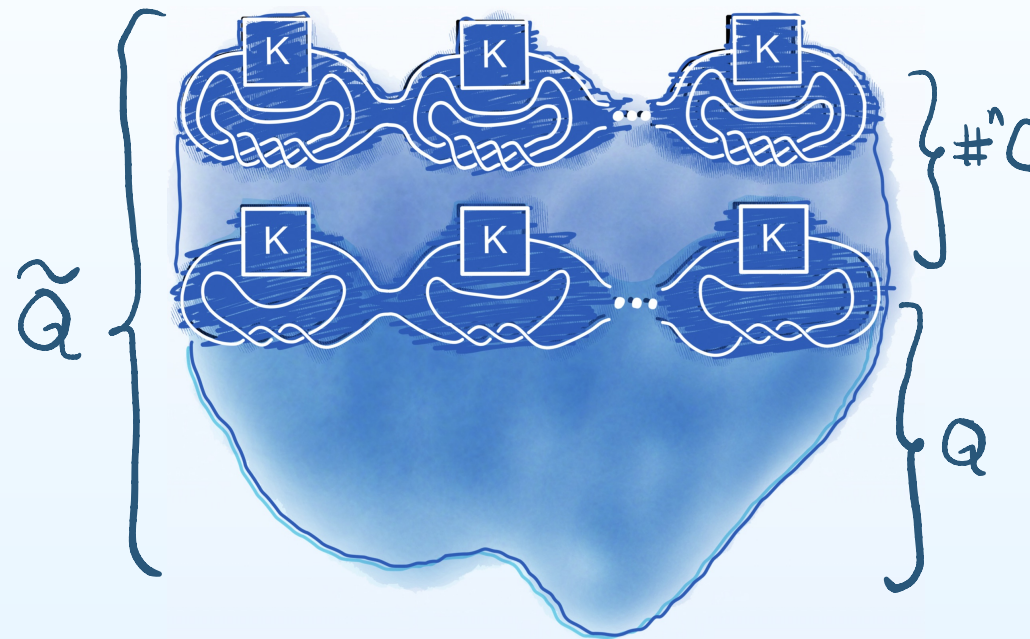
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Gluing $\#^n C$ to Q gives a cobordism $\tilde{Q} : \#^n(T_{p,p+1}\#K) \rightarrow U$

$$\underline{\ell(K) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}(K) - \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}))}$$

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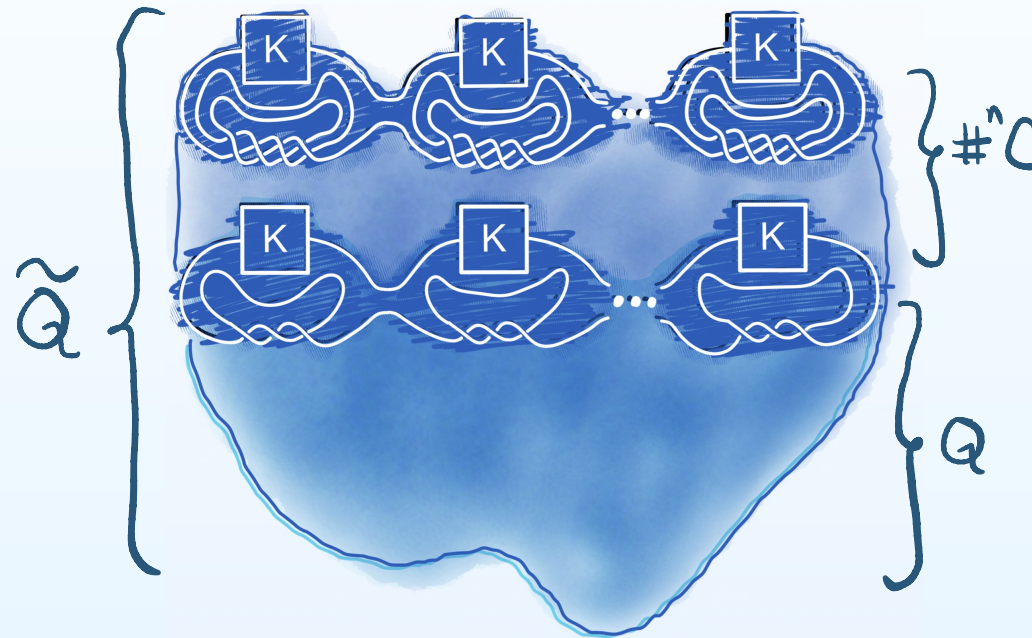
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Gluing $\#^n C$ to Q gives a cobordism $\tilde{Q} : \#^n(T_{p,p+1}\#K) \rightarrow U$

$$g(\tilde{Q}) =$$

$$\ell(K) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}(K) - \widehat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}))$$

