




The Geometry of Fox's Free Calculus with Applications to Higher Dimensional Knots

Work in Progress

Samuel Lomonaco
 University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
 Email: Lomonaco@UMBC.edu
 WebPage: www.csee.umbc.edu/~lomonaco



Talk given in PU Math Algebraic Top Seminar Apr 25, 2013 Updated May 8, 2013

PowerPoint slides can be found at:
www.csee.umbc.edu/~lomonaco/Lectures.html

- Road Map for Talk**
- **3-D Knot Theory**
 - Knot Diagrams, Reidemeister Moves, π_1 , Wirtinger
 - Geometry of Group Presentations
 - Wirtinger Generalized Presentations
 - Geometry of Fox Free Calc
 - **4-D Knot Theory**
 - History + Asphericity Analogs
 - Cross Sections & Midsections
 - Yoshikawa Moves and Swenton Completeness
 - Generalized Presentations of 2-Knots ???
 - **Conclusion**

Knot Theory

Placement Problem: Knot Theory

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Ambient space} = S^3 \\ \text{Group } G = \text{AutoHomeo}(S^3) \end{array} \right.$
Orientation Preserving

Def. $K_1 \sim K_2$ if $g \in G$ s.t. $gK_1 = K_2$

Problem. When are two placements the same?
 $K_1 \sim K_2$?

Equivalent Definition

Def. $K_1 \sim K_2$ provided there exists a continuous family of auto-homeomorphisms

$$h_t : S^3 \rightarrow S^3 \quad (0 \leq t \leq 1)$$

i.e., an isotopy, that continuously deforms K_1 into K_2 .

Various Placement Problems

- 3-D Knot Theory

$$k : S^1 \rightarrow S^3$$

1-Knot (S^3, kS^1)

- 4-D Knot Theory

$$k : S^2 \rightarrow S^4$$

2-Knot (S^4, kS^2)

- 5-D Knot Theory

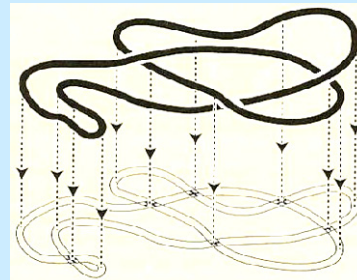
$$k : S^3 \rightarrow S^5$$

3-Knot (S^5, kS^3)

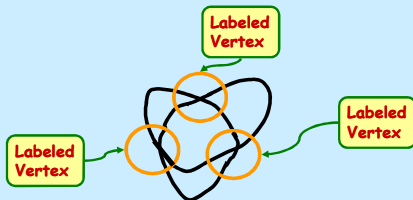
3-D Knot Theory

1-Knots

Knot Projections

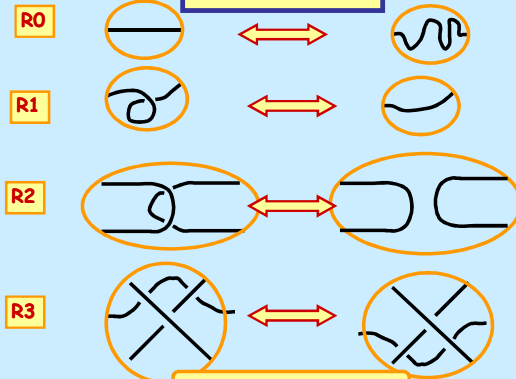


Knot Diagram



- Planar four valent graph with
- Labeled vertices

Reidemeister Moves



These are local moves !

When do two Knot diagrams represent the same or different knots ?

Theorem (Reidemeister). Two knot diagrams represent the same knot iff one can be transformed into the other by a finite sequence of Reidemeister moves.

What is a knot invariant ?

Def. A **knot invariant** I is a map

$$I : \text{Knots} \rightarrow \text{Mathematical Domain}$$

that takes each knot K to a mathematical object $I(K)$ such that

$$K_1 \sim K_2 \Rightarrow I(K_1) = I(K_2)$$

Consequently,

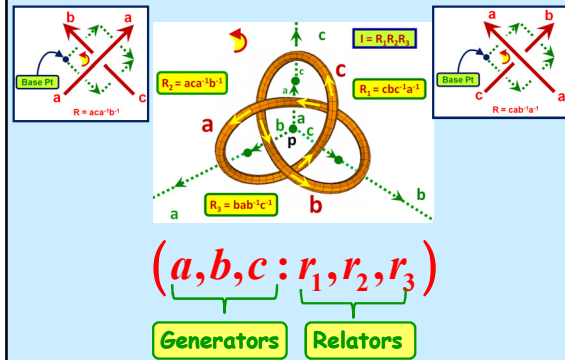
$$I(K_1) \neq I(K_2) \Rightarrow K_1 \neq K_2$$

The Fundamental Group $\pi_1(X)$

Knot Exterior $X = S^3 - \text{SmallOpenTubularNbd}(kS^1)$

- Fundamental Group $\pi_1(X) = \text{Knot Invariant}$
- Asphericity of Knots (Papakyriakopoulos)
 $\Rightarrow X = K(\pi_1 X, 1)$. $\therefore \pi_n X = 0$ for $n > 1$

The Wirtinger Presentation



Group Presentations

Question: When do two presentations represent the same group ?

