

# Crossed modules, homotopy 2-types, knotted surfaces and welded knots

Topological Quantum Field Theory Club (IST, Lisbon)

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João Faria Martins (University of Leeds)

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Gustavo Granja, Louis Kauffman.

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Let  $K$  be a (one-component) piecewise linear / smooth knot in  $S^3$

- ▶ Papakyriakopoulos theorem:  $S^3 \setminus K$  is an aspherical space.
- ▶ Asphericity means that:  $\pi_i(S^3 \setminus K) = 0$ , if  $i \geq 2$ .
- ▶ More generally  $S^3 \setminus L$  is aspherical if  $L \subset S^3$  is a *non-splittable* link. E.g.

Definition: ( $n$ -type) Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_0^+$ .

An  $n$ -type is a path-connected pointed space  $X = (X, *)$  such that:

1.  $X$  is homeomorphic to a CW-complex, with  $*$  being a 0-cell.  
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Let  $\{n\text{-types}\}$  be the category with objects the  $n$ -types.

Given two  $n$ -types  $X$  and  $Y$ ,

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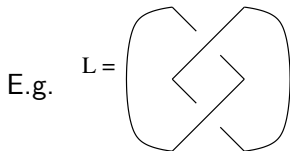
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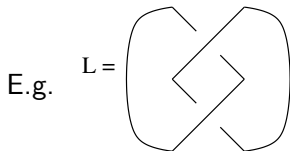
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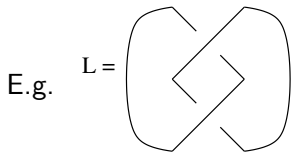
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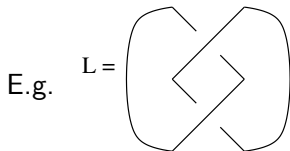
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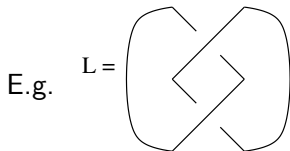
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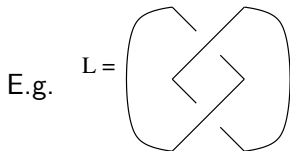
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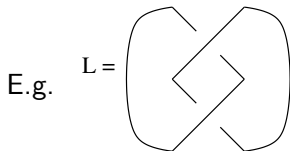
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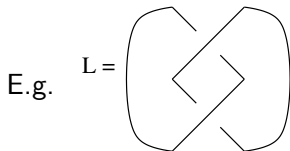
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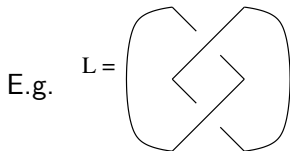
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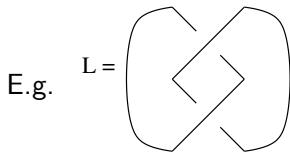
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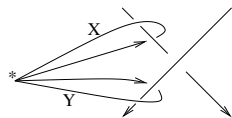
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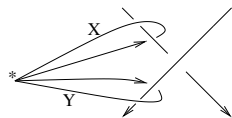
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**Theorem:** The homotopy type of the complement of a non-splittable link  $L \subset S^3$  is classified by  $\pi_1(S^3 \setminus L)$ .

**Also recall:** *Wirtinger presentation* for  $\pi_1(S^3 \setminus K)$ .

A generator for each arc of projection. A relation for each crossing:





## 1-types and knot complements

Therefore, complements of non-splittable links in  $S^3$  are 1-types.

**Well known theorem:** The fundamental group functor

$$\pi_1: \{\mathbf{1\text{-types}}\} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{groups}\}$$

is an equivalence of categories. This implies:

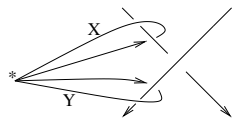
1. Two 1-types  $X$  and  $Y$  are homotopic iff  $\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(Y)$ .
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# Crossed modules

## Definition (Crossed module)

A *crossed module*  $\mathcal{G} = (\partial: E \rightarrow G, \triangleright)$  is given by:

- ▶ A group map (i.e. a homomorphism)  $\partial: E \rightarrow G$ .  
( $G$  is called the “base-group”.  $E$  is the “principal group”.)
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## Example

- ▶  $G$  a group;  $A$  an abelian group.  
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► Let  $(M, N, *)$  be a pair of spaces. We have a crossed module:

$$\Pi_2(M, N, *) = (\partial: \pi_2(M, N, *) \rightarrow \pi_1(N, *), \triangleright).$$

►  $\Pi_2(D^2, S^1, *) = (\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\text{id}} \mathbb{Z}, \triangleright_{\text{trivial}})$ .

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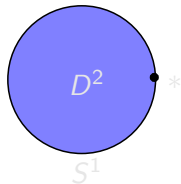
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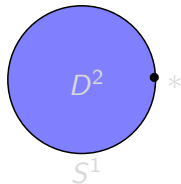
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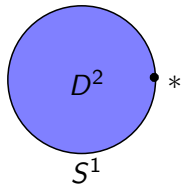
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We can define the "free crossed module on  $\partial_0$ ", denoted

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**Universal property**

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \psi_0 & & \\ & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowleft & \\ V & \xrightarrow{i} & \mathcal{F}(V \xrightarrow{\partial_0} G) & \xrightarrow{\psi} & E \\ & \searrow \partial_0 & \downarrow \partial & & \downarrow \partial \\ & & G & \xrightarrow{\phi} & H \end{array}$$

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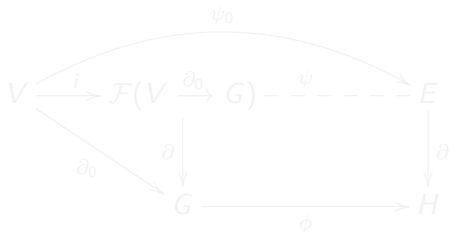
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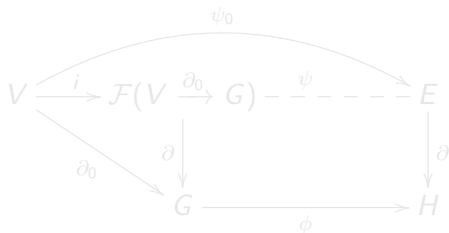


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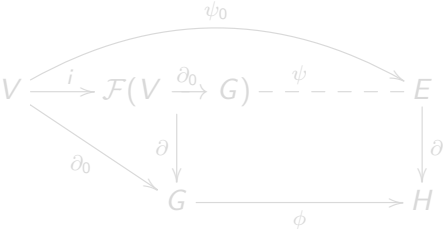


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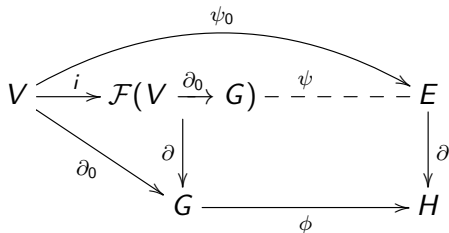


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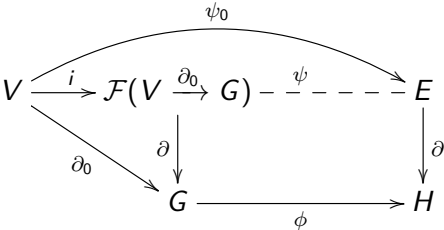
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{F}(V \xrightarrow{\partial_0} G) & \xrightarrow{\psi} & E \\
 \downarrow \partial & & \downarrow \partial \\
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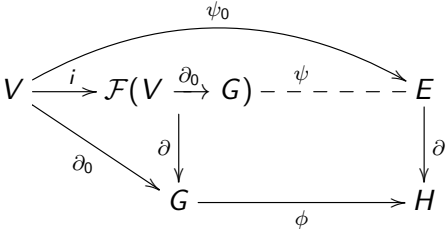