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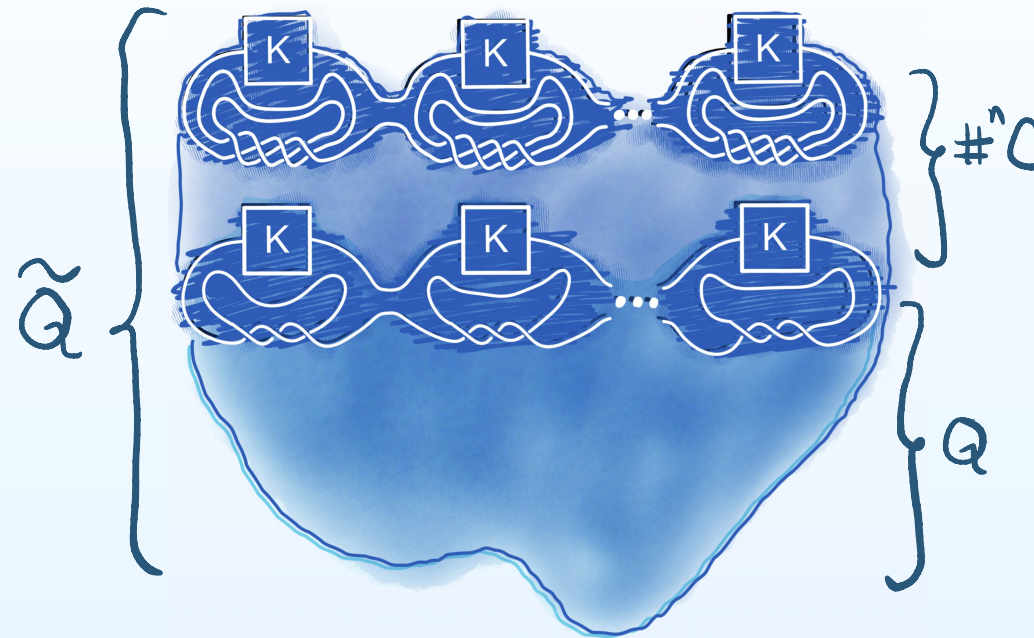
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$$g(\tilde{Q}) = g(Q) + \underbrace{n(p-1)}_{g(\#^n C)}$$

$$\ell(K) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}(K) - \hat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}))$$

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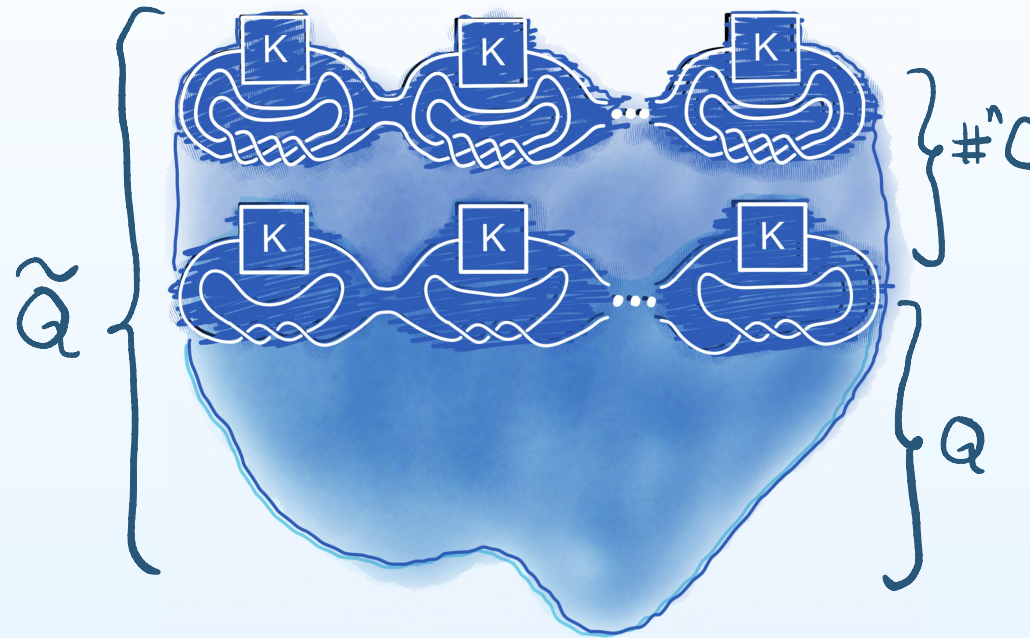
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$$g(\tilde{Q}) = g(Q) + \underbrace{n(p-1)}_{g(\#^n C)} = \underbrace{g_4(\#^n(T_{p-1,p}\#K))}_{g(Q)} + n(p-1)$$

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$$\underbrace{g_4(\#^n(T_{p,p+1}\#K))}_{\leq g(\tilde{Q})} \leq \underbrace{g_4(\#^n(T_{p-1,p}\#K))}_{=g(\tilde{Q})} + n(p-1)$$

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Inequality is preserved under limits:

$$\begin{aligned} t_p(K) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g_4(\#^n(T_{p,p+1}\#K))}{n} - \widehat{g}_4(T_{p,p+1}) \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g_4(\#^n(T_{p-1,p}\#K))}{n} - \widehat{g}_4(T_{p-1,p}) = t_{p-1}(K) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\underline{K \text{ squeezed} \Rightarrow \ell(K) = -\ell(-K)}$$

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Lemma If K is squeezed, there is a $p \in \mathbb{N}$ such that K squeezed between $T_{p,p+1}$ and $-T_{p,p+1}$.

