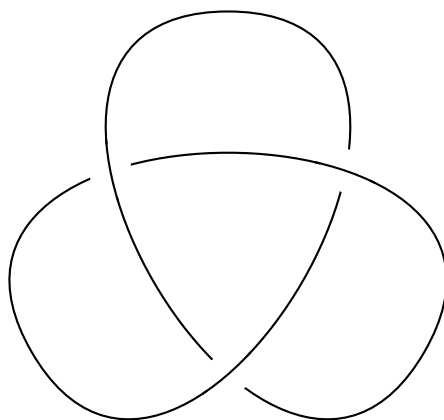


# A voyage into the algebras

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What does it mean to color a knot?

What do we need?

- $R$  - commutative ring with identity
- $D$  - diagram of knot  $K$  with  $s$  segments and  $x$  crossings
- $\phi : M^3 \rightarrow M$  - function that dictates the rules of our coloring (and induces two operators  $M^2 \rightarrow M^2$ )

In order for trivial coloring to work,  $\phi(m, m, m) = 0$  for all  $m \in M$ . This means that if we take  $\phi(u, v, w) = au + bv + cw$  then  $(a+b+c) \in \text{Ann}(M)$ .

In the most general case,  $R = \mathbb{Z}[s, t, t^{-1}]/\{s(s+t-1)\}$  and  $\phi(u, v, w) = su + tv - w$ .

Given those we can define  $f : M^s \rightarrow M^x$ , which assigns values from  $M$  to segments of  $D$  according to the rules set by  $\phi$ .

This yields an exact sequence

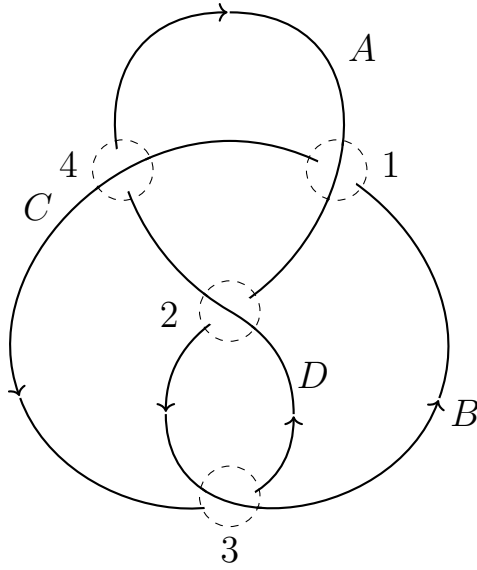
$$0 \longrightarrow \ker f \hookrightarrow M^s \xrightarrow{f} M^x \twoheadrightarrow \text{coker } f \longrightarrow 0$$

We know that  $\ker f$  always contains colorings - especially the trivial one. We expect  $\text{coker } f$  to contain some information about non-trivial colorings admissible.

## 1.2 Smith's normal form

Function  $f$  can be expressed as a  $s \times x$  matrix with elements from  $M$  - we can make it into "diagonal form" where non-zero elements lower are divisible by elements at the top. This gives us information about  $\ker f$  and  $\text{coker } f$ .

**Example 1.1.** Take  $K = 4_1$  and  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ , which takes  $t = 1$  and  $s = 2$ . At the beginning,  $M = \mathbb{Z}$ .



$$f = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

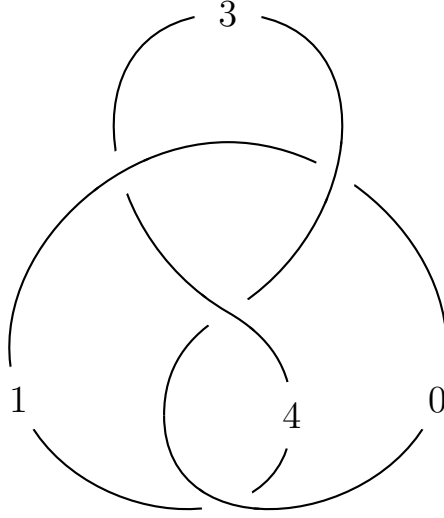
in normal form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now we know that  $\ker f = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\operatorname{coker} f = \mathbb{Z}_5 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus there is only a trivial coloring over  $\mathbb{Z}$  but if we change  $\mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_5$  we get