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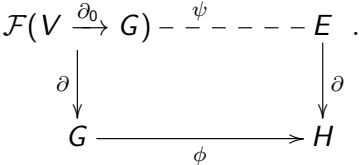
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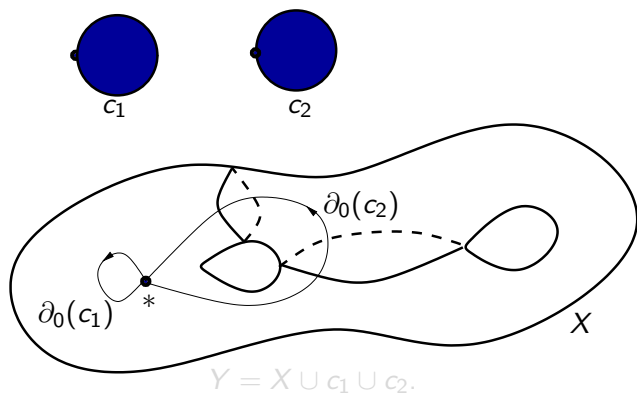


# Free crossed modules and Whitehead theorem

$$Y = X \cup c_1 \cup c_2.$$

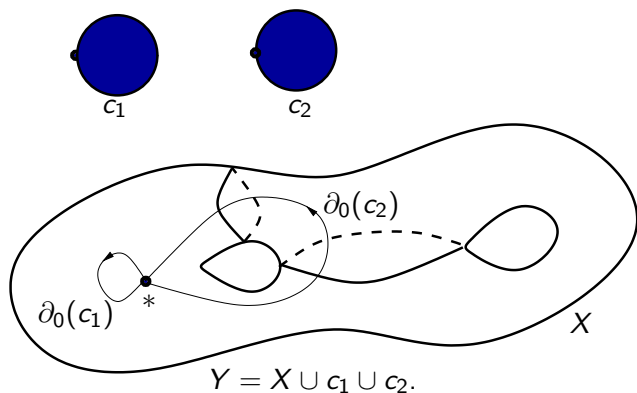
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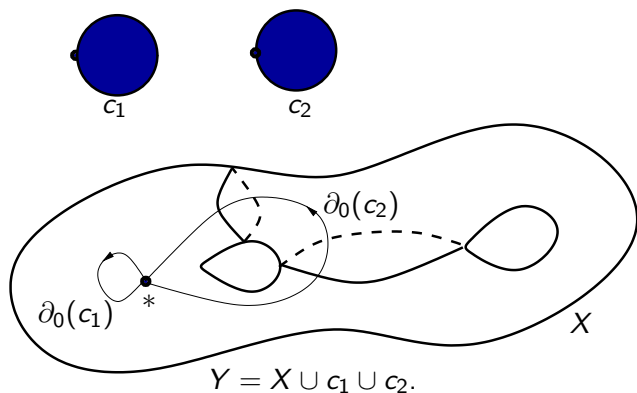
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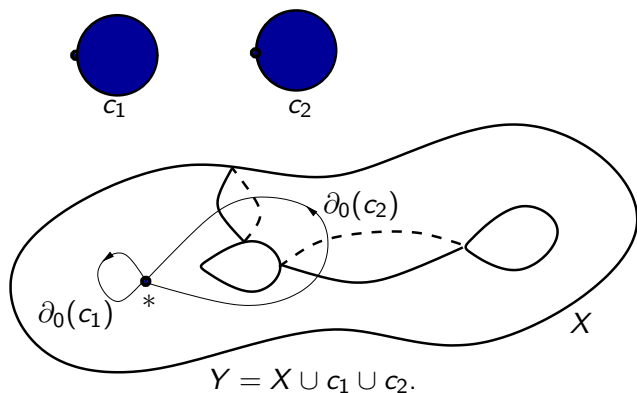


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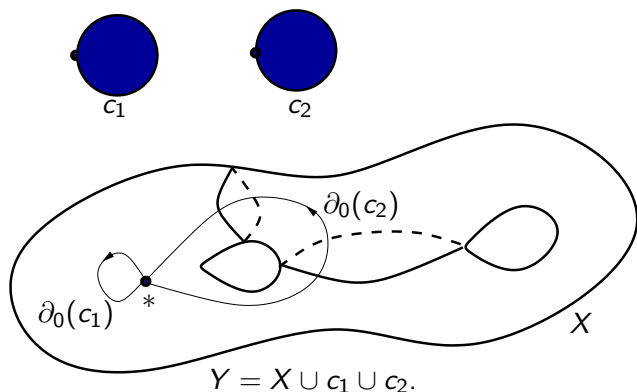
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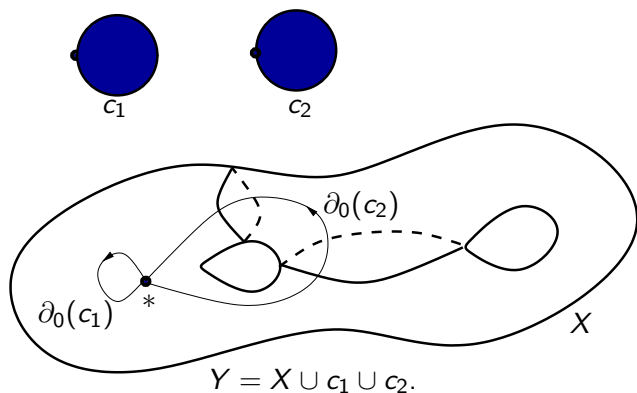
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# Homotopy of crossed modules

A crossed module  $\mathcal{G} = (E \xrightarrow{\partial} G)$  contains a short complex  $E \rightarrow G$ .

Given  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\mathcal{G}' = (E' \rightarrow G')$ ,  $\exists$  notion of homotopy of maps  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}'$ .

Homotopies are built on group derivations  $s: G \rightarrow E'$ .

**Fact:** We have category  $\{\mathbf{CoF-Crossed\ Modules}\} / \cong$ .

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# The fundamental crossed module $\Pi_2(X, X^1)$

**Theorem**  $Ho(\{\text{Crossed Modules}\}) \cong \{\text{2-types}\}$  . i.e.

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This equivalence of categories can be made more concrete.

- ▶ Given a reduced CW-complex  $X$ , let  $X^1$  be its one-skeleton.  
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$$\Pi_2(X, X^1) = (\partial: \pi_2(X, X^1) \rightarrow \pi_1(X^1), \triangleright).$$

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Maps  $X \rightarrow Y$  are pointed homotopy classes of pointed maps.  
We have a functor

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Theorem (Whitehead / MacLane 1950 PNAS)

1. When restricted to 2-types,  $\Pi_2$  is an equivalence of categories.
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2.  $\Pi_2(X, X^1)$  faithfully represents the homotopy 2-type of  $X$ .  
Hence  $\pi_2(X) = \ker(\partial)$ ,  $\pi_1(X) = \text{coker}(\partial)$ ,  $k(X) = k(\Pi_2(X))$ .



## Presentation of $\Pi_2(X, X^1)$ by generators and relations

Let  $X$  be a reduced CW-complex.  $X^i$  union of cells of index  $\leq i$ .  
Procedure to describe a presentation of the crossed module:

$$\Pi_2(X, X^1) = (\pi_2(X, X^1) \rightarrow \pi_1(X^1))$$

by generators and relations. (In the world of crossed modules.)

1.  $\pi_1(X^1) = \mathcal{F}(1\text{-cells})$ : free group on the set of 1-cells of  $X$ .
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is the free crossed module on the attaching maps of the 2-cells.

$$\Pi_2(X^2, X^1) = \mathcal{U} \left\langle \{2\text{-cells}\} \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_1(X^1) \right\rangle.$$