Let

$$C_+ : T_{p,p+1} \rightarrow K \qquad C_- : K \rightarrow -T_{p,p+1}$$

be the cobordisms implicit in the lemma, then

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$$0 \leq \underbrace{\ell(K) - (-\ell(-K))}_{\ell(K) \geq 0} \leq \underbrace{t_p(K) + t_p(-K)}_{\substack{t_p(K) \text{ monotone decreasing} \\ \text{and } t_p(K) \rightarrow \ell(K)}}$$

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Lemma If K is squeezed, there is a $p \in \mathbb{N}$ such that K squeezed between $T_{p,p+1}$ and $-T_{p,p+1}$.

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$$\leq \underbrace{g(C_+) + g(C_-)}_{\hat{g}_4(K) \leq g_4(K)} - d_{cob}(T_{p,p+1}, -T_{p,p+1}) = 0 \quad \square$$

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Lemma

For any $[K] \in \mathcal{C}_s$ and any slice torus invariant ϕ , we have

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Taking the limit as $p \rightarrow \infty$ yields an inequality

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A similar procedure gives the upper bound of $\ell(K)$. \square

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Let $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{C}_s \otimes \mathbb{R}$ denote the subspace generated by positive torus knots.

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Using Levine-Tristram signatures, Litherland proved that the positive torus knots are linearly independent in $\mathcal{C}_s \otimes \mathbb{Q}$.

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Topologizing \mathcal{T} carefully, one can realize $\mathcal{T} \cap (\mathcal{C}_s \otimes \mathbb{Q})$ as a dense subset of \mathcal{T} .

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Topologizing \mathcal{T} carefully, one can realize $\mathcal{T} \cap (\mathcal{C}_s \otimes \mathbb{Q})$ as a dense subset of \mathcal{T} .

We then complete f and \widehat{g}_4 over \mathbb{R} to get a \mathbb{R} -valued functional \widetilde{f} satisfying $\widetilde{f} \leq \widehat{g}_4|_{\mathcal{T}}$.

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The first case is trivial if one presumes the existence of a slice torus invariant since $[-\ell(-K), \ell(K)]$ will be a single point for any knot in \mathcal{T} .

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Feller, Lewark, and Lobb provide a general strategy for proving the above which is *agnostic to* the existence of \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{T} .

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Having done so, one can show $F \leq \hat{g}_4|_{\mathcal{T}_K}$.

Recall \hat{g}_4 is a semi-norm on \mathcal{C}_s and therefore a subadditive function. we conclude F may be extended to all of $\mathcal{C}_s \otimes \mathbb{R}$ by Hahn-Banach.

□

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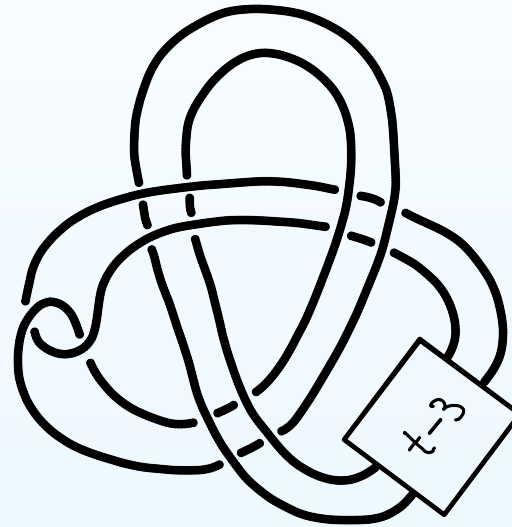
IV. Obstructions

● **Obstructing**
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Let $W^+(K, t)$ denote the t -twisted positive Whitehead double of K .



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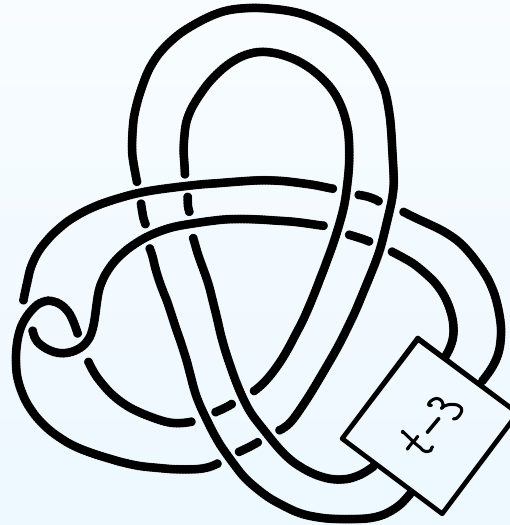
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Theorem (Hedden and Ording '05)

$$\tau(W^+(T_{2,2n+1}, t)) = \begin{cases} 0 & t > 2n - 1 \\ 1 & t \leq 2n - 1 \end{cases}$$