Tietze Transformations: $T_1^{\pm 1}, T_2^{\pm 1}$

Tietze 1: $(\underline{x} : \underline{r}) \xrightarrow{T_1} (\underline{x} \cup y : \underline{r} \cup s)$, where

- y is a new symbol, and
- $s = y\xi^{-1}$, with $\xi \in F(\underline{x})$

Tietze 2: $(\underline{x} : \underline{r}) \xrightarrow{T_2} (\underline{x} : \underline{r} \cup s)$, where

- $s \in \text{Cons}(\underline{r})$, i.e., $s = \prod_{\alpha=1}^m r_{j(\alpha)}^{w_\alpha}$, with
- $w_\alpha \in F(\underline{x})$, $0 \leq \alpha \leq m$, and
- $r_{j(\alpha)}^{w_\alpha} = W_\alpha \cdot r_{j(\alpha)} \cdot W_\alpha^{-1}$

Group Presentations

Question: When do two presentations represent the same group ?

Theorem (Tietze): Two group presentations represent the same group iff there exists a finite sequence of Tietze transformations which transforms one into the other.

The Geometry of Group Presentations

Def. An **abstract Group presentation** consists of two sets

- \underline{x} , the set of **generators**,
- \underline{r} , the set of **relators**,

together with an evaluation map

$$\hat{\cdot} : \underline{r} \rightarrow F(\underline{x})$$

from the set of relators \underline{r} into the free group $F(\underline{x})$ on the set of symbols \underline{x} .

The Geometry of Group Presentations

Example: $(a, b, c : r_1, r_2, r_3)$, where

$$\begin{cases} \hat{r}_1 = cbc^{-1}a^{-1} \\ \hat{r}_2 = aca^{-1}b^{-1} \\ \hat{r}_3 = bab^{-1}c^{-1} \end{cases}$$

The Geometry of Group Presentations

Def. A CW-complex is said to be **monopointed** if it has only one 0-cell.

Proposition. Up to renaming and reordering, there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the set of abstract group presentations and a set of monopointed 2-D CW-complexes.

$$(\underline{x} : \underline{r}) \leftrightarrow K(\underline{x} : \underline{r})$$

The Geometry of Group Presentations

The CW-complex $K(\underline{x} : \underline{r})$ is constructed with an initial 0-cell, denoted by ∞ , and then iteratively attaching cells as follows:

1-cells: For each generator $x_j \in \underline{x}$, adjoin an oriented 1-cell X_j by attaching both endpoints to the sole 0-cell ∞ .

2-cells: For each relator $r_k \in \underline{r}$, adjoin an oriented 2-cell R_k with attaching map \hat{r}_k .

Examples

Example: $Torus = (a, b : r), \hat{r} = ab\bar{a}\bar{b}$

Example: $\mathbb{R}P^2 = (a, b : r), \hat{r} = ab\bar{a}\bar{b}$

Example: $S^1 \vee D^2 = (a, b : r), \hat{r} = b$

Example: $S^1 \vee S^1 \vee S^2 = (a, b : r), \hat{r} = 1$

Example: $S^2 \vee S^2 = (\emptyset : r_1, r_2), \hat{r}_1 = 1, \hat{r}_2 = 1$

The Geometry of the Tietze Moves

- Tietze 1 attaches a 2-cell S and a free edge Y .

$$T_1: (\underline{x}: \underline{r}) \mapsto (\underline{x} \cup y: \underline{r} \cup s), \hat{s} = y\xi^{-1}, \xi \in F(\underline{x})$$

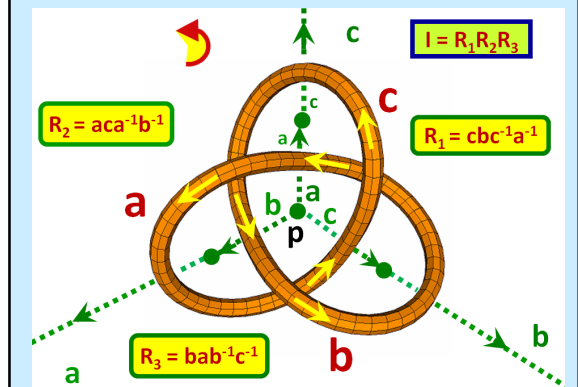
Thus, T_1 is a simple homotopy operation; and therefore preserves homotopy type.

- Tietze 2 attaches a 2-cell S .

$$T_2: (\underline{x}: \underline{r}) \mapsto (\underline{x}: \underline{r} \cup s), \hat{s} \in \text{Cons}(\underline{r})$$

Thus, T_2 does NOT necessarily preserve homotopy type!

The Geometry of the Wirtinger Presentation



A Paradox ?