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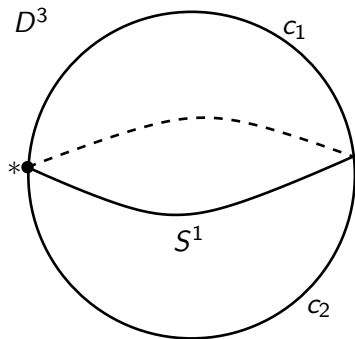
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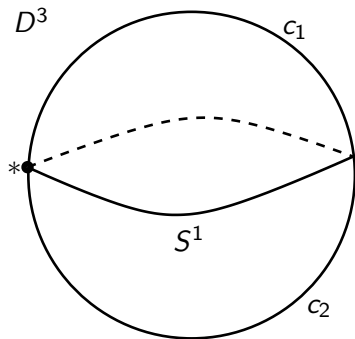
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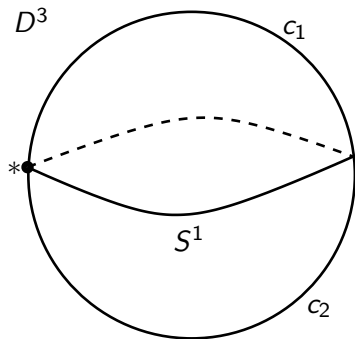
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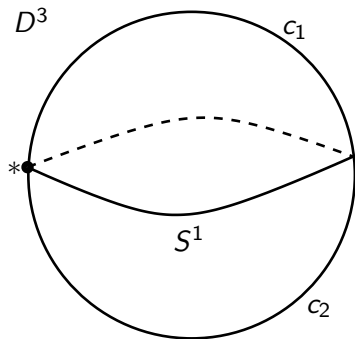
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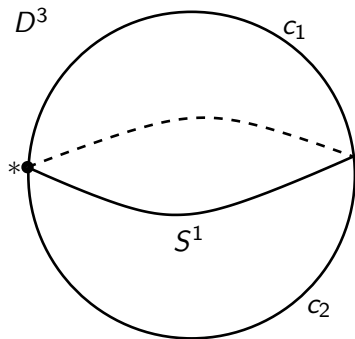
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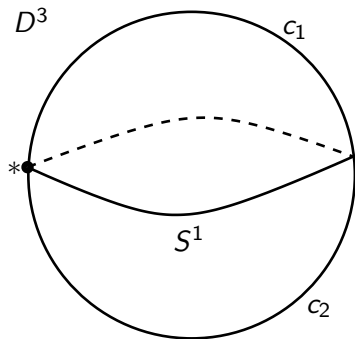
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## The homotopy invariant $l_{\mathcal{G}}$ .

Up to homotopy  $\Pi_2(X, X^1)$  doesn't depend on CW-decomposition of  $X$

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be homotopic CW-complexes.

**Proposition** Let  $\mathcal{G} = (\partial: E \rightarrow G, \triangleright)$  be a finite crossed module. Let  $X$  be a finite reduced CW-complex. The quantity:

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Moreover,  $l_{\mathcal{G}}(X)$  is a homotopy invariant of  $X$ .

Interpretation:

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## The homotopy invariant $I_{\mathcal{G}}$ .

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**Proposition** Let  $\mathcal{G} = (\partial: E \rightarrow G, \triangleright)$  be a finite crossed module. Let  $X$  be a finite reduced CW-complex. The quantity:

$$l_{\mathcal{G}}(X) = \frac{1}{(\#E)^{\text{number of 1-cells of } X}} \# \text{hom}(\Pi_2(X, X^1), \mathcal{G}),$$

does not depend on the chosen CW-decomposition of  $X$ .

Moreover,  $l_{\mathcal{G}}(X)$  is a homotopy invariant of  $X$ .

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$$l_{\mathcal{G}}(X) = \sum_{f \in \pi_0(\text{TOP}(X, B_{\mathcal{G}}))} \frac{1}{\#\pi_1(\text{TOP}(X, B_{\mathcal{G}}), f)}$$

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## Calculation of $\Pi_2(S^4 \setminus \Sigma)$ , $\Sigma$ a knotted surface

Let  $\Sigma \subset S^4 = \mathbb{R}^4 \cup \{\infty\}$  be a knotted surface.

(Any genus, any number of components.)

Suppose the projection on the  $t$ -variable is a Morse function in  $\Sigma$ .

To simplify, suppose critical points appear in increasing order.

Let  $\Sigma_t = \Sigma \cap (\mathbb{R}^3 \times \{t\})$ , called the "still of  $\Sigma$  at  $t$ ".

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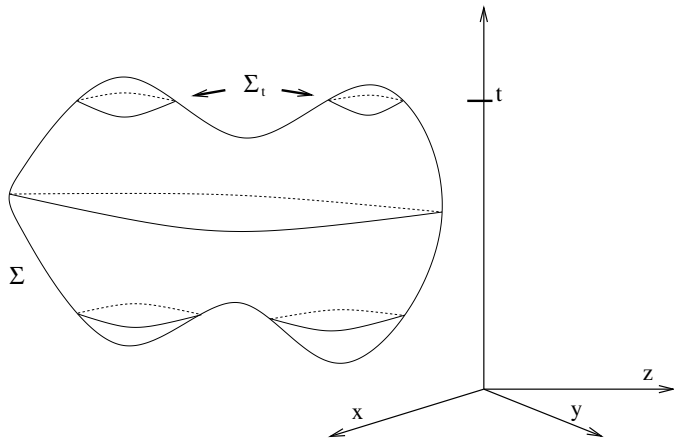
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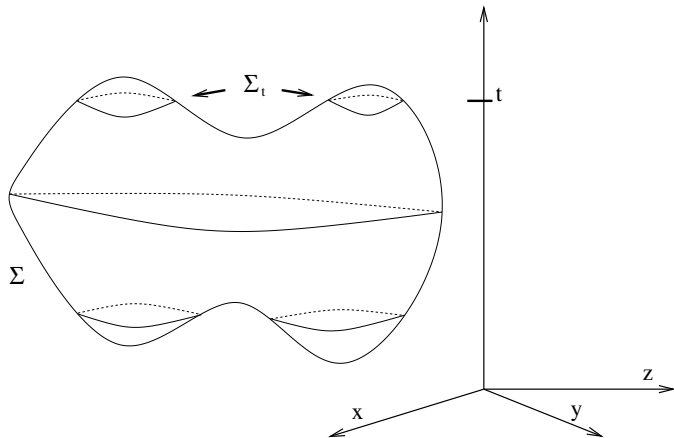
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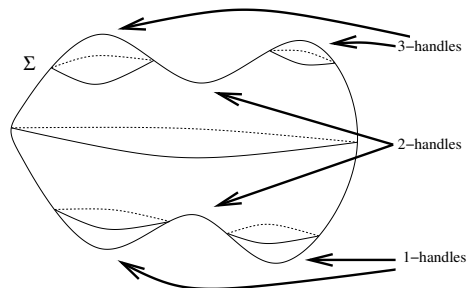
## Handle decomposition (fat CW-decomposition) of $M = S^4 \setminus \Sigma$

Let  $M^{(i)}$  be union of handles of index  $\leq i$ .

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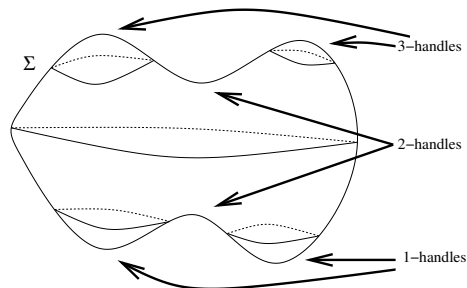


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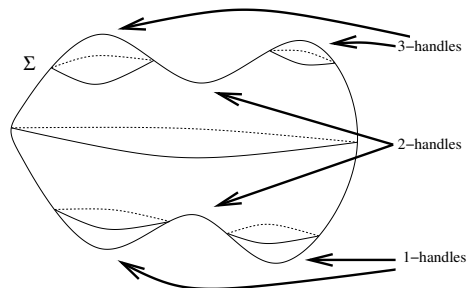


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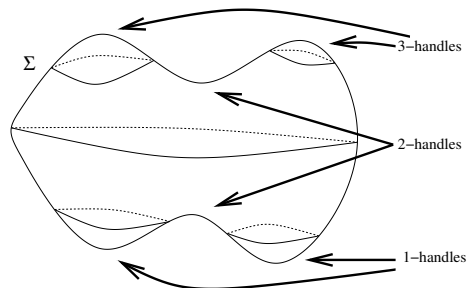


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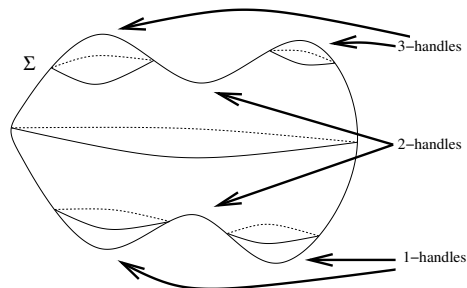
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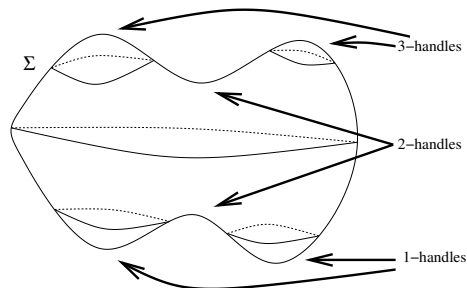