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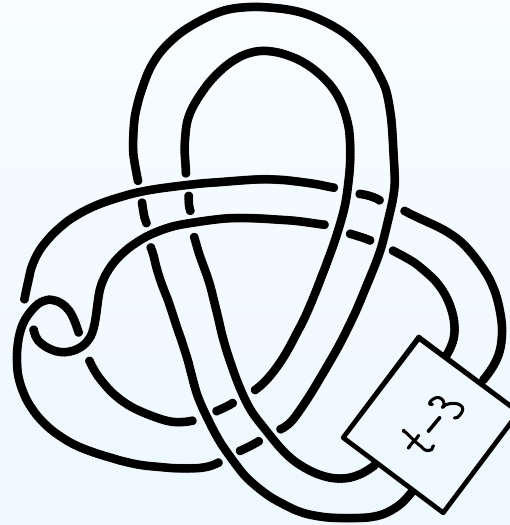
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Some computer computations revealed $\frac{s}{2} \neq \tau$ on the knots:
 $W^+(T_{2,5}, 5)$, $W^+(T_{2,5}, 4)$, $W^+(T_{2,7}, 7)$ and a few others.

Generalizing Hedden and Ording's results

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There are partial results in the direction of generalizing Hedden and Ording's method to slice torus invariants other than τ .

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Theorem (Lewark-Zibrowius '22)

For P a pattern,¹ K a knot, and $\phi \in \mathcal{ST}$, there is a unique value $\vartheta_\phi(P, K) \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \infty$ such that

$$\phi(P(K, t)) = \phi(P(K, t - 1)) - \begin{cases} 1 & t = \vartheta_\phi(P, K) \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

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Question What is $\vartheta_s(W^+, T_{2,2n+1})$?

¹with wrapping number 2 and winding number zero

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Feller-Lewark-Lobb define a squeezing obstruction to be a map
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Lemma If K squeezed between T_+ and T_- , then for any squeezing obstruction f , one has

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Note slice torus invariants are squeezing obstructions and that all squeezing obstructions are equal on squeezed knots!

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- Lipshitz and Sarkar found a suspension spectra for Khovanov homology.
- Consequently, Khovanov homology admits Steenrod squares

$$\mathrm{Sq}^n : \mathrm{Kh}(K) \xrightarrow{gr_h \mapsto gr_h + n} \mathrm{Kh}(K).$$

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$$s_+^\alpha(K) = \max\{q \in 2\mathbb{Z} + 1 \mid q \text{ is } \underbrace{\alpha\text{-full}}\} + 3$$

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$$r_-^\alpha(K) = -r_+^\alpha(-K) \quad s_-^\alpha(K) = -s_+^\alpha(-K)$$

²or, more generally, any stable cohomology operation

9_{42} , 10_{132} , and 10_{136} are not squeezed

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Letting ℓs denote any of the Lipshitz-Sarkar refinements,
Feller-Lewark and Lobb prove that ℓs is a squeezing obstruction.

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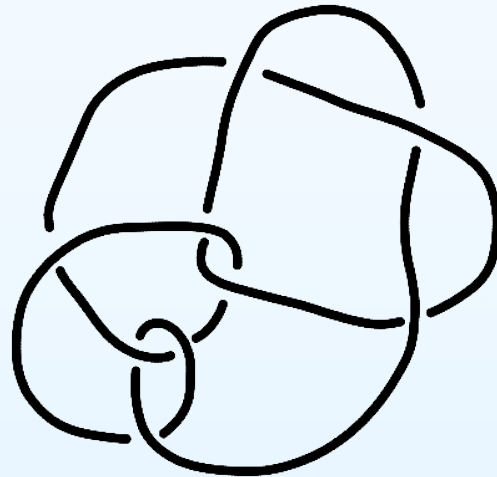
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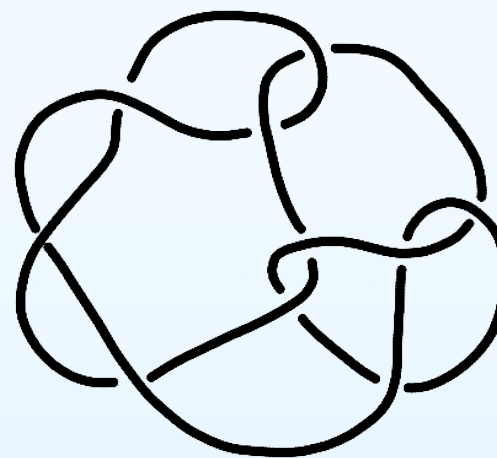
Lipshitz and Sarkar found several knots where $s_+^{\text{Sq}^2}$ disagrees with $s^{\mathbb{F}_2}$. Their examples with ≤ 10 crossings are:



9_{42}

$$s^{\mathbb{F}_2} = 0$$

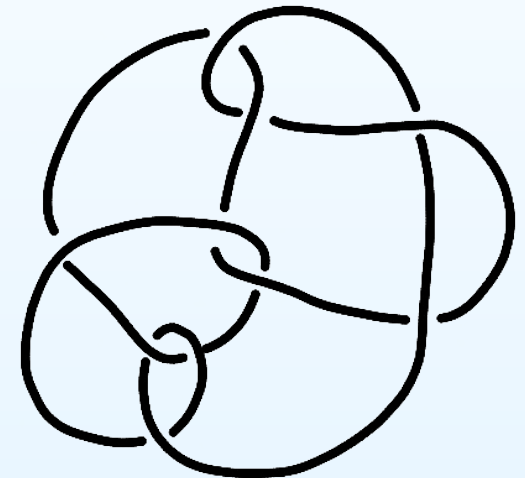
$$s_+^{\text{Sq}^2} = 2$$



10_{132}

$$s^{\mathbb{F}_2} = -2$$

$$s_+^{\text{Sq}^2} = 0$$



10_{136}

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- Are torsion generators of \mathcal{C}_s (negative amphichiral knots in particular) all squeezed?

