

Geometric Topology Homework

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1. Let $f^{(n)}$ be the n th magic knitting. Show that $f^{(n)} - 1$ is an element of the subalgebra of $TL_n(A)$ generated by the e_i . That is, show that the idempotent really does behave like a projection.

Proof. First, remember that as an algebra, $TL_n(A)$ is generated by 1 and the e_i . Further, $f^{(n)}1 = f^{(n)} \neq 0$ for $n \geq 1$, but $f^{(n)}(f^{(n)} - 1) = f^{(n)} - f^{(n)} = 0$. This means that $f^{(n)} - 1 \in \ker f^{(n)}$. Since 1 and the e_i span $TL_n(A)$, we may conclude that $f^{(n)} - 1$ is in the span of the e_i , since 1 is not in the kernel of $f^{(n)}$. Therefore, $f^{(n)} - 1$ is in the subalgebra generated by the e_i . \square

2. Consider the π rotations of the square about the cardinal axis and the axis perpendicular to the plane. Show that for $n \geq 3$, these induce nonidentity involutions of TL_n which fix $f^{(n)}$.

Proof. First, it is immediately clear that these are nonidentity involutions. Indeed, for $n \geq 3$, we can always pick some element of TL_n which is unfixed by that rotation.

Now, consider $\pi f^{(n)}$. Since TL_n is associative, $\pi f^{(n)} e_i = \pi(f^{(n)} e_i) = \pi 0 = 0$. By problem 1, we also have that $\pi f^{(n)} - 1$ is in the subalgebra generated by the e_i . Since there is only one such $f^{(n)}$ satisfying these requirements, we must have $\pi f^{(n)} = f^{(n)}$. \square

3. Prove that the Chebyshev polynomials satisfy $S_m S_n = \sum_r S_r$ for a particular value of r , given m and n .

Proof. We recall that the Chebyshev polynomials are given by the relation $S_{n+1}(x) = xS_n(x) - S_{n-1}(x)$ subject to

$$S_0(x) = 1, S_1(x) = x.$$

Now, to find r , we take a few samples:

$$\begin{aligned}
S_2(x) &= xS_1(x) - S_0(x) = x^2 - 1 \\
S_3(x) &= xS_2(x) - S_1(x) = x^3 - 2x \\
S_4(x) &= xS_3(x) - S_2(x) = x^4 - 3x^2 + 1 \\
S_5(x) &= xS_4(x) - S_3(x) = x^5 - 4x^3 + 3x \\
S_6(x) &= x(S_5)(x) - S_4(x) = x^6 - 5x^4 + 6x^2 - 1 \\
S_1S_0 &= x \\
&= S_1 \\
S_1S_2 &= x^3 - x \\
&= S_3 + S_1 \\
S_2S_3 &= x^5 - 3x^3 + 2x \\
&= S_5 + S_3 + S_1 \\
S_1S_3 &= x^4 - 2x^2 \\
&= S_4 + S_2 \\
S_2S_4 &= x^6 - 4x^4 + 4x^2 - 1 \\
&= S_6 + S_4 + S_2.
\end{aligned}$$

This gives us a very clear motivating pattern, and suggests that

$$S_mS_n = \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ a \text{ odd}}}^{m+n} S_a$$

if $m+n$ is odd, or

$$S_mS_n = \sum_{\substack{a=2 \\ a \text{ even}}}^{m+n} S_a$$

if $m+n$ is even. Now, let N be odd and suppose by way of induction that the result holds when $3 < m+n < N$. Then let $m+n = N$. By hypothesis, we know that

$$S_{m-2}S_n = \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ a \text{ odd}}}^{N-2} S_a.$$

By the recurrence relation, $S_{m-2} = S_m - xS_{m-1}$, so we can rewrite this as

$$(S_m - xS_{m-1})S_n = \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ a \text{ odd}}}^{N-2} S_a$$

or otherwise

$$S_mS_n - x \sum_{\substack{a=2 \\ a \text{ even}}}^{N-1} S_a = \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ a \text{ odd}}}^{N-2} S_a.$$

Rewriting and again using the recurrence relation repeated, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
S_m S_n &= x \sum_{\substack{a=2 \\ a \text{ even}}}^{N-1} S_a - \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ a \text{ odd}}}^{N-2} S_a \\
&= \sum_{\substack{a=2 \\ a \text{ even}}}^N x S_a - S_{a-1} \\
&= \sum_{\substack{a=2 \\ a \text{ even}}}^N S_{a+1} \\
&= \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ a \text{ odd}}}^N S_a
\end{aligned}$$

exactly as needed. The proof for $m + n$ even is essentially identical, so we are done. \square

4. The operation of placing a square containing a generating diagram of TL_n and joining the points on the left and right without any crossings induces a linear map $\text{tr} : TL_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Show that $\text{tr}(xy) = \text{tr}(yx)$ and that $(x, y) \mapsto \text{tr}(xy)$ defines a bilinear form on TL_n . Show that if A is not a root of unity, then this form is nondegenerate.