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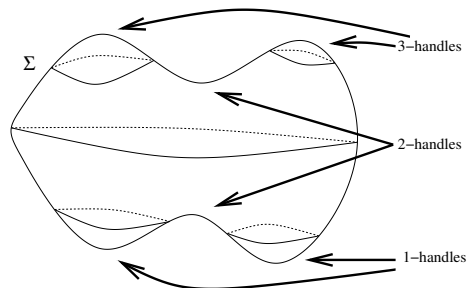


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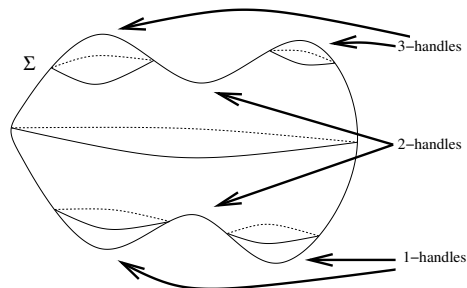


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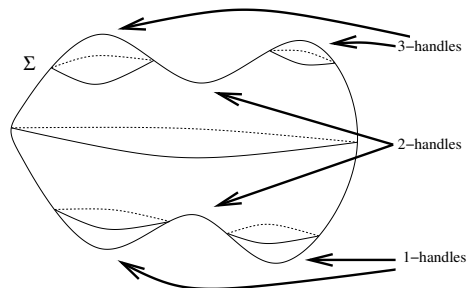


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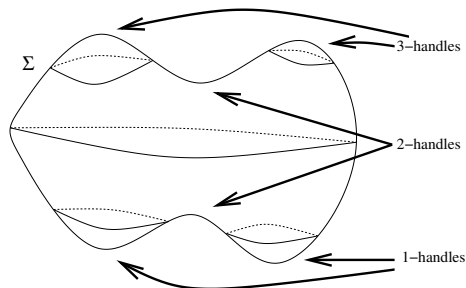


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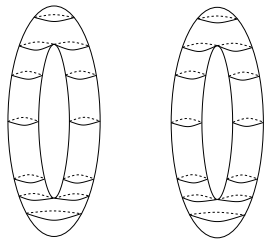


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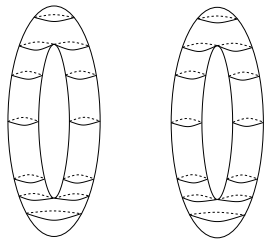
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A movie for a knotted union  $\Sigma$  of two tori

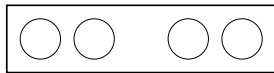
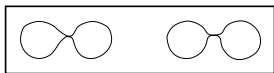
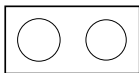
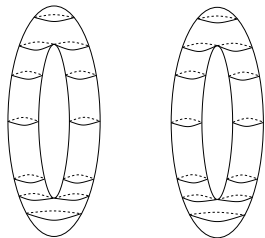


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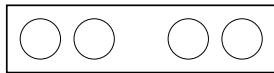
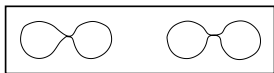
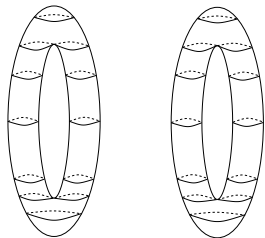




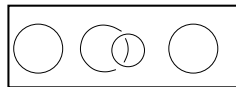
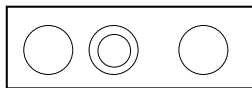
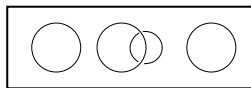
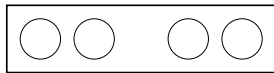
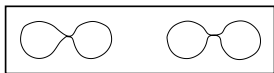
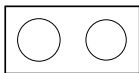
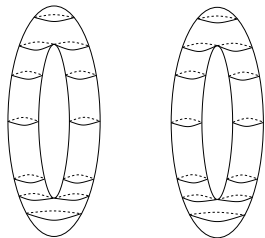
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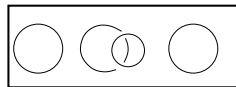
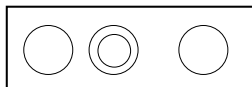
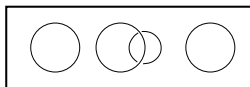
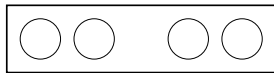
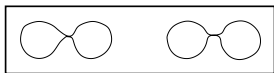
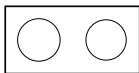
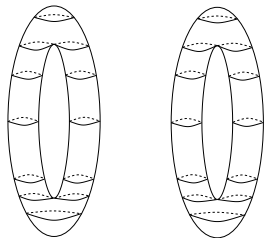
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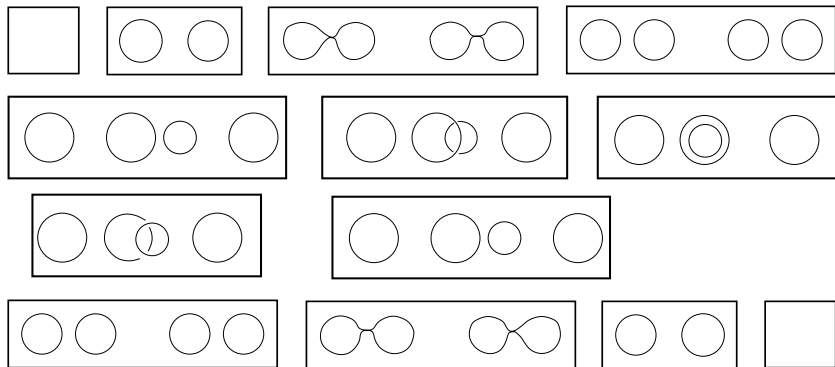
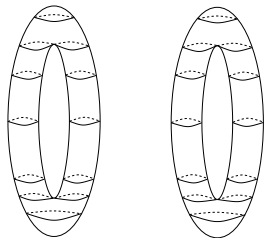
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Let  $\Sigma \subset S^4$ , oriented surface, Morse conditions as above.

Let  $M = S^4 \setminus \Sigma$ . Let  $M^{(i)}$  be union of handles of degree  $\leq i$ .

Locally, an oriented minimal point looks like:

A minimal point yields a 1-handle of  $M$ .

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Concretely,  $X \in \pi_1(M^{(1)})$  can be defined as:

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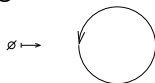
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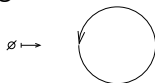
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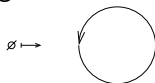
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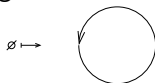
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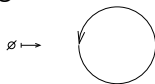


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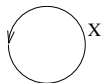
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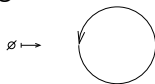
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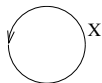
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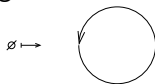
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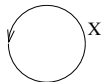
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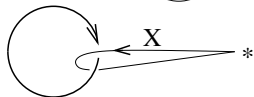


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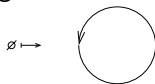
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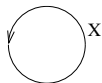
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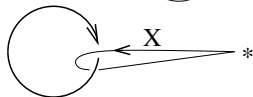


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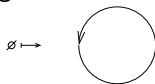
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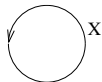
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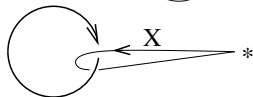


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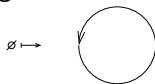
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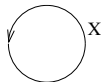
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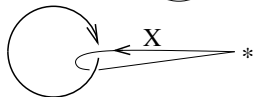


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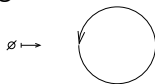
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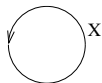
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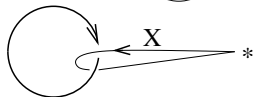


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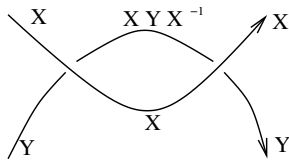
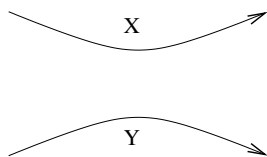


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## Free generators of $\Pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ at saddle points

Locally, an (oriented) saddle point looks like:

When passing saddle point, add a 'band', kept throughout movie:  
This band will later bookkeep where the saddle point was made,  
and the attaching region of corresponding 2-handle of  $M$ .

