

Braids and the Jones polynomial

Thesis presentation

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Outline

Braids

- Geometric definition

- Generators and relations

- Algebraic definition

Closure

- Closure of a braid

- Equivalence of closures of braids

Section 1

Outline

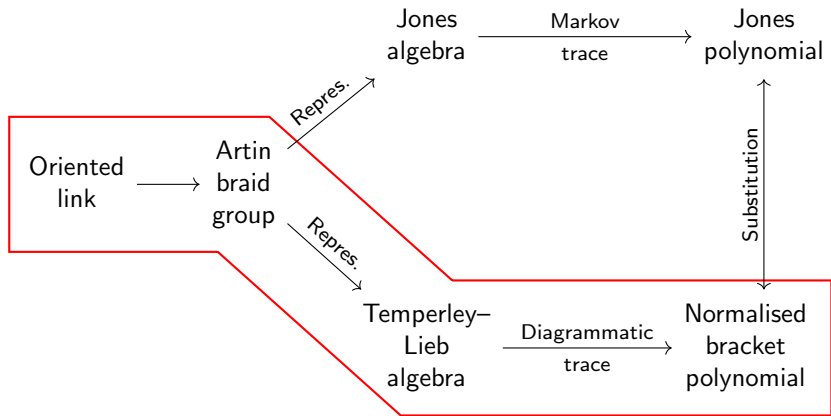


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Section 2

Braids

Subsection 1

Geometric definition

Three dimensional representation

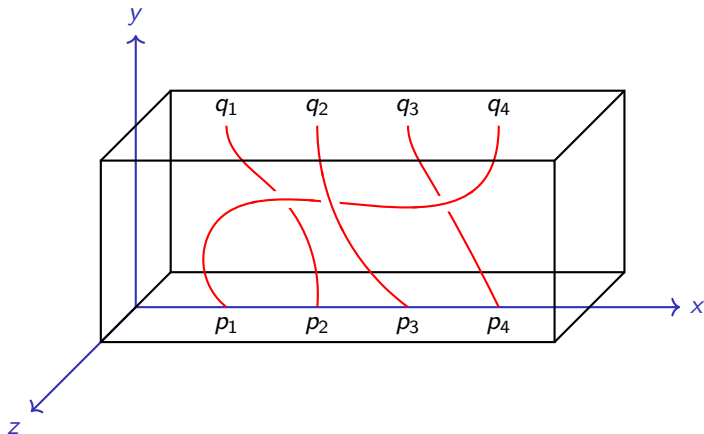


Figure: Three dimensional geometric representation of a braid

Two dimensional representation

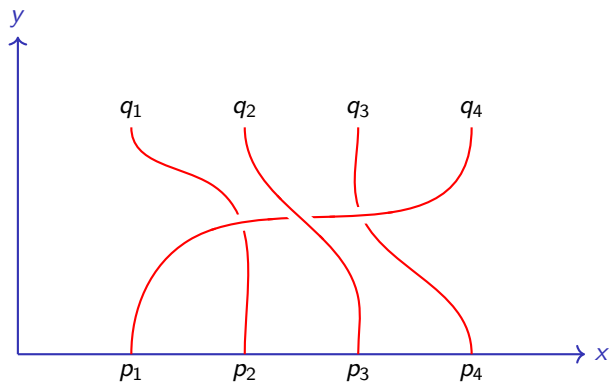


Figure: A projection of the braid

Multiplication of braids

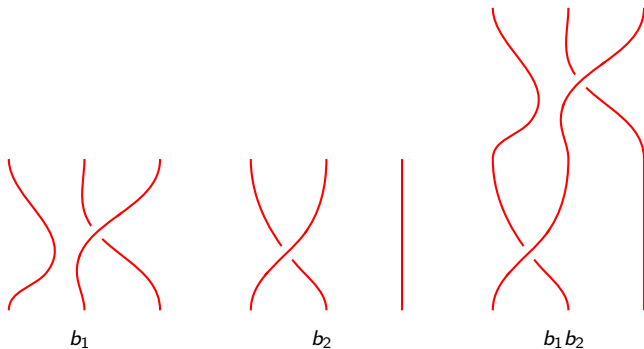


Figure: Multiplication of two braids

The identity braid \mathbb{I}_n

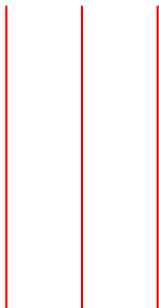


Figure: The identity \mathbb{I}_3

Inverse of braids

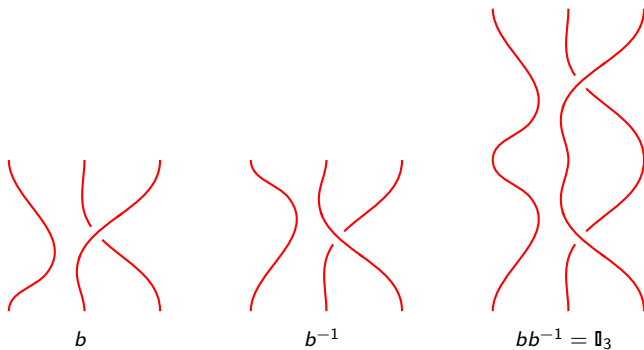


Figure: Inverse of a braid