Proof. Since for $D \in TL_n(A)$, the braid closure of D has no crossings, we have that $\text{tr}(D)$ for a single diagram component is given by $(-A^{-2} - A^2)^m$ where m is the number of closed curves in the closure of D . Extending this linearly, we have that $\text{tr}(D) = \sum_d (-A^{-2} - A^2)^{m(d)}$ where d runs over all of the formal summands of D and $m(d)$ is the number of closed curves in the closure of the diagram.

This means that our goal is to show that the number of closed curves of the braid closures of xy and yx are the same. To see this, notice that if γ is a closed curve in xy , then it meets internal and external edges of x in some finitely many points, and similarly for y . If the external edges are identified, then γ meets the internal edges of x and y , and the external edges of x and y , at the same points. If the internal and external edges are swapped, as is done by taking yx , we will still be able to define a new curve γ' which goes through the same edges, since some internal edge will still be connected along γ' to the same external edge as it was connected to by γ .

This means that interchanging x and y does not change the number of closed curves of the diagram, and so it does not change the trace. It remains to show that the trace is nondegenerate when A is not a root of unity.

To see this, suppose that for some $x \neq 0$, we have $\text{tr}(xy) = 0$ for all $y \in TL_n$. \square

5. Prove that the signature of a linking matrix of a framed link is not changed by K2 moves.

Proof. Suppose that we are doing a K2 move by blowing up the i th component around the j th component of a link. This affects the linking matrix by adding the j th column and row to the i th column and row, respectively.¹ Let S_{pq} be the matrix so that $s_{pq} = 1$ when $(p, q) = (i, j)$ or $i = j$ and $s_{pq} = 0$ otherwise. We note that S_{pq}^* is similar but with $s_{ji} = 1$ instead. Then if L is the linking matrix, LS_{ij} is the matrix L but with the j th row added to the i th row. Similarly, S_{ij}^*L is the same matrix with the j column added to the i th column. Together, this means that $S_{ij}^*LS_{ij}$ is the new linking matrix. Since S_{ij} is clearly nonsingular, by Sylvester's law of inertia, $S_{ij}^*LS_{ij}$ and L have the same signature. In other words, the K2 move preserves signature. \square

¹From Dr Tubbenhauer's notes <https://www.dtubbenhauer.com/slides/geotop2022/20-linking-matrix.pdf>

6. Suppose that D is the 3 crossing diagram of the trefoil and let M be the manifold defined by this surgery diagram with coefficient 1. Calculate $\mathcal{I}_A(M)$ with $A = e^{\pi i/10}$.

Proof. We calculate this as $\mathcal{I}_A(M) = \langle \mu\omega \rangle_{3_1} \langle \mu\omega \rangle_U^\sigma \mu$. The trefoil has framing ± 1 depending on chirality. Here, we take a right-handed trefoil with framing 1, so the linking matrix is the identity which has signature 1.

Since $A^{20} = 1$, by lemma 14.3 and linearity

$$\langle \mu\omega \rangle = \frac{-\mu \bar{G}}{2A^{-28}(A^2 - A^{-2})}$$

with $G = \sum_{n=1}^{20} A^{n^2}$. For $r = 5$, we also have that

$$\omega = \sum_{n=0}^{r-2} \Delta_n S_n(\alpha) = \Delta_0 + \Delta_1 \alpha + \Delta_2 (\alpha^2 - 1) + \Delta_3 (\alpha^3 - 2\alpha)$$

or rearranging terms:

$$\omega = \Delta_0 \alpha^0 + (\Delta_1 - 2\Delta_3) \alpha^1 + \Delta_2 \alpha^2 + \Delta_3 \alpha^3.$$

We then calculate $\langle \mu\omega \rangle_{3_1}$ linearly. First, $\langle \mu \Delta_0 \alpha^0 \rangle = 0$ as the empty diagram. Similarly, $\mu(\Delta_1 - 2\Delta_3) \langle \alpha \rangle = \mu(\Delta_1 - 2\Delta_3) \langle 3_1 \rangle$ the Kauffman bracket of 3_1 . This is known to be given by $\langle 3_1 \rangle = -A^5 - A^{-3} - A^{-7}$. \square

7. Show that

$$(R \otimes I)(I \otimes R)(R \otimes I) = (I \otimes R)(R \otimes I)(I \otimes R)$$

where

$$R = (I \otimes F_d) C_{X,d}^2 (I \otimes F_d^*).$$

Also, show that R is diagonal.

Proof. That R is diagonal is immediate - since I and F_d are diagonal, so is their tensor product. Also that must be shown is that $F_d X_d$ is diagonal. But X_d is circulant by construction, and so the discrete fourier transform F_d automatically diagonalizes it. This means that $(I \otimes F_d) C_{X,d}$ is also diagonal because is it block diagonal with nonzero entries consisting only of diagonal matrices, and so R will be as well. \square