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If K is a torsion generator, then $\widehat{g}_4(K) = 0 = \ell(K)$, so all slice torus invariants will agree on K .

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For K an alternating or torus knot, we have

$$\text{HFB}_{\text{conn}}^-(K) \cong 0$$

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How will it behave for general squeezed knots?

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THANK
You!

Relationship with the Turaev genus

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To a diagram D , one may resolve all crossings as 0 or 1 to get naturally associated diagrams $D_{\vec{0}}$ and $D_{\vec{1}}$.

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To a diagram D , one may resolve all crossings as 0 or 1 to get naturally associated diagrams $D_{\vec{0}}$ and $D_{\vec{1}}$.

Capping off and performing band attachments, one forms the **Turaev surface of the diagram D .**

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The **Turaev genus** $g_T(K)$ of a knot K (or more generally, a non-split link) is the minimum across the Turaev genera of its diagrams.

$g_T(K)$ is fairly mysterious and has some interesting properties:

1. $g_T(K) = 0$ if and only if K is alternating
2. $g_T(K)$ provides a lower bound the Khovanov width and the knot Floer width

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Jung, Kang, and Kim more-or-less prove the following:

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Theorem (Jung-Kang-Kim '21)

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Observation

In light of the Feller-Lewark-Lobb theorems, the strongest version of Jung-Kang-Kim's bound is

$$\ell(K) + \ell(-K) \leq g_T(K)$$

Questions

Why do slice torus invariants give bounds on the Turaev genus? Is this a coincidence, or is there a relationship between \mathcal{C}_s and g_T ?

Alternating knots

I. The Milnor Conjecture

II. Squeezed knots

- The cobordism distance
- Squeezed Knots
- Species of squeezed knots
- Quasipositive knots
- **Alternating knots**
- Quasihomogenous knots
- Ribbon Cobordisms

III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

IV. Obstructions

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Leveraging the lemma, we can show alternating knots are squeezed by proving the following.

Alternating knots

I. The Milnor Conjecture

II. Squeezed knots

- The cobordism distance
- Squeezed Knots
- Species of squeezed knots
- Quasipositive knots
- **Alternating knots**
- Quasihomogenous knots
- Ribbon Cobordisms

III. Slice torus invariants and squeezed knots

IV. Obstructions

V. Future directions

Leveraging the lemma, we can show alternating knots are squeezed by proving the following.

Proposition Every alternating knot is in a squeezing cobordism between a positive alternating knot and a negative alternating knot.

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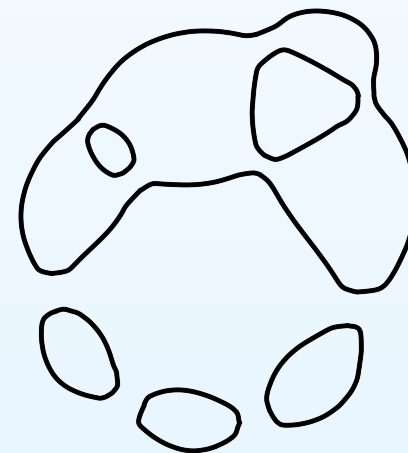
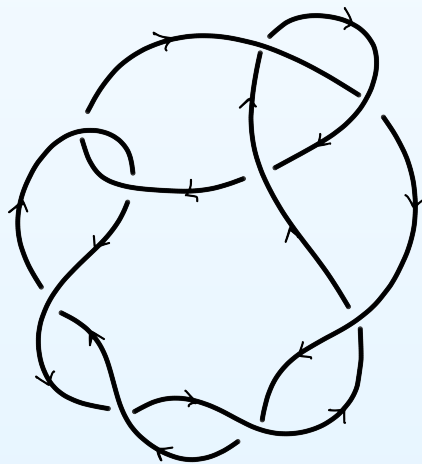
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Proof D an alternating diagram D_o its oriented resolution



