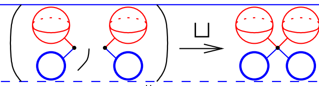
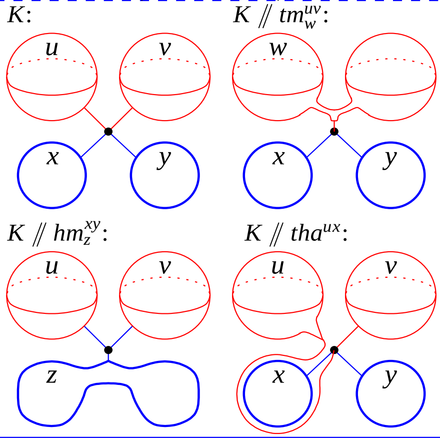
Some very good formulas for the Alexander polynomial, 2

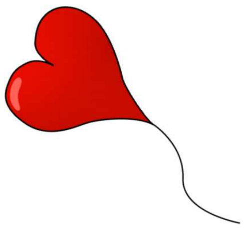
Operations
Punctures & Cuts | Connected Sums.



If X is a space, $\pi_1(X)$ is a group, $\pi_2(X)$ is an Abelian group, and π_1 acts on π_2.

Proposition. The generators generate.





Definition. l_{xu} is the linking number of hoop x with balloon u. For $x \in H$, $\sigma_x := \prod_{u\in T} T_u^{l_{xu}} \in R = R_T = \mathbb{Z}((T_a)_{a\in T})$, the ring of rational functions in T variables.

Theorem 2 [BNS]. $\exists!$ an invariant $\beta\colon w\mathcal{K}^{bh}(H;T) \to R \times M_{T\times H}(R)$, intertwining

$$\textbf{1.}\ \left(\begin{array}{c|c}\omega_1 & H_1\\ \hline T_1 & A_1\end{array}, \begin{array}{c|c}\omega_2 & H_2\\ \hline T_2 & A_2\end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{\sqcup} \begin{array}{c|cc}\omega_1\omega_2 & H_1 & H_2\\ \hline T_1 & A_1 & 0\\ T_2 & 0 & A_2\end{array},$$

$$\textbf{2.}\ \begin{array}{c|c}\omega & H\\ \hline u & \alpha\\ v & \beta\\ T & \Xi\end{array} \xrightarrow{tm^{uv}_w} \left(\begin{array}{c|c}\omega & H\\ \hline w & \alpha+\beta\\ T & \Xi\end{array}\right)_{T_u,T_v\to T_w},$$

$$\textbf{3.}\ \begin{array}{c|ccc}\omega & x & y & H\\ \hline T & \alpha & \beta & \Xi\end{array} \xrightarrow{hm^{xy}_z} \begin{array}{c|cc}\omega & z & H\\ \hline T & \alpha+\sigma_x\beta & \Xi\end{array},$$

$$\textbf{4.}\ \begin{array}{c|cc}\omega & x & H\\ \hline u & \alpha & \theta\\ T & \phi & \Xi\end{array} \xrightarrow[\nu:=1+\alpha]{tha^{ux}} \begin{array}{c|cc}\nu\omega & x & H\\ \hline u & \sigma_x\alpha/\nu & \sigma_x\theta/\nu\\ T & \phi/\nu & \Xi-\phi\theta/\nu\end{array},$$

and satisfying $(\epsilon_x;\epsilon_u;\rho^{\pm}_{ux}) \xrightarrow{\beta} \left(\begin{array}{c|c}1 & x\\ \hline & \end{array}; \begin{array}{c|c}1 & \\ \hline u & \end{array}; \begin{array}{c|c}1 & x\\ \hline u & T_u^{\pm1}-1\end{array}\right)$.

Proposition. If T is a u-tangle and $\beta(\delta T) = (\omega, A)$, then $\gamma(T) = (\omega, \sigma - A)$, where $\sigma = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_a)_{a\in S}$. Under this, $m^{ab}_c \leftrightarrow tha^{ab}/\!/tm^{ab}_c/\!/hm^{ab}_c$.

References.