Each band gives free crossed module generator  $e \in \pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .

Bands are to be kept and evolve throughout the rest of the movie.  
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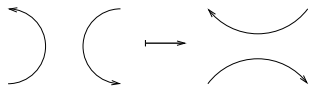
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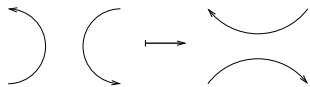
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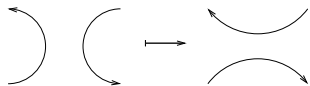
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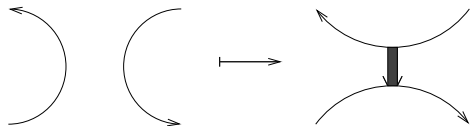
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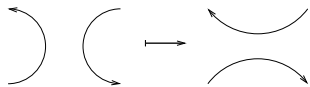


Each band gives free crossed module generator  $e \in \pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .

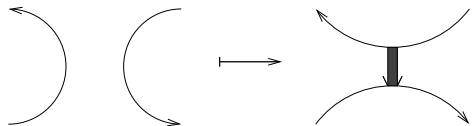
Bands are to be kept and evolve throughout the rest of the movie.  
Each arc of a band in a projection gives element of  $\pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .

## Free generators of $\Pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ at saddle points

Locally, an (oriented) saddle point looks like:



When passing saddle point, add a 'band', kept throughout movie:  
This band will later bookkeep where the saddle point was made, and the attaching region of corresponding 2-handle of  $M$ .

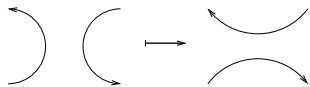


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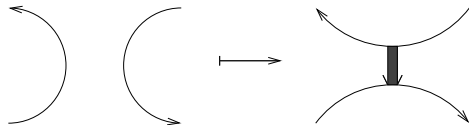
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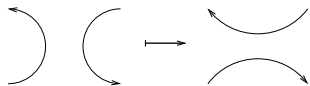


Each band gives free crossed module generator  $e \in \pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .

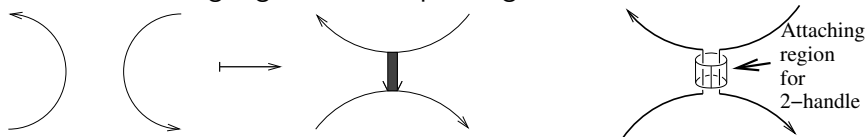
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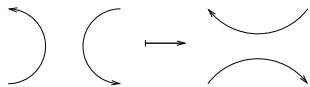


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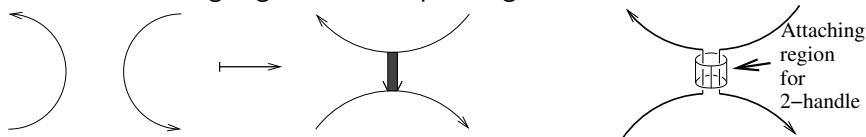
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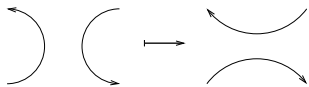
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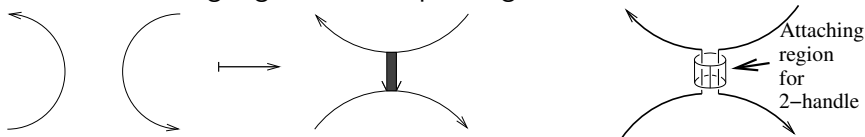


## Free generators of $\Pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ at saddle points

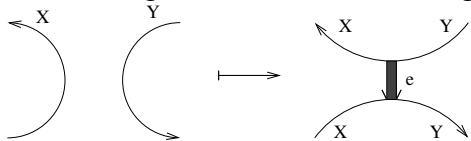
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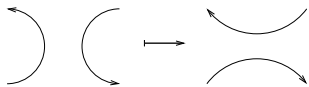
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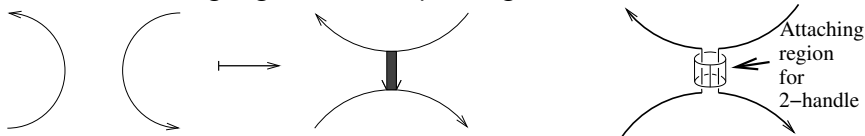
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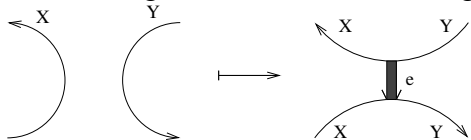
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$$\partial(e) = X^{-1}Y.$$

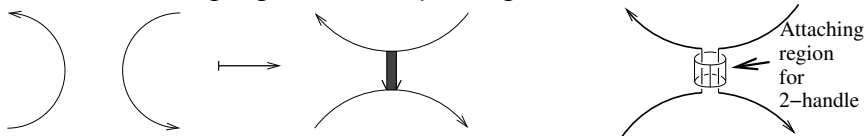
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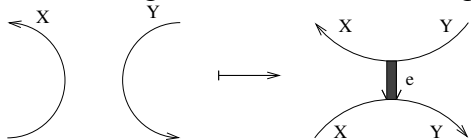
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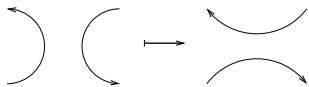
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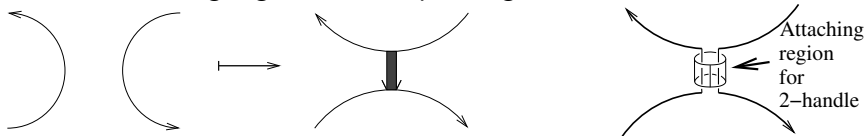
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## Free generators of $\Pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ at saddle points

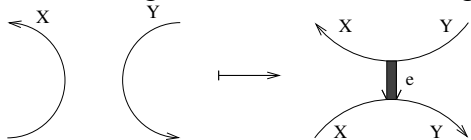
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Bands are to be kept and evolve throughout the rest of the movie.  
Each arc of a band in a projection gives element of  $\pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .

## Maximal points

Locally, an oriented maximal point looks like:

Some bands will possibly be present.

Before maximal point, configuration looks like:

In this case the 2-relations are as below:

## Maximal points

Locally, an oriented maximal point looks like:

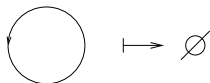
Some bands will possibly be present.

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## Maximal points

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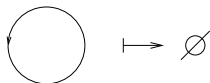
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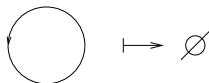
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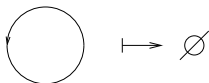
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In this case the 2-relations are as below:

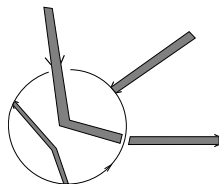
## Maximal points

Locally, an oriented maximal point looks like:



Some bands will possibly be present.

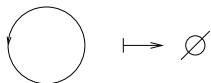
Before maximal point, configuration looks like:



In this case the 2-relations are as below:

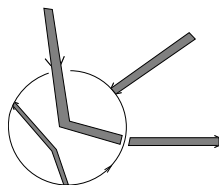
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Locally, an oriented maximal point looks like:



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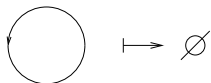
Before maximal point, configuration looks like:



In this case the 2-relations are as below:

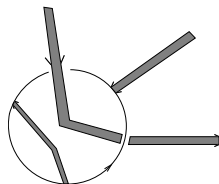
## Maximal points

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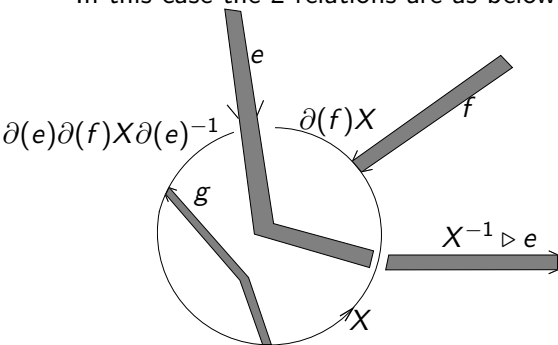


Some bands will possibly be present.