Paradox: The Wirtinger presentation actually points to a 3-D CW decomposition of the exterior X . But it only represents a 2-D CW-subcomplex!

The usual "fix": The Wirtinger presentation has one too many generators. So toss out an unnecessary relator by applying a Tietze 2 move.

Fortunately, in this particular case, the Tietze 2 move preserves the homotopy type because there is a simple homotopy type move on the 3-D complex collapsing the 3-D complex to the same resulting 2-D complex

Observation

The 3-cell in X corresponds to an identity I among the relators, namely:

$$I \xrightarrow{\wedge} \hat{I} = r_1 r_2 r_3 \xrightarrow{\wedge} \overline{\overline{cbca}} \cdot \overline{\overline{acab}} \cdot \overline{\overline{babc}} = 1$$

Where does this identity "live" ?

Groups with Operators

Def. Let H and G be groups. The group G is said to be an **H-group** provided there exists a morphism $H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(G)$ of H into the group $\text{Aut}(G)$ of automorphisms of G .

Free $F(\underline{x})$ -groups

Def. Let \underline{x} and \underline{t} be two disjoint sets of symbols, and let $F(\underline{x})$ and $F(\underline{x} \cup \underline{t})$ denote the corresponding free groups, respectively. The **free $F(\underline{x})$ -group** on the symbols \underline{t} , written $\mathfrak{F}_{F(\underline{x})}(\underline{t})$, is the smallest normal subgroup of $F(\underline{x} \cup \underline{t})$ containing \underline{t} .

It immediately follows that $\mathfrak{F}_{F(\underline{x})}(\underline{t})$ is invariant under the conjugation action of $F(\underline{x})$.

Free $F(\underline{x})$ -groups

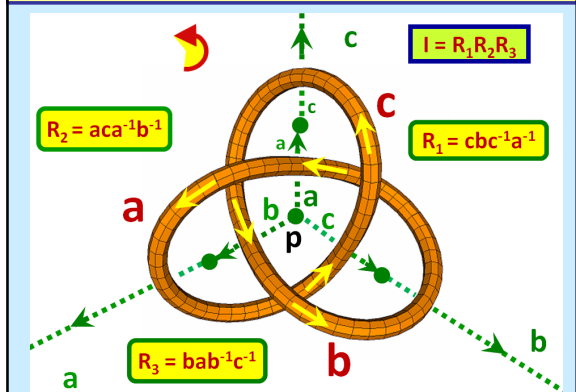
Thus, the elements of $\mathfrak{F}_{F(\underline{x})}(\underline{t})$ are of the form:

$$\prod_{\alpha} t_{j(\alpha)}^{w_{\alpha}}$$

where $t_{j(\alpha)}^{w_{\alpha}} = w_{\alpha} \cdot t_{j(\alpha)} \cdot w_{j(\alpha)}^{-1}$

Note. This conjugation action is a left action.

The Geometry of the Wirtinger Presentation



Wirtinger Generalized Presentation

The Wirtinger 3-D CW decomposition of the exterior X is nothing more than the non-abelian free resolution:

$$G \xleftarrow{\nu} F(a, b, c) \xleftarrow{\wedge} \mathfrak{F}_F(r_1, r_2, r_3) \xleftarrow{\wedge} \mathfrak{F}_F(I)$$

$$\overline{cbca} \xleftarrow{\wedge} r_1 \quad r_1 r_2 r_3 \xleftarrow{\wedge} I$$

$$\overline{acab} \xleftarrow{\wedge} r_2$$

$$\overline{babc} \xleftarrow{\wedge} r_3$$

Please note that $\wedge^2 = 1$ and $\nu^{\wedge} = 1$.

Wirtinger Generalized Presentation

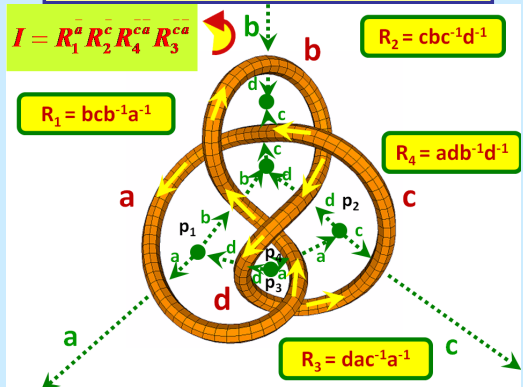
$$G \xleftarrow{\nu} F(a, b, c) \xleftarrow{\wedge} \mathfrak{F}_F(r_1, r_2, r_3) \xleftarrow{\wedge} \mathfrak{F}_F(I)$$

We denote the above non-abelian free resolution more cryptically as

$$(a, b, c : r_1, r_2, r_3 : I)$$

and call it a generalized presentation.

