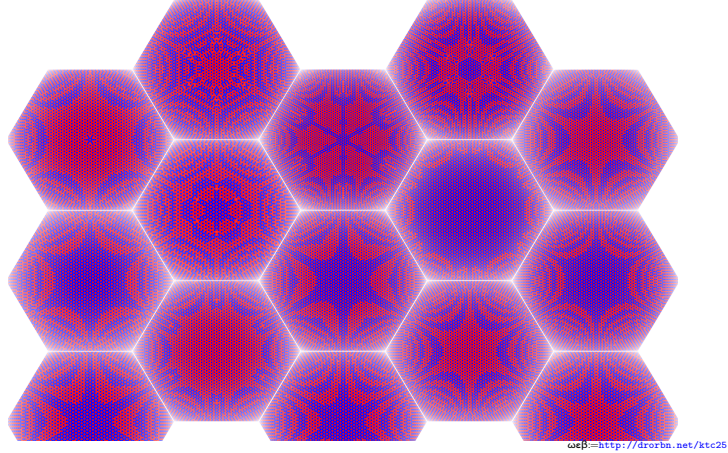
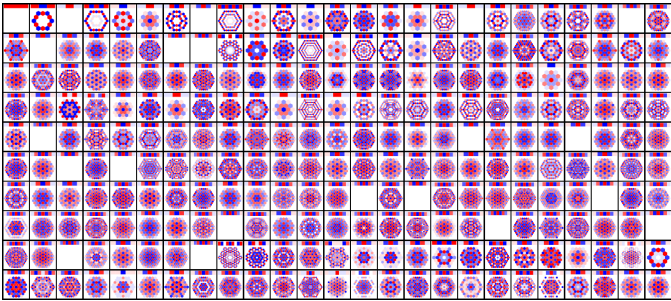


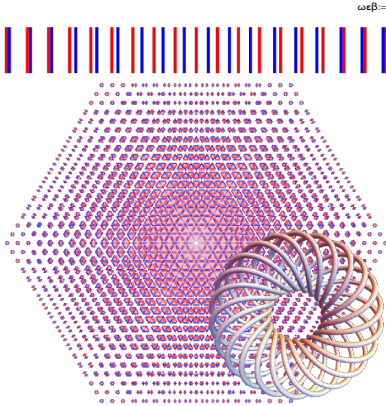
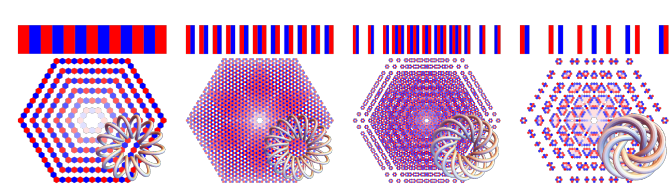
Random knots (from [DHOEBL]) with 101–115 crossings:



The Rolfsen Table:



The torus knots  $TK_{13/2}$ ,  $TK_{17/3}$ ,  $TK_{13/5}$ , and  $TK_{7/6}$ :



The torus knot  $TK_{22/7}$ :

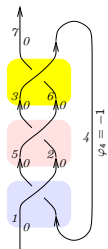
Meaningful.

Convention.

$\theta$  gives a genus bound (unproven yet with confidence). We hope (with reason) it says something about ribbon knots.

$T$ ,  $T_1$ , and  $T_2$  are indeterminates and  $T_3 := T_1 T_2$ .

**Preparation.** Draw an  $n$ -crossing knot  $K$  as a diagram  $D$  as on the right: all crossings face up, and the edges are marked with a running index  $k \in \{1, \dots, 2n + 1\}$  and with rotation numbers  $\varphi_k$ .



**Model  $T$  Traffic Rules.** Cars always drive forward. When a car crosses over a sign- $s$  bridge it goes through with (algebraic) probability  $T^s \sim 1$ , but falls off with probability  $1 - T^s \sim 0$ . At the very end, cars fall off and disappear. On various edges traffic counters are placed. See also [Jo, LTW].