Thus, braids form a group, known as the Artin braid group B_n .

Subsection 2

Generators and relations

Generators of the braid group

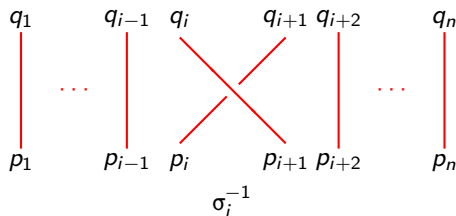
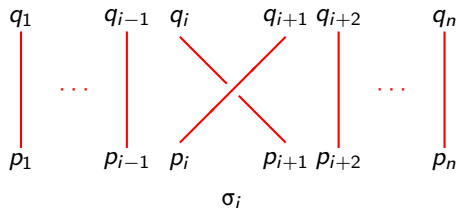


Figure: Generators σ_i and σ_i^{-1}

Type II move: $\sigma_i \sigma_i^{-1} = \mathbb{I}_n$

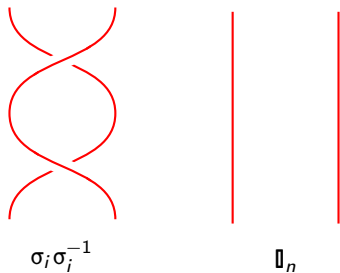


Figure: A type II move illustrating $\sigma_i \sigma_i^{-1} = \mathbb{I}_n$

Type III move: $\sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i = \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1}$

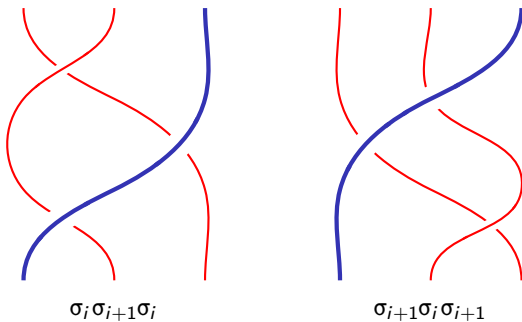


Figure: A type III move illustrating $\sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i = \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1}$

Sliding of crossings: $\sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i$

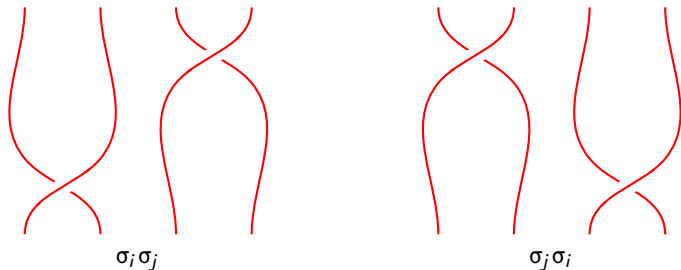


Figure: Sliding of crossings illustrating $\sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i$