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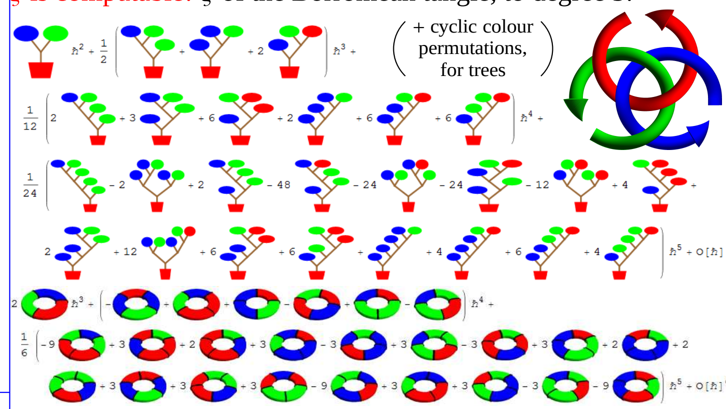
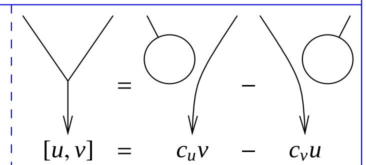
Theorem 3 [BND, BN]. $\exists!$ a homomorphic expansion, aka a homomorphic universal finite type invariant Z of w-knotted balloons and hoops. $\zeta := \log Z$ takes values in $FL(T)^H \times CW(T)$.

ζ is computable! ζ of the Borromean tangle, to degree 5:



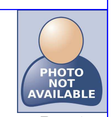
Proposition [BN]. Modulo all relations that universally hold for the 2D non-Abelian Lie algebra and after some changes-of-variable, ζ reduces to β and the KBH operations on ζ reduce to the formulas in Theorem 2.



A Big Question. Does it all extend to arbitrary 2-knots (not necessarily "simple")? To arbitrary codimension-2 knots?

BF Following [CR]. $A \in \Omega^1(M = \mathbb{R}^4, \mathfrak{g})$, $B \in \Omega^2(M, \mathfrak{g}^*)$,

$$S(A,B) := \int_M \langle B, F_A\rangle.$$



Rossi

With $\kappa\colon (S = \mathbb{R}^2) \to M$, $\beta \in \Omega^0(S,\mathfrak{g})$, $\alpha \in \Omega^1(S,\mathfrak{g}^*)$, set

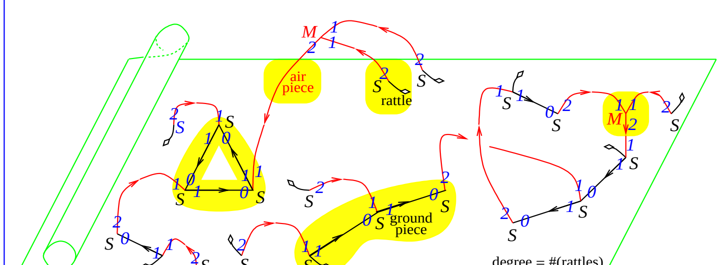
$$\mathcal{O}(A,B,\kappa) := \int \mathcal{D}\beta\mathcal{D}\alpha \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar}\int_S \langle \beta, d_{\kappa^*A}\alpha + \kappa^*B\rangle\right).$$

Cattaneo

The BF Feynman Rules. For an edge e, let Φ_e be its direction, in S^3 or S^1. Let ω_3 and ω_1 be volume forms on S^3 and S_1. Then

$$Z_{BF} = \sum_{\substack{\text{diagrams}\\ D}} \frac{[D]}{|\mathrm{Aut}(D)|} \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\cdots\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}}_{S\text{-vertices}} \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^4}\cdots\int_{\mathbb{R}^4}}_{M\text{-vertices}} \prod_{\substack{\text{red}\\ e\in D}} \Phi_e^*\omega_3 \prod_{\substack{\text{black}\\ e\in D}} \Phi_e^*\omega_1$$

(modulo some STU- and IHX-like relations).



Issues. • Signs don't quite work out, and BF seems to reproduce only "half" of the wheels invariant.
• There are many more configuration space integrals than BF Feynman diagrams and than just trees and wheels.
• I don't know how to define "finite type" for arbitrary 2-knots.

"God created the knots, all else in topology is the work of mortals."

Leopold Kronecker (modified)

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Video and more at http://www.math.toronto.edu/~drorbn/Talks/Oberwolfach-1405/