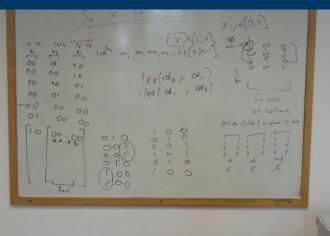
Enumeration of (unique reduced alternating) knot diagrams

Ciaran McCreesh, Alice Miller, Patrick Prosser, **Craig Reilly**, James Trimble





What is a knot?

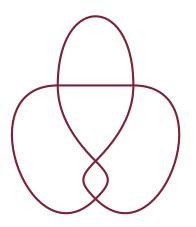
■ A *knot* is an embedding of the circle in \mathbb{R}^3 .

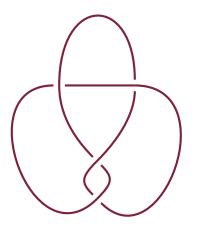
What is a knot?

- A *knot* is an embedding of the circle in \mathbb{R}^3 .
- An intuitive way to think about this is to consider a knot as a knotted piece of string with the ends glued together.

- A function $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ where f(x, y, z) = f(x, y), is called a *projection map*, and the image of a knot K under f is called the *projection* of K.
- Such a projection is often refered to as the *shadow* of K.

• Information regarding the orientation of arcs at crossings is given by leaving gaps in a knot's shadow..





Representations of knots

- Knot diagrams are really just 4-valent planar graphs.
 - The vertices in the graph correspond to the crossings in the knot diagram.
 - The arcs between vertices correspond to arcs between crossings in the knot diagram.
 - The arcs are decorated with their orientation at their source and target crossings.
- Other data structures familiar to computer scientists can be used, linked lists of crossings were popular in the 1950's.

Representations of knots

- The representations used by topologists are typically also used for representing knots in a computer.
- Examples are Dowker-Thistlethwait codes (DT codes), Gauss codes, braid representatives, Conway notation, and many more.

- The strategy for representing a given knot (with n crossings) by a Gauss code is as follows.
 - **1** Label the crossings with the numbers 1 to *n*.
 - Pick a point on the knot.
 - 3 Pick a direction and walk around the knot, writing out a list of the numbers you come to (with a negative sign indicating that a crossing was visited on an under strand). Stop when each number appears twice once with each sign.



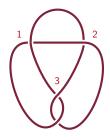
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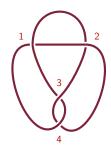
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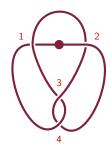
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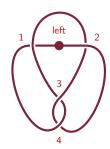
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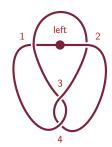
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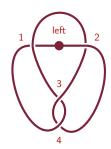


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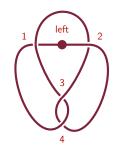
-1

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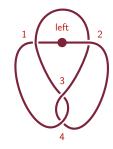
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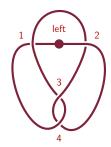
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