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and now  $\ker f' = \mathbb{Z}_5 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_5$  and  $\operatorname{coker} f' = \mathbb{Z}_5 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_5$ . Thus there is a coloring using elements of  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ , for example:



*In a more general case, we would orient the diagram and use  $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}] = \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$  as the ring:*

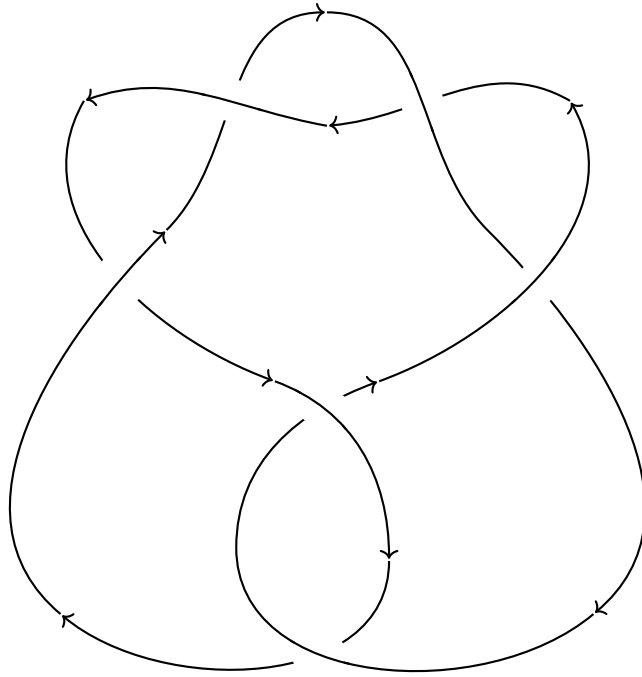
$$f = \begin{pmatrix} 1-t & t & -1 & 0 \\ t^{-1} & -1 & 0 & 1-t^{-1} \\ 0 & 1-t^{-1} & t^{-1} & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1-t & t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t^2 - 3t + 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

*and the Alexander polynomial of  $4_1$  is equal to  $t - 3 + t^{-1}$ , which is the same up to multiplication by a unit to the last term of the Smith's normal form.*

### 1.3 Misc

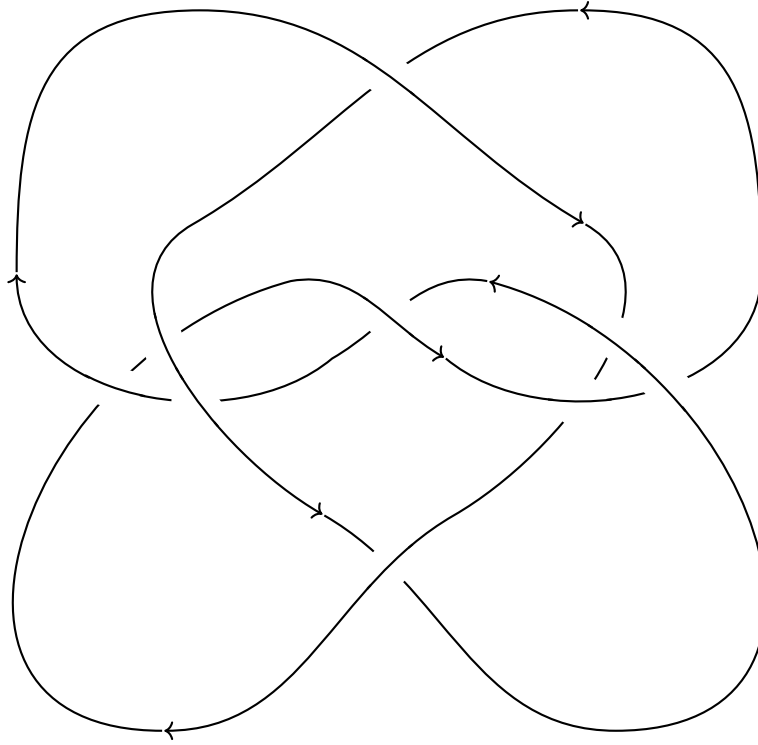
$$K = 6_1$$



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$$f = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2t^{-2} + 5t^{-1} - 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$K = 9_{46}$



$$f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & t^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & t & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & t & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & t & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2t - t^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & t^{-2} - 2t^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## References