Wirtinger Generalized Presentation



Wirtinger Generalized Presentation

$$(a, b, c, d : r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4 : I)$$

$$\overline{bcba} \xleftarrow{\wedge} r_1$$

$$\overline{cbcd} \xleftarrow{\wedge} r_2$$

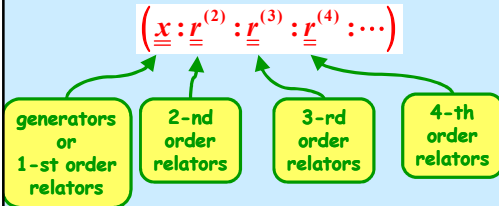
$$\overline{daca} \xleftarrow{\wedge} r_3$$

$$\overline{adbd} \xleftarrow{\wedge} r_4$$

$$r_1^a r_2^c r_4^{ca} r_3^{ca} \xleftarrow{\wedge} I$$

Terminology for Generalized Presentations

The current names **identities**, **identities of identities**, **identities of identities of identities**, etc. are too cumbersome. So we instead adopt the following terminology:



Generalized Tietze Moves

There is only one generalized Tietze move for each order, namely:

n-th order generalized Tietze move T_n :

$$T_n : (\dots : \underline{x} : \underline{r}^{(n)} : \underline{r}^{(n+1)} : \dots) \mapsto (\dots : \underline{x} : \underline{r}^{(n)} \cup \sigma : \underline{r}^{(n+1)} \cup \tau : \dots)$$

where $\hat{\tau} = \sigma \xi^{-1}$ and $\hat{\sigma} = \hat{\xi}$

and where $\xi \in \mathfrak{F}_F(\underline{r}^{(n)})$

Generalized Presentation Equivalence

The definition of generalized presentation equivalence is a straight forward exercise for the audience. So is the proof of the following theorem:

Theorem: Two generalized presentations are equivalent iff there is a finite sequence of generalized Tietze moves that transform one into the other.

The Geometry of Generalized Presentations

Proposition. Up to renaming and reordering, there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the set of finite generalized presentations and a set of monopointed CW-complexes.

$$(\underline{x} : \underline{r} : \underline{r}^{(3)} : \underline{r}^{(4)} : \dots) \leftrightarrow K(\underline{x} : \underline{r} : \underline{r}^{(3)} : \underline{r}^{(4)} : \dots)$$

The generalized tietze moves correspond to simple homotopy moves on the associated CW-complexes.

Moreover, two generalized presentations define CW complexes of the same simple homotopy type iff there is a finite sequence of Tietze moves which transforms one into the other.

The Geometry of the Fox Free Calculus

Let $\mathfrak{P} = (\underline{x} : \underline{r}^{(2)} : \underline{r}^{(3)} : \dots : \underline{r}^{(n)})$ be a generalized presentation, and let $K = K(\mathfrak{P})$ be the corresponding CW-complex.

Let $G = \pi_1(K)$ the fundamental group of K .

Let $\nu : F(\underline{x}) \rightarrow G$ be the epimorphism associated with $(\underline{x} : \underline{r}^{(2)})$

Finally, let $\mathbb{Z}G$ be the group ring of G over the integers \mathbb{Z} .

The Geometry of the Fox Free Calculus

Let \tilde{K} be the universal cover of K , and let $\tilde{K} = \tilde{K} \times \text{Kerv } \nu$ be the non pathwise connected space above \tilde{K} .

We now use the Fox free derivatives to construct a chain complex $C_* = C_*(\tilde{K})$

Hence, $H_*(\tilde{K}) = H_* C_*$

Moreover, $H_*(\tilde{K}) = H_*(\mathbb{Z}G \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}F} C_*)$

The Geometry of the Fox Free Calculus

The chain groups are defined as follows:

• The 0-th chain group $C_0 = C_0(\infty)$ is defined as the free $\mathbb{Z}F$ -module generated by the 0-cell ∞ .

• For $n > 0$, the n-th chain group $C_n = C_n(\underline{R}^{(n)})$ is defined as the free $\mathbb{Z}F$ -module generated by the set of n-cells $\underline{R}^{(n)}$.

The Geometry of the Fox Free Calculus

The boundary morphisms are defined as follows:

• For $n = 0$,

$$\begin{matrix} C_0(\infty) & \xleftarrow{\partial} & C_1(\underline{X}) \\ (x_j - 1)\infty & \leftarrow & X_j \end{matrix}$$

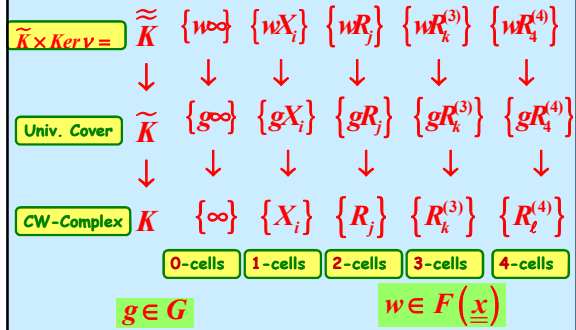
• For $n > 0$,

$$\begin{matrix} C_{n-1}(\underline{R}^{(n-1)}) & \xleftarrow{\partial} & C_n(\underline{R}^{(n)}) \\ \sum_k \begin{pmatrix} \partial r_j^{(n)} \\ \partial r_k^{(n-1)} \end{pmatrix} R_k^{(n-1)} & \leftarrow & R_k^{(n)} \end{matrix}$$