Subsection 3

Algebraic definition

Presentation of the braid group

The Artin braid group B_n admits the following presentation on the generators σ_i , for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$.

$$B_n = \left\langle \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{n-1} \left| \begin{array}{ll} \sigma_i \sigma_i^{-1} &= \mathbb{I}_n \\ \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i &= \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \quad \text{if } i+1 \leq n-1 \\ \sigma_i \sigma_j &= \sigma_j \sigma_i \quad \text{if } |i-j| \geq 2 \end{array} \right. \right\rangle$$

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Section 3

Closure

Subsection 1

Closure of a braid

Closure of a braid \bar{b}

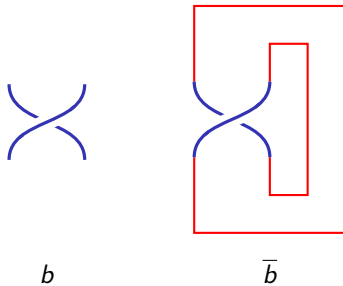


Figure: Closure of a braid

Braids and links

Every closure of a braid is a link.

Theorem (Alexander)

Every link is ambient isotopic to a closure of a braid.

Subsection 2

Equivalence of closures of braids

Conjugation

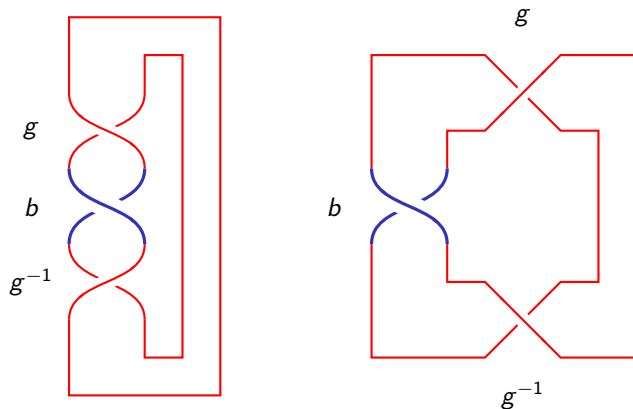


Figure: Conjugation process illustrating the link equivalence of $\overline{gbg^{-1}}$ and \overline{b} (part 1)

Conjugation

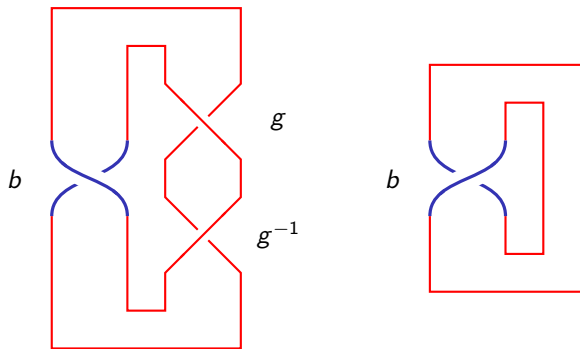


Figure: Conjugation process illustrating the link equivalence of $\overline{gbg^{-1}}$ and \overline{b} (part 2)

Markov move

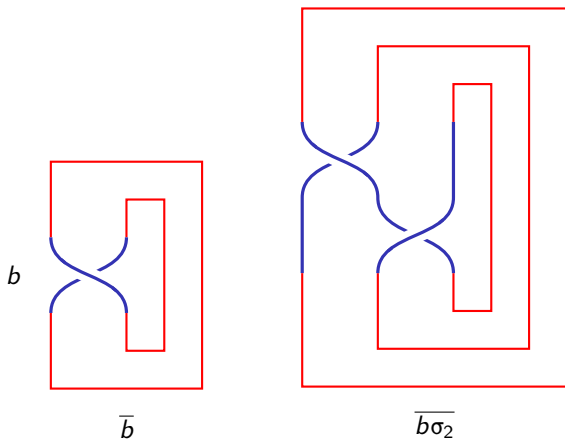


Figure: Markov move with $b = \sigma_1^{-1}$.