

A Calculus for S^3 -diagrams of Manifolds with Boundary^{*}

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The aim of this paper is to introduce a calculus for a presentation of compact, orientable, connected 3-manifolds with boundary in terms of diagrams embedded in S^3 in a form akin to the standard surgery presentation of closed, orientable, connected 3-manifolds. Our motivation to introduce such a presentation of manifolds is to give a completely combinatorial description of the category 3Cob, whose arrows are 3-dimensional cobordisms, which is an ongoing project. We hope this could support further investigations of faithfulness of 3-dimensional Topological Quantum Field Theories. On the other hand, the calculus could be applied within some coherence results in Category theory (see [1, Section 9]).

That every closed, orientable, connected 3-manifold may be obtained by surgery on a link in S^3 was proved by Wallace, [9] and (independently) by Lickorish, [4]. This result provides a language for presentation of such manifolds. The rational surgery calculus for this language was introduced by Rolfsen, [7]. This calculus consists of two types of modifications and he proved that two surgery descriptions yield homeomorphic 3-manifolds if one can be transformed into the other by a finite sequence of these modifications. At about the same time, Kirby, [3] introduced another surgery calculus and he proved its completeness, i.e. that two surgery descriptions (with integral framing) yield homeomorphic 3-manifolds if and only if one can be transformed into the other by a finite sequence of operations from this calculus. By relying on Kirby's result, Rolfsen, [8], proved the completeness of his calculus. Fenn and Rourke, [2], merged two Kirby's operations into an infinite list of integral moves of one type, which is a special case of Rolfsen's second modification. Roberts, [6], developed a calculus for surgery data in arbitrary compact, connected 3-manifold (possibly with boundary, or non-orientable).

The first part of our work uses a generalization of Wallace-Lickorish result to compact, orientable, connected 3-manifolds with boundary in order to establish a diagrammatic language of these manifolds. This language is based on the well known language for closed manifolds that consists of surgery data in S^3 written in terms of framed links. We extend the “alphabet” by introducing some rigid “symbols” in the form of wedges of circles. The intuition behind a wedge of circles in a diagram is that its neighbourhood is removed from S^3 forming one component of the boundary of the resulting manifold S^3_- . Given a framed link in S^3 , the result of performing the surgery along that link (which consists in removing the tubular neighbourhood of every link component and sewing it back according to the corresponding framing) is a manifold whose boundary is canonically identified with the original $\partial(S^3_-)$. Hence, a diagram in S^3 consisting of a collection of wedges of circles, together with a framed link, presents a manifold. We call

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such a diagram a \mathbb{Z} -diagram (see Figure 1). We prove that *every* manifold is presentable by a \mathbb{Z} -diagram.

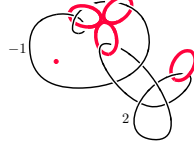


Figure 1: An example of a \mathbb{Z} -diagram. For the sake of better visualisation, we mark the wedges of circles in red.

The second part of our work adapts Roberts' calculus into a diagrammatic calculus adequate for our language. Our adaptation, shown in Figure 2, is akin to the adaptation of Kirby's calculus made by Fenn and Rourke.

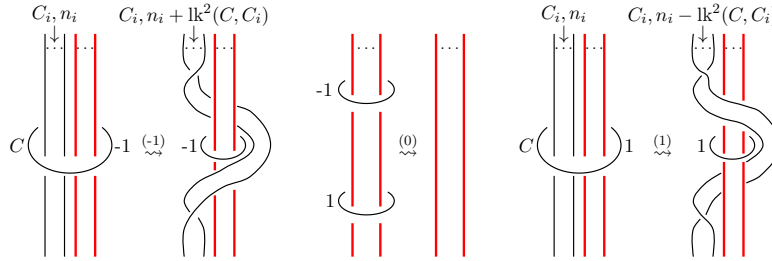


Figure 2: Moves (-1) , (0) and (1)

As the Fenn and Rourke local moves can be reduced to a finite list, which is shown by Martelli, [5], our calculus is also presentable by a finite list of local moves. Finally, we develop a rational surgery calculus for our language. We prove the completeness for all the calculi.

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