Where the Fox Free derivatives $\partial / \partial x_j$ are geometrically defined as follows:

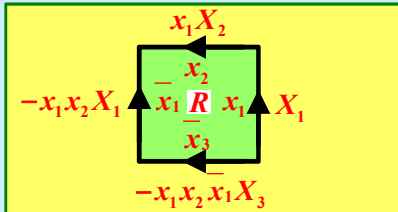
Cell Decompositions of $K, \tilde{K}, \tilde{\tilde{K}}$

Epimorphism: $F(\underline{x}) \xrightarrow{\nu} G = \pi_1 K$



Recall $\mathfrak{P} = (\underline{x} : \underline{r}^{(2)} : \underline{r}^{(3)} : \dots : \underline{r}^{(n)})$ and $K = K(\mathfrak{P})$.

If, for example, $r \in \underline{r}^{(2)}$ with $\hat{r} = x_1 x_2 x_1 x_3$, then the corresponding 2-cell R in $\tilde{\tilde{K}}$ is



$$\begin{aligned} \partial R &= (1 - x_1 x_2) X_1 + x_1 X_2 - x_1 x_2 x_1 X_3 \\ &= \frac{\partial \hat{r}}{\partial x_1} X_1 + \frac{\partial \hat{r}}{\partial x_2} X_2 + \frac{\partial \hat{r}}{\partial x_3} X_3 \end{aligned}$$

If, for example, $u \in \underline{r}^{(3)}$ with $\hat{u} = r_1^{x_1} r_2^{x_2} r_1^{-x_1 x_3}$, then the boundary chain map of the corresponding 3-cell U in $\tilde{\tilde{K}}$ is:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial U &= \left(x_1 - \hat{r}_1^{x_1} \hat{r}_2^{x_2} x_1 x_3 \hat{r} \right) R_1 + \hat{r}_1^{x_1} x_3 R_2 \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial r_1} \right)^\wedge R_1 + \left(\frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial r_2} \right)^\wedge R_2 \end{aligned}$$

For completeness, we give the standard algebraic definition of the Fox free $\partial/\partial x_j$

Algebraic Def. of Fox Free Derivative $\partial/\partial x_j$

Let G be a group, and let $\mathbb{Z}G$ denote the corresponding group ring over the ring of integers \mathbb{Z} .

Def. A **derivative** D in the group ring in the group ring $\mathbb{Z}G$ is defined as a map $D: \mathbb{Z}G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}G$ satisfying the following condition:

- 1) $D(\omega_1 + \omega_2) = D\omega_1 + D\omega_2$
- 2) $D(\omega_1\omega_2) = (D\omega_1)\omega_2^{\circ} + \omega_1 D\omega_2$

where $\circ: \mathbb{Z}G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}G$ is the **trivializer** morphism which maps each element of G to 1 of \mathbb{Z} .

Algebraic Def. of Fox Free Derivative $\partial/\partial x_j$

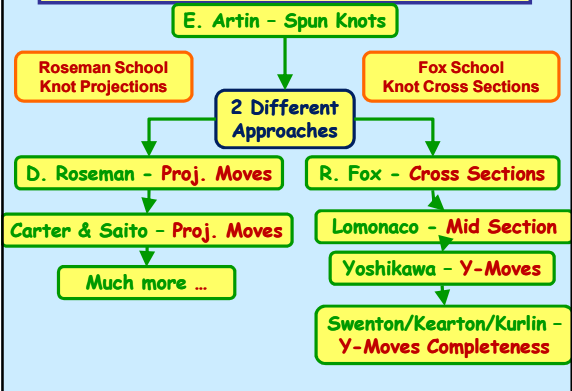
Def.(Cont.) Let G be the free group $F(\underline{x})$. Then to each free generator $x_j \in \underline{x}$, there corresponds a unique derivative $D_j = \partial/\partial x_j$ in $\mathbb{Z}F(\underline{x})$, called the **derivative with respect to x_j** , which has the property $\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_j} = \delta_{ij}$ (Kronecker delta)

2-Knots

Various Placement Problems

- 3-D Knot Theory
 $k: S^1 \rightarrow S^3$ **1-Knot (S^3, kS^1)**
- 4-D Knot Theory
 $k: S^2 \rightarrow S^4$ **2-Knot (S^4, kS^2)**
- 5-D Knot Theory
 $k: S^3 \rightarrow S^5$ **3-Knot (S^5, kS^3)**

4-D Knot Theory (Incomplete) History



4-D Analog of the Asphericity of Knots ?

For 1-knots, asphericity implies the exterior X is an Eilenberg-MacLane space, i.e.,

$$X = K(\pi_1 X, 1)$$

Question. What can be said about analog of Poincaré's asphericity theorem for 2-knots?

