

Definition. The traffic function $G = (g_{\alpha\beta})$ (also, the Green function or the two-point function) is the reading of a traffic counter at β , if car traffic is injected at α (if $\alpha = \beta$, the counter is after the injection point). There are also model- T_ν traffic functions $G_\nu = (g_{\nu\alpha\beta})$ for $\nu = 1, 2, 3$.

Example.

$$\sum_{p \geq 0} (1-T)^p = T^{-1} \quad \begin{array}{c} T^{-1} \\ \text{diagram} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \text{diagram} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \text{diagram} \end{array} \quad G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & T^{-1} & 1 \\ 0 & T^{-1} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Given crossings $c = (s, i, j)$, $c_0 = (s_0, i_0, j_0)$, and $c_1 = (s_1, i_1, j_1)$, let

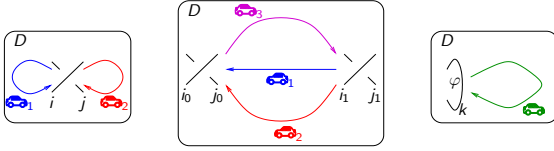
$$\begin{aligned} F_1(c) &= s[1/2 - g_{3ii} + T_2^s g_{1ii} g_{2ji} - T_2^s g_{3ij} g_{2ji} - (T_2^s - 1) g_{3ii} g_{2ji} \\ &\quad + (T_3^s - 1) g_{2ji} g_{3ji} - g_{1ii} g_{2ji} + 2 g_{3ii} g_{2ji} + g_{1ii} g_{3ji} - g_{2ii} g_{3ji}] \\ &\quad + \frac{s}{T_2^s - 1} [(T_1^s - 1) T_2^s (g_{3ij} g_{1ji} - g_{2ji} g_{1ji} + T_2^s g_{1ji} g_{2ji}) \\ &\quad + (T_3^s - 1) (g_{3ji} - T_2^s g_{1ii} g_{3ji} + g_{2ji} g_{3ji} + (T_2^s - 2) g_{2ji} g_{3ji}) \\ &\quad - (T_1^s - 1)(T_2^s + 1)(T_3^s - 1) g_{1ji} g_{3ji}] \\ F_2(c_0, c_1) &= \frac{s_1(T_1^{s_0} - 1)(T_3^{s_1} - 1) g_{1j_1 i_0} g_{3j_0 i_1}}{T_2^{s_1} - 1} (T_2^{s_0} g_{2i_1 i_0} + g_{2j_1 j_0} - T_2^{s_0} g_{2i_1 i_0} - g_{2j_1 j_0}) \\ F_3(\varphi_k, k) &= \varphi_k (g_{3kk} - 1/2) \end{aligned}$$

(Computers don't care!)

Main Theorem.

The following is a knot invariant: (the Δ_ν are normalizations discussed later)

$$\theta(D) := \Delta_1 \Delta_2 \Delta_3 \left(\sum_c F_1(c) + \sum_{c_0, c_1} F_2(c_0, c_1) + \sum_k F_3(\varphi_k, k) \right).$$



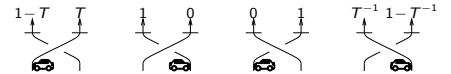
If these pictures remind you of Feynman diagrams, it's because they are Feynman diagrams [BN2].

Proof.

Lemma 2.

With $k^+ := k + 1$, the "g-rules" hold near a crossing $c = (s, i, j)$:

$$\begin{aligned} g_{j\beta} &= g_{j^+\beta} + \delta_{j\beta} & g_{i\beta} &= T^s g_{i^+\beta} + (1 - T^s) g_{j^+\beta} + \delta_{i\beta} & g_{2n^+, \beta} &= \delta_{2n^+, \beta} \\ g_{\alpha i^+} &= T^s g_{\alpha i} + \delta_{\alpha i^+} & g_{\alpha j^+} &= g_{\alpha j} + (1 - T^s) g_{\alpha i} + \delta_{\alpha j^+} & g_{\alpha, 1} &= \delta_{\alpha, 1} \end{aligned}$$



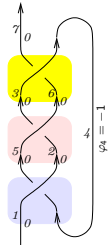
Corollary 1.

G is easily computable, for $AG = I (= GA)$, with A the $(2n+1) \times (2n+1)$ identity matrix with additional contributions:

$$c = (s, i, j) \mapsto \begin{array}{c|cc} A & \text{col } i^+ & \text{col } j^+ \\ \hline \text{row } i & -T^s & T^s - 1 \\ \text{row } j & 0 & -1 \end{array}$$

For the trefoil example, we have:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -T & 0 & 0 & T-1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -T & 0 & 0 & T-1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & T-1 & 0 & 1 & -T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



And so,

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & T & 1 & T & 1 & T & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{T}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{1}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{T^2}{T^2-T+1} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{T}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{1}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{T^2}{T^2-T+1} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{T}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{1}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{T^2}{T^2-T+1} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{T}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{1}{T^2-T+1} & \frac{T^2}{T^2-T+1} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$