Before maximal point, configuration looks like:

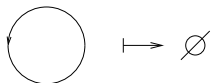


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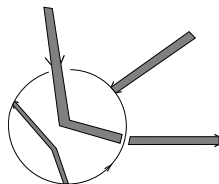
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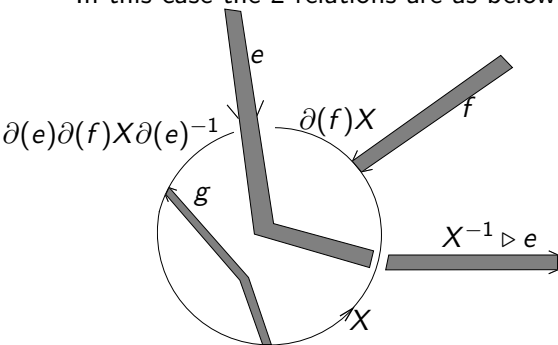


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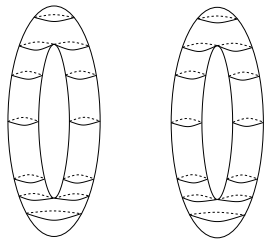


2-relation:

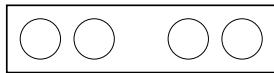
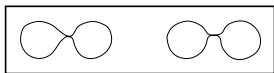
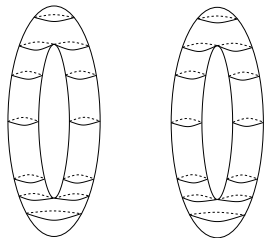
$$e f (X^{-1} \triangleright e^{-1}) = 1$$

A movie for a knotted union  $\Sigma$  of two tori

A movie for a knotted union  $\Sigma$  of two tori

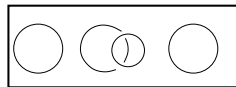
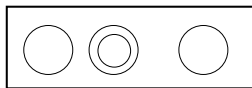
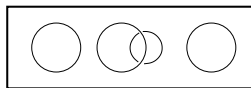
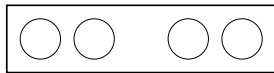
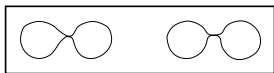
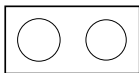
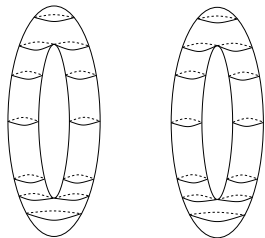


# A movie for a knotted union $\Sigma$ of two tori

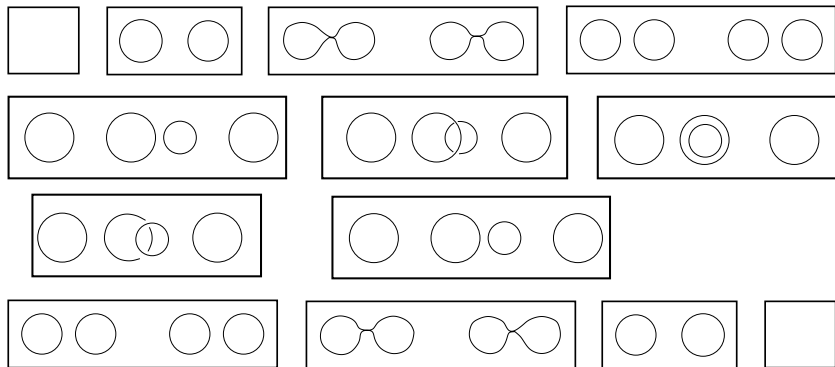
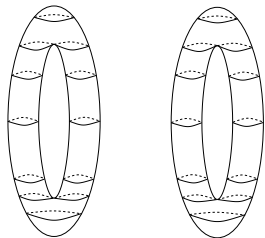




# A movie for a knotted union $\Sigma$ of two tori



# A movie for a knotted union $\Sigma$ of two tori



$\Sigma = \text{Knotted } T^2 \sqcup T^2$  above. Circles oriented counterclockwise

$$\partial(e) = 1$$

$$\partial(f) = 1$$

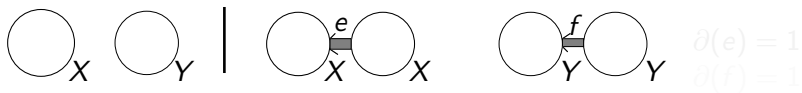
$$\partial(g) = 1$$

$$\partial(h) = XYX^{-1}Y^{-1}$$

$$e e^{-1} (X \triangleright f^{-1}) f = 1$$

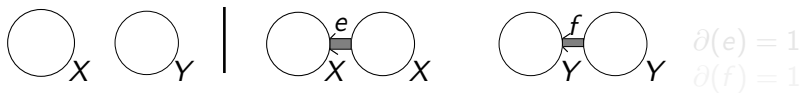
$$(X \triangleright f) f^{-1} = 1.$$

$\Sigma = \text{Knotted } T^2 \sqcup T^2$  above. Circles oriented counterclockwise



$$\begin{aligned} \partial(g) &= 1 \\ \partial(h) &= XYX^{-1}Y^{-1} \\ e e^{-1} (X \triangleright f^{-1}) f &= 1 \\ (X \triangleright f) f^{-1} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

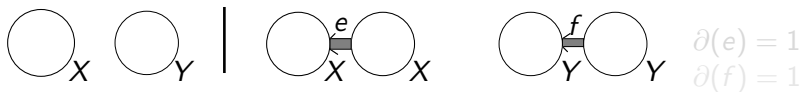
$\Sigma = \text{Knotted } T^2 \sqcup T^2$  above. Circles oriented counterclockwise



$X, Y \in \pi_1(M^{(1)});$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(g) &= 1 \\ \partial(h) &= XYX^{-1}Y^{-1} \\ e e^{-1} (X \triangleright f^{-1}) f &= 1 \\ (X \triangleright f) f^{-1} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

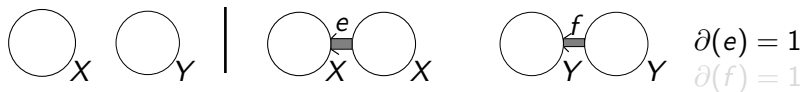
$\Sigma = \text{Knotted } T^2 \sqcup T^2$  above. Circles oriented counterclockwise



$X, Y \in \pi_1(M^{(1)}); e, f \in \pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(g) &= 1 \\ \partial(h) &= XYX^{-1}Y^{-1} \\ e e^{-1} (X \triangleright f^{-1}) f &= 1 \\ (X \triangleright f) f^{-1} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

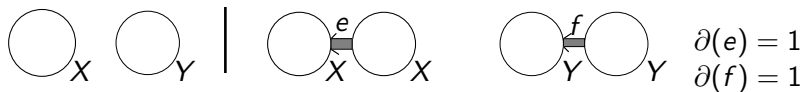
$\Sigma = \text{Knotted } T^2 \sqcup T^2$  above. Circles oriented counterclockwise



$X, Y \in \pi_1(M^{(1)}); e, f \in \pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .

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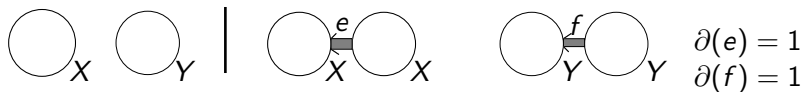


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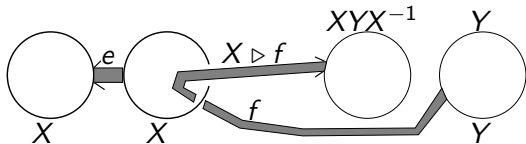
$$\begin{aligned} \partial(g) &= 1 \\ \partial(h) &= XYX^{-1}Y^{-1} \\ e e^{-1} (X \triangleright f^{-1}) f &= 1 \\ (X \triangleright f) f^{-1} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$



$\Sigma = \text{Knotted } T^2 \sqcup T^2 \text{ above. Circles oriented counterclockwise}$



$X, Y \in \pi_1(M^{(1)}); e, f \in \pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .



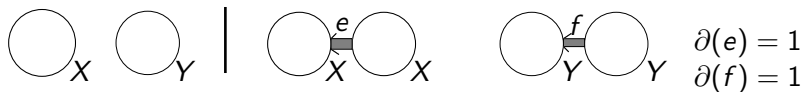
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$$\partial(h) = XYX^{-1}Y^{-1}$$

$$e e^{-1} (X \triangleright f^{-1}) f = 1$$

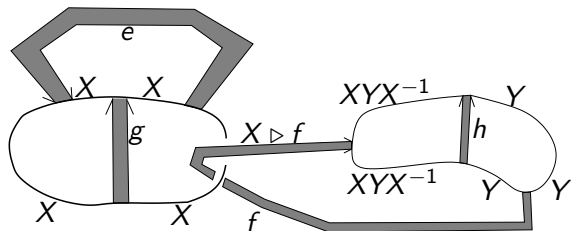
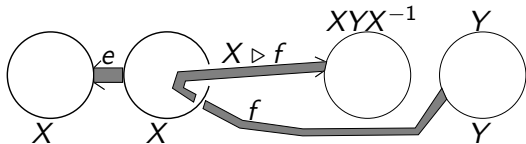
$$(X \triangleright f) f^{-1} = 1.$$

$\Sigma = \text{Knotted } T^2 \sqcup T^2$  above. Circles oriented counterclockwise



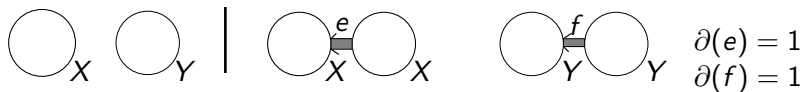
$$\begin{aligned} \partial(e) &= 1 \\ \partial(f) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$X, Y \in \pi_1(M^{(1)}); e, f \in \pi_2(M^{(2)}, M^{(1)})$ .

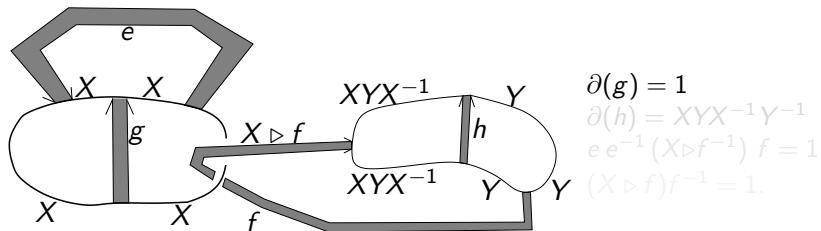
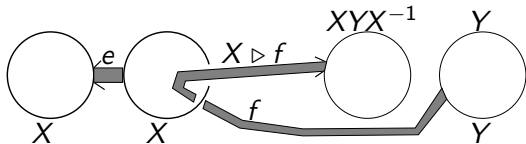


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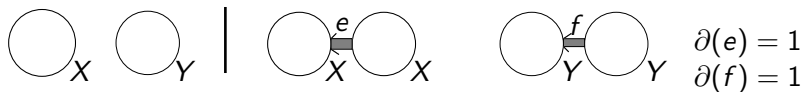
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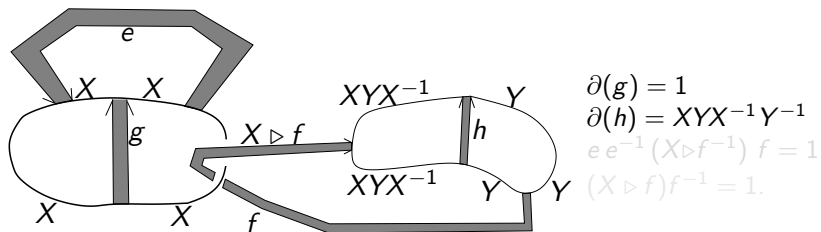
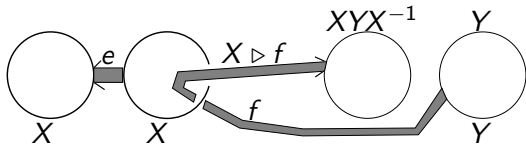
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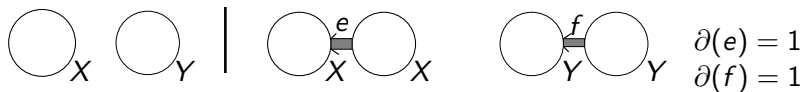


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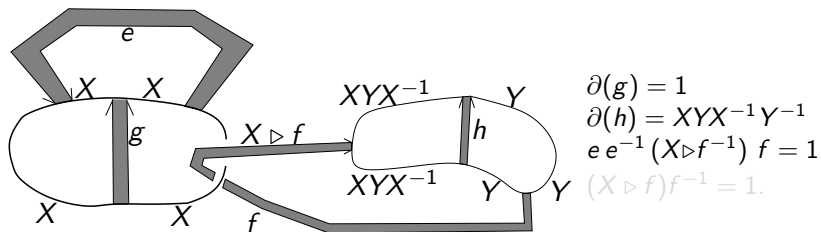
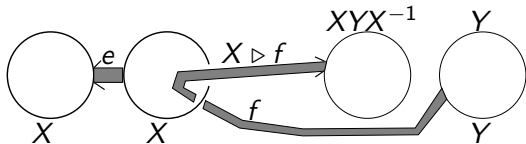


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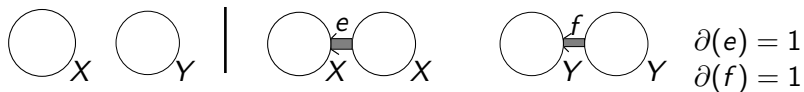
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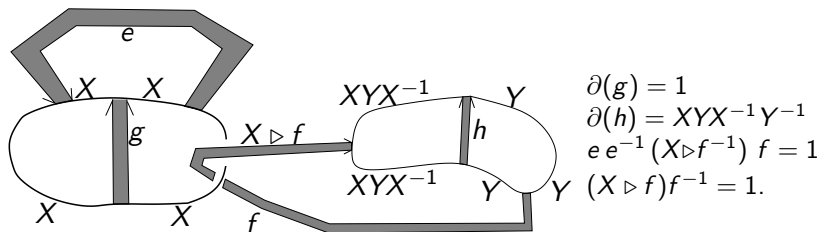
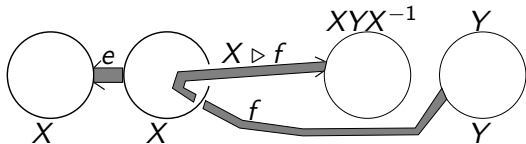
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Hence

$$\Pi_2(M, M^{(1)}) = \mathcal{U} \left\langle \{e, f, g, h\} \xrightarrow[h \mapsto [X, Y]]{e \mapsto 1, f \mapsto 1, g \mapsto 1} \mathcal{F}(\{X, Y\}) \mid f = X \triangleright f \right\rangle$$

$\pi_1(M) = \langle \{X, Y\} \mid [X, Y] = 1 \rangle$ , free abelian group on  $X$  and  $Y$ .