4-D Analog of the Asphericity of Knots ?

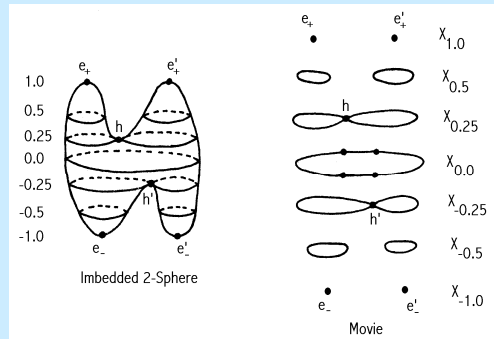
Def. A 2-knot (S^4, kS^2) is said to be **quasi-aspherical (QA)** if the third homology group of the universal cover of its exterior vanishes.

Theorem. (Lomonaco) If (S^4, kS^2) is QA, then the homotopy type of its exterior X is determined by its algebraic 3-type, i.e., by the triple consisting of:

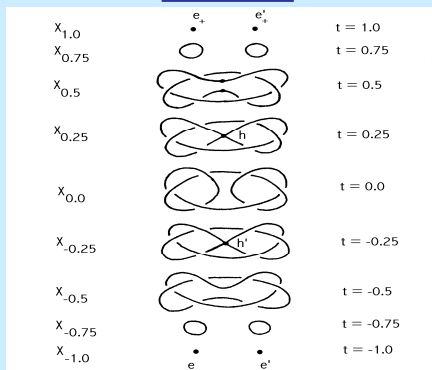
- $\pi_1 X$
- $\pi_2 X$ as a $\mathbb{Z}\pi_1 X$ -module
- The first k-invariant kX lying in $H^3(\pi_1 X; \pi_2 X)$

The Cross sectional Approach to 2-Knots

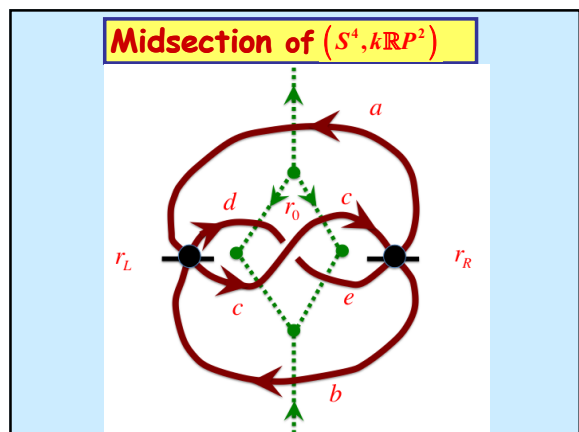
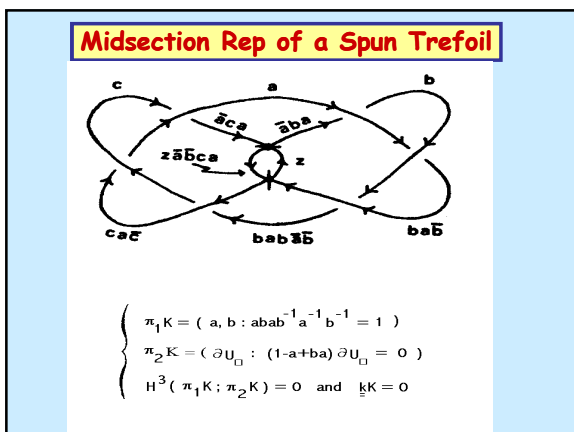
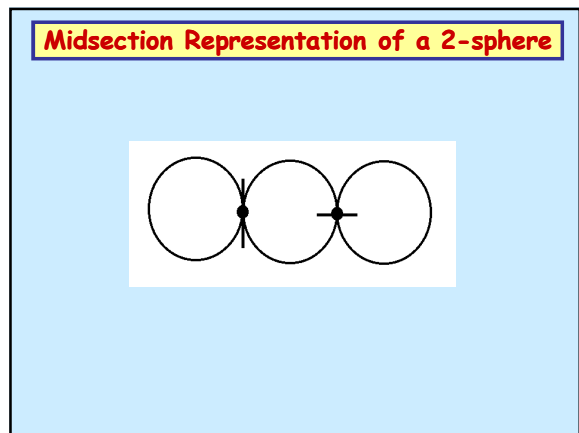
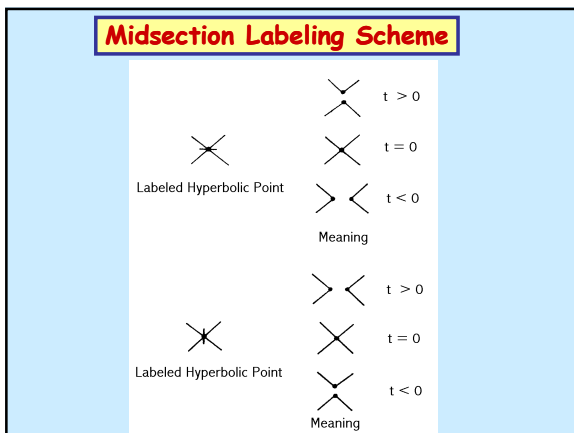
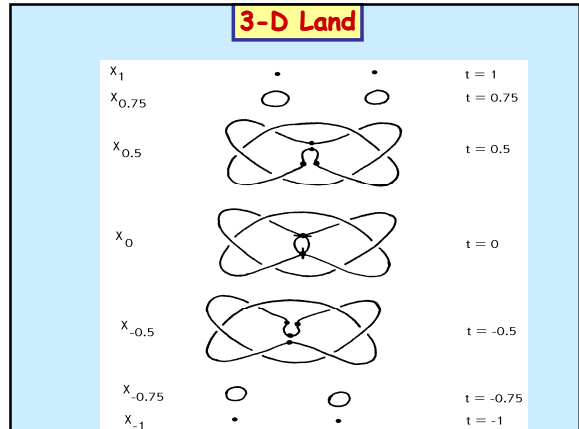
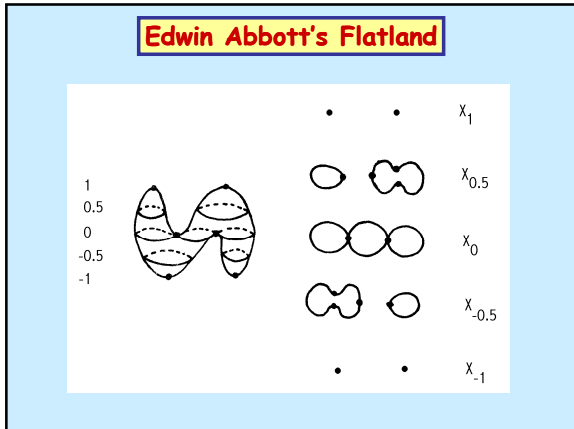
Edwin Abbott's Flatland



