

All the shapes of spaces: a census of small 3-manifolds *

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Abstract

In this work we present a complete (no misses, no duplicates) catalogue for closed, connected, orientable and prime 3-