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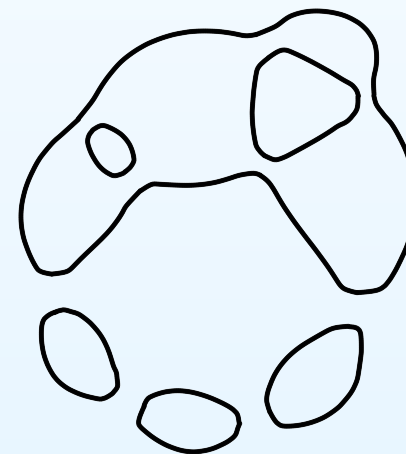
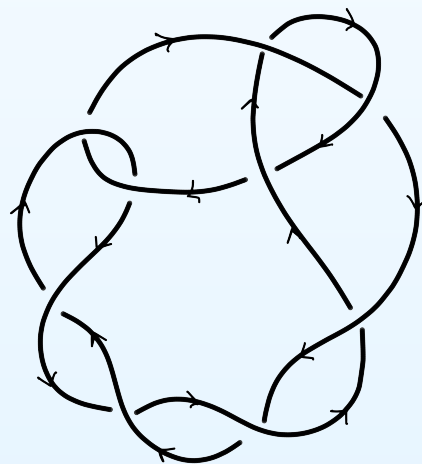
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If $|\pi_0(D_o)| = N$, can choose $N - 1$ crossings to connect all components of D_o , call these X_o .

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Build two diagrams

$$D_{\pm} = D_o \cup X_o \cup \underbrace{X_{\pm}}_{\substack{\text{all +/-} \\ \text{crossings} \\ \text{of } D}}$$

The negative / positive crossings of D_{\pm} will be nugatory, flip them to get a positive / negative link diagram.

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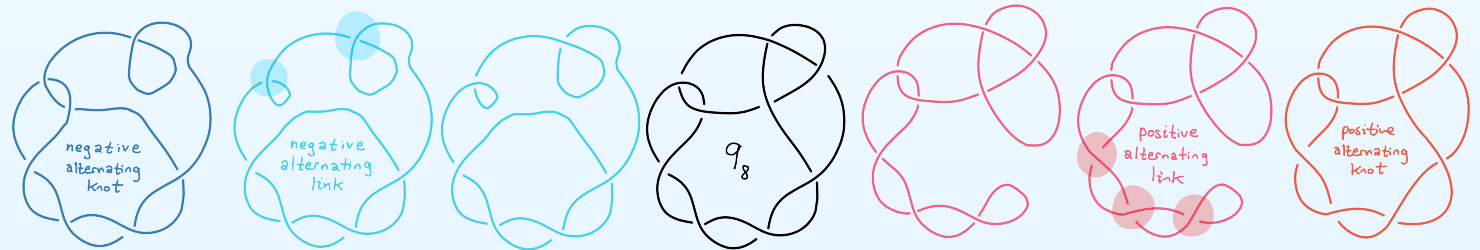
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Add positive / negative bands to produce positive / negative alternating knots.

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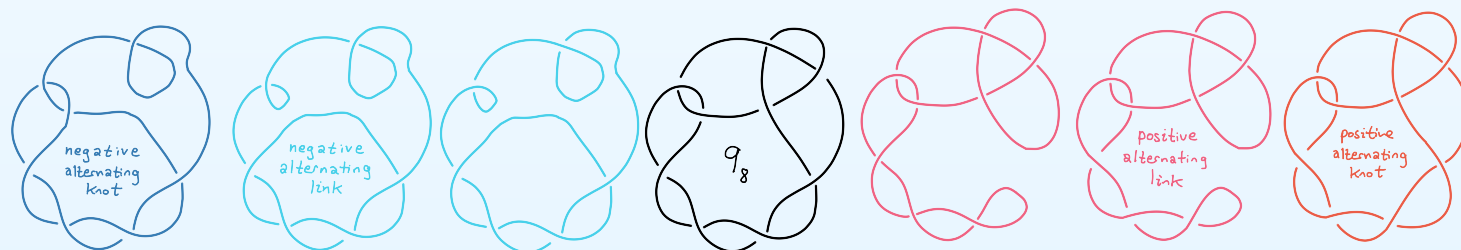
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Add positive / negative bands to produce positive / negative alternating knots. A similar Euler characteristic computation to qpos. case confirms this cobordism minimizes genus.

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Slogan: “A ribbon-immersed plumbing Σ of two ribbon-immersed surfaces Q_{\pm} is similar to a Murasugi sum.”

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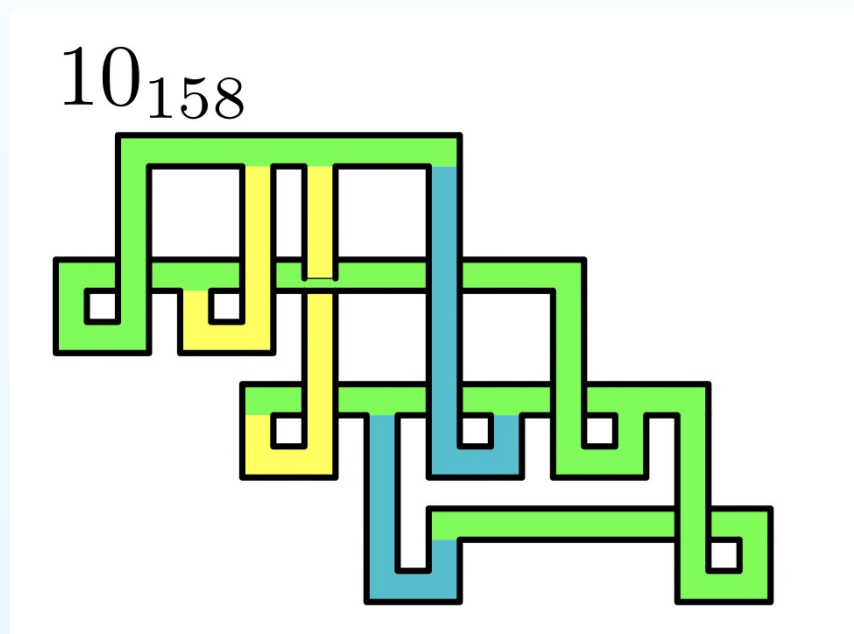
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The crucial difference:

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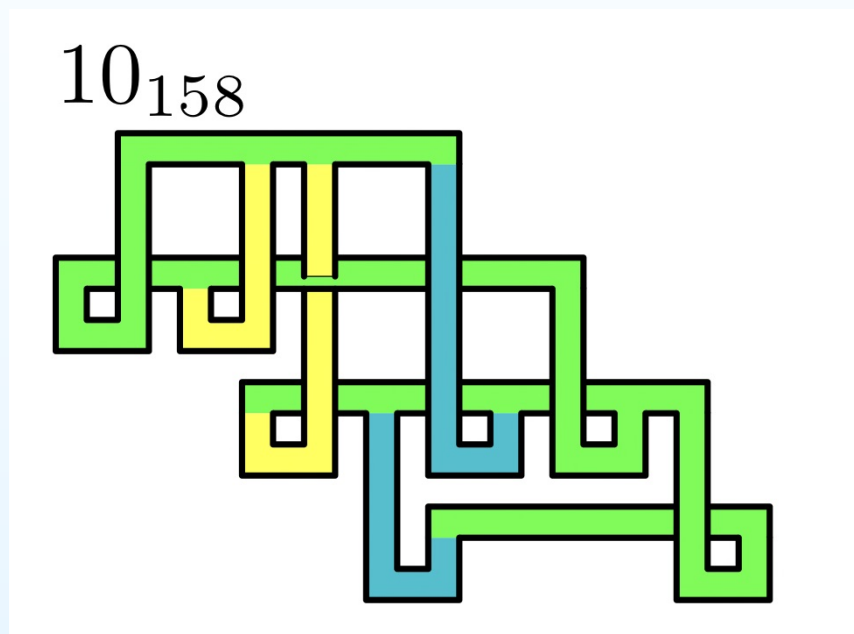
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We allow Q_{\pm} to have ribbon singularities inside their respective copies of the identification region D ,

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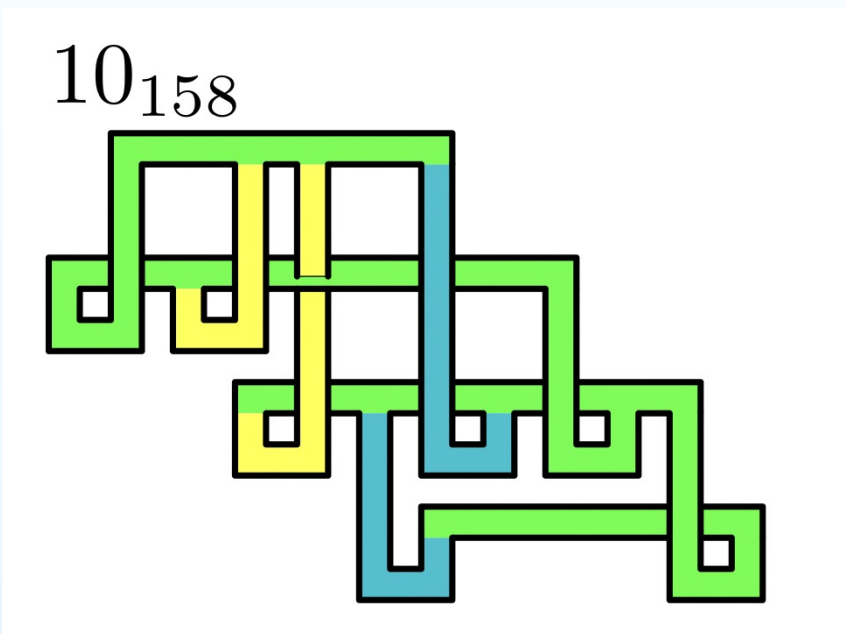
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Slogan: “A ribbon-immersed plumbing Σ of two ribbon-immersed surfaces Q_{\pm} is similar to a Murasugi sum.”



The crucial difference:

We allow Q_{\pm} to have ribbon singularities inside their respective copies of the identification region D , but otherwise the images of Q_{\pm} into Σ are disjoint.

Quasihomogenous knots are squeezed

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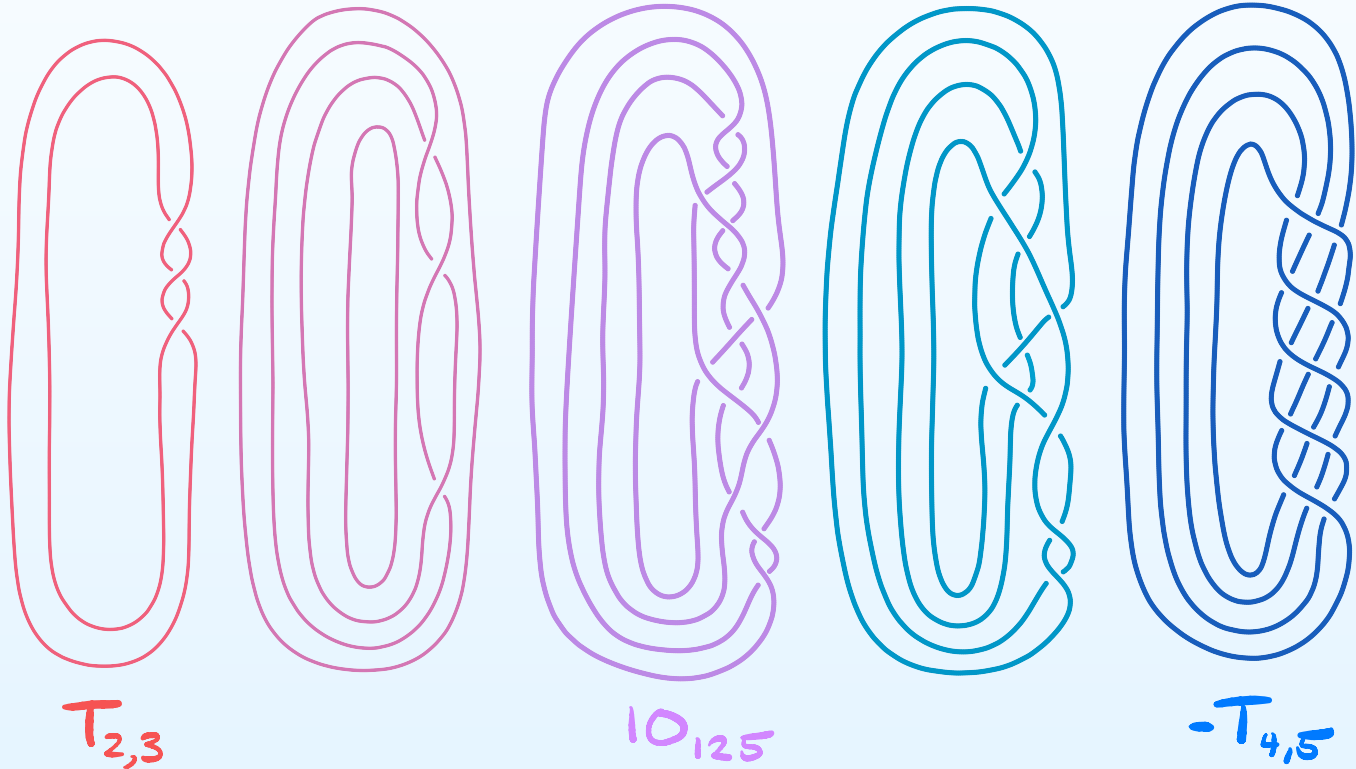
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Proof follows from showing the cobordism from the immersed plumbing of the quasipositive/negative surfaces is genus minimizing.



ℓs is a squeezing obstruction

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- Obstructing
Squeezed-ness with
slice torus invariants
- Squeezing
obstructions
- **Lipshitz-Sarkar
Refinements of s**

V. Future directions

Letting ℓs denote any of the Lipshitz-Sarkar refinements. Feller, Lewark, and Lobb prove that $\frac{\ell s}{2}$ is a squeezing obstruction.

Proof sketch

Lipshitz and Sarkar prove that $|\ell s(K) - s(K)| \in \{0, 2\}$ and that

$$|\overset{\ell s}{\#}(K) - \overset{\ell s}{\#}(J)| \leq 2d_{cob}(K, J)$$

so one needs to verify $\ell s(T_{p,q}) = 2g_4(T_{p,q})$.

Theorem (Lipshitz-Sarkar '05)

If for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $Sq^n : Kh(K) \xrightarrow{gr_h \mapsto gr_h + n} Kh(K)$ is the zero map, then $s_{\pm}^{Sq^n}(K) = r_{\pm}^{Sq^n} = s^{\mathbb{F}_2}$

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For K a positive knot and $q \in \{s(K) \pm 1\}$, it turns out to be sufficient to show the following maps are zero

$$\text{Sq}^n : \text{Kh}^{-n,q}(K) \rightarrow \text{Kh}^{0,q}(K)$$

$$\text{Sq}^n : \text{Kh}^{0,q}(K) \rightarrow \text{Kh}^{n,q}(K)$$

Leveraging classical computations of $\text{Kh}(T_{2,2n+1})$, Feller, Lewark, and Lobb prove that for any knot K arising from a positive braid word, one has

$$\text{Kh}^{t,q}(K) \cong 0 \quad t \neq 0, q \in \{s(K) \pm 1\}$$

Hence, the two relevant maps are zero and $\ell s(K) = s^{\mathbb{F}_2}(K)$.

□