3-D Land



The Midsection Representation 2-Knots



Midsection Moves on 2-Knots

Reidemeister Moves

$$R_1: \text{loop} \Leftrightarrow \cap$$

$$R_2: \text{crossing} \Leftrightarrow \cup \subset$$

$$R_3: \text{triple point} \Leftrightarrow \text{triple point}$$

Yoshikawa Moves

$$S_1: \text{crossing} \Leftrightarrow \text{crossing}$$

$$S_2: \text{crossing} \Leftrightarrow \text{crossing}$$

$$S_3: \text{loop} \Leftrightarrow \cap$$

$$S_4: \text{crossing} \Leftrightarrow \text{crossing}$$

$$S_5: \text{crossing} \Leftrightarrow \text{crossing}$$

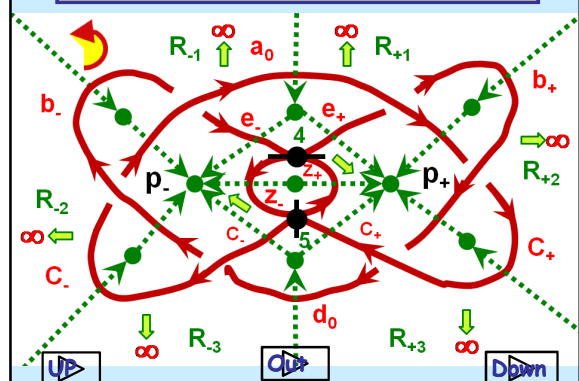
The Geometry of Group Presentations

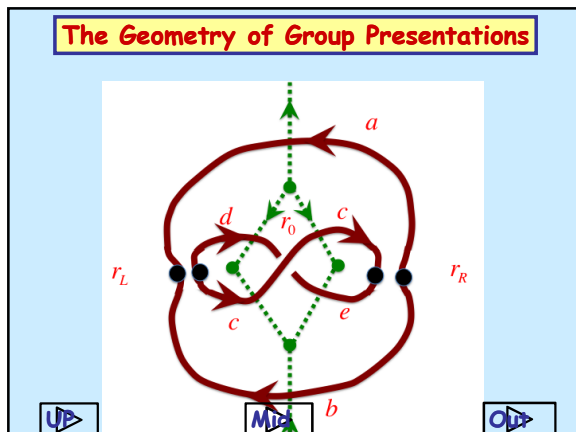
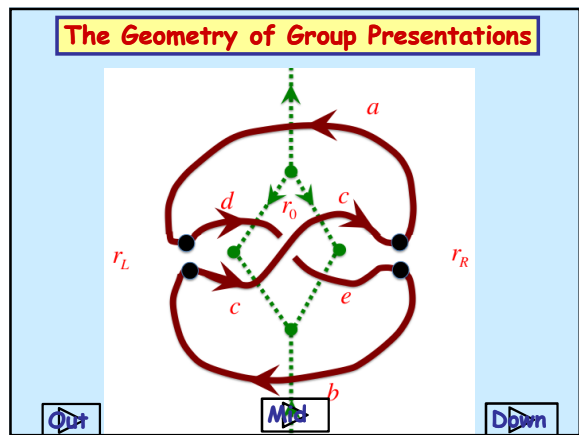
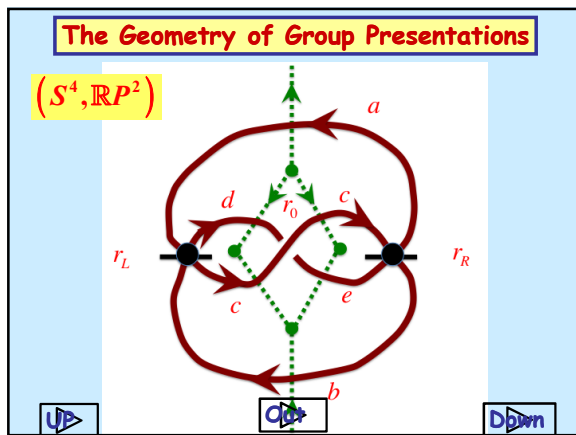
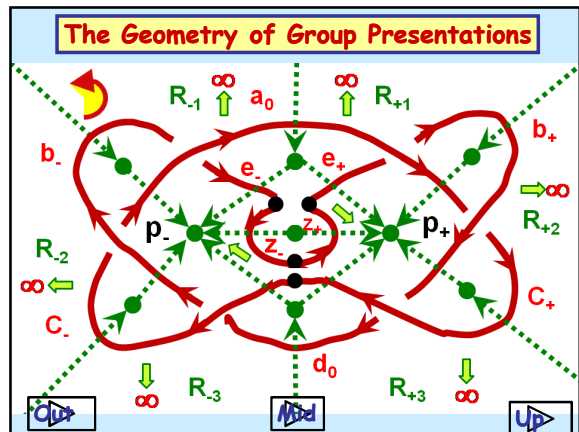
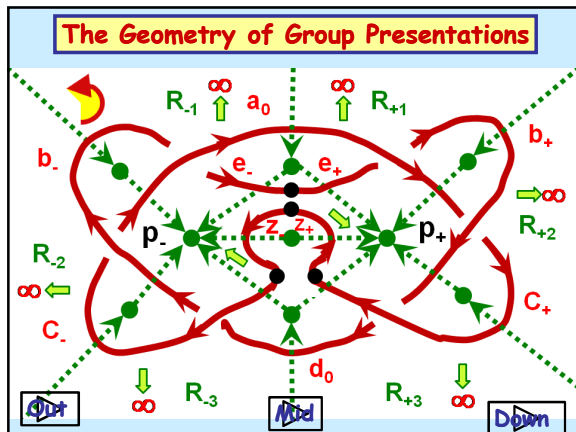
Theorem(Yoshikawa). The Reidemeister and Yoshikawa moves on the midsection representation of a 2-knot preserve knot type.

Theorem(Swenton/Keartin/Kurlin). Two 2-knot midsections represent the same 2-knot iff there is a finite sequence of Reidemeister and Yoshikawa moves which transforms one into the other.

The Wirtinger Generalized Presentation of 2-Knots ???

The Geometry of Group Presentations





Wirtinger Generalized Presentation

MidSection.
 $(a, b, c, d, e: r_L \quad r_0 \quad r_R : I)$
 $\overline{bcda} \quad \overline{aceb} \quad \overline{dcec} \quad \overline{r_L r_0^a r_R}$