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Another example  $\Sigma' = \text{Spun Hopf Link}$ , a knotted  $T^2 \sqcup T^2$

Final stage:

$$\partial(e) = 1$$

$$\partial(f) = 1$$

$$\partial(g) = YXY^{-1}X^{-1}$$

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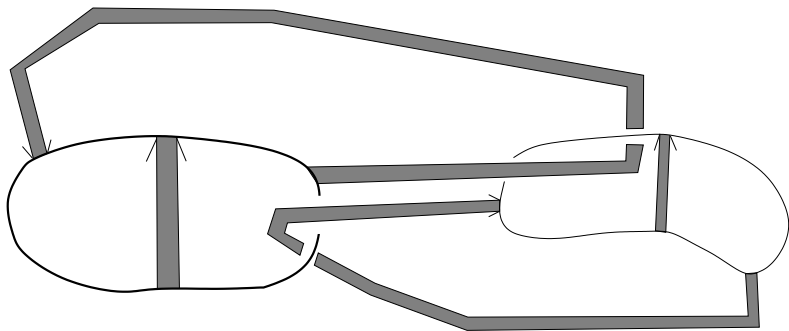
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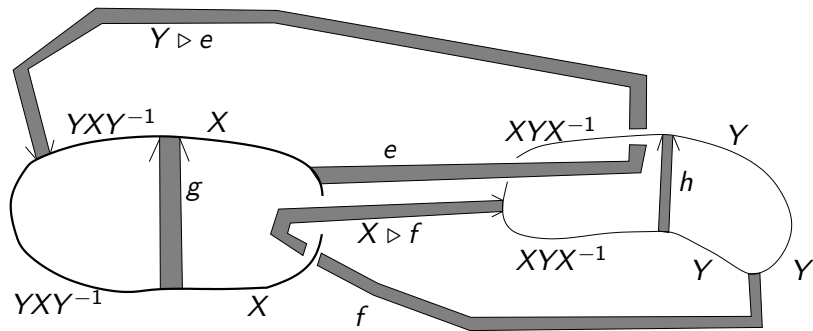
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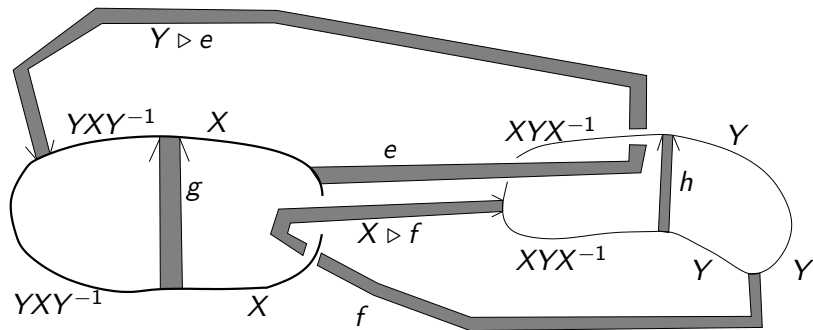
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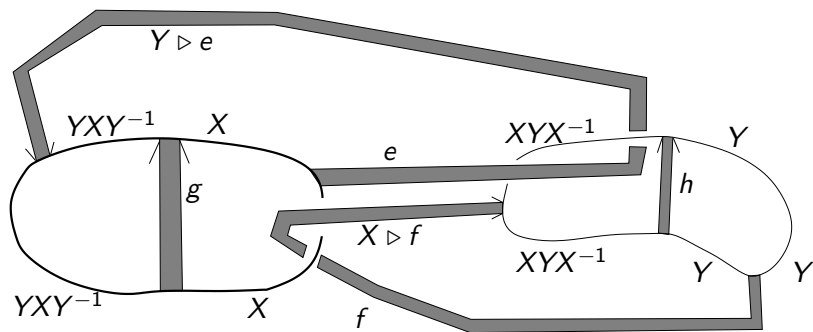
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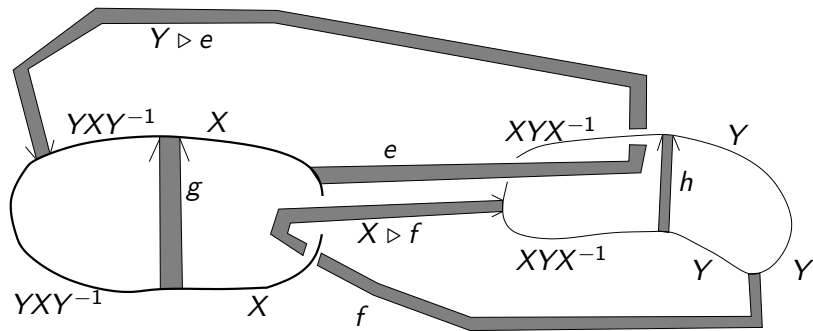
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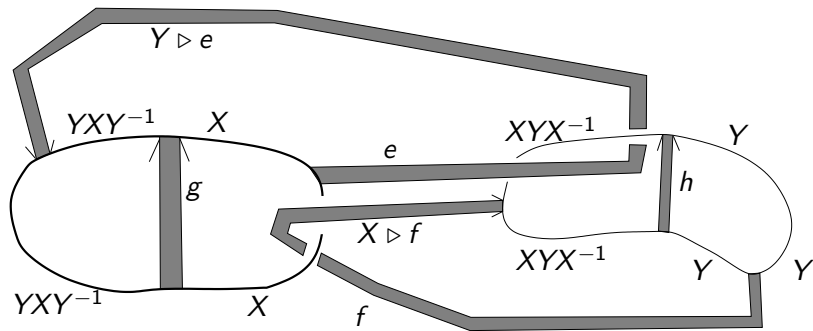
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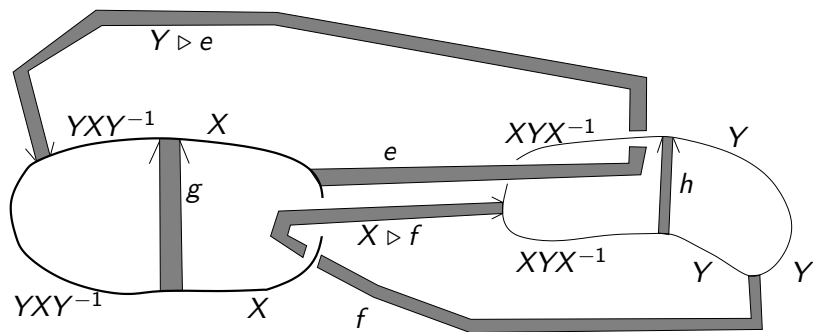
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## More results on $I_{\mathcal{G}}(S^4 \setminus \Sigma)$

Let  $\mathcal{G} = (\partial: E \rightarrow G)$  be a finite crossed module.

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- The invariant of knotted surfaces:

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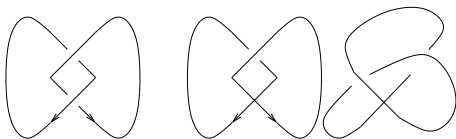
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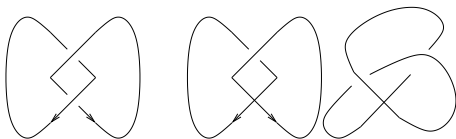
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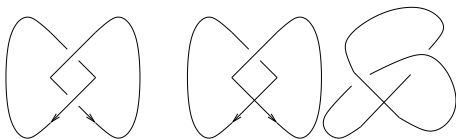
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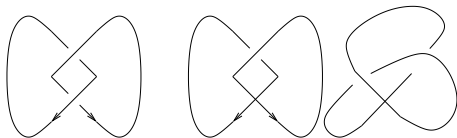


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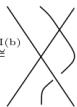
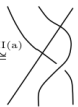
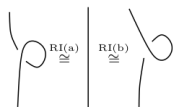


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*Tube*: {Welded links}  $\rightarrow$  {Knotted Tori in  $S^4$ }

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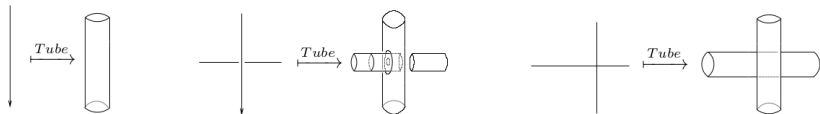
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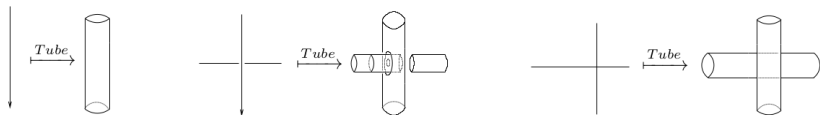


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# Biquandles and $I_G$

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Proof essentially in:

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## Biquandles and $I_G$

- ▶ Recall Shin Satoh's "tube-map"

$$\text{Tube}: \{\text{Welded links}\} \rightarrow \{\text{Knotted Tori in } S^4\}$$

**Theorem:** Suppose  $\mathcal{G} = (A \rightarrow G, \triangleright)$  is finite and  $\partial(A) = \{1_G\}$ .

The welded knot invariant

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A higher order version of Artin representation defined.

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**THANKS!**