UpSection: Adjoin the following:
 $: r_{LU} \quad r_{LD} \quad r_{RU} \quad r_{RD} : I_{UpL} \quad I_{UpR})$
 $\overline{da} \quad \overline{bc} \quad \overline{ac} \quad \overline{eb} \quad \overline{r_{LU} r_{LD}} \quad \overline{r_{RU} r_{RD}}$

DownSection. Adjoin the following:
 $: r_{LL} \quad r_{LR} \quad r_{RL} \quad r_{RR} : I_{DownL} \quad I_{DownR})$
 $\overline{ab} \quad \overline{cd} \quad \overline{ce} \quad \overline{ba} \quad \overline{r_{LL} r_{LR}} \quad \overline{r_{RL} r_{RR}}$

Talk Overview

This talk is a description of a research program which is best summarized by the following two questions:

Open Question 1

How does one piece together the Wirtinger generalized presentations of all the exterior cross sections of a 2-knot (S^4, kS^2) into a generalized presentation of the exterior of the entire 2-knot ???

Open Question 2

Given a generalized presentation of the exterior X of a 2-knot (S^4, kS^2) , how does one read off from this generalized presentation the second homotopy group $\pi_2 X$ (as $\mathbb{Z}\pi_1 X$ -module), and the k-invariant $kx \in H^3(\pi_1 X; \pi_2 X)$???

Conclusion ???

The answers are ...



Upcoming
Special Issue
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Journal
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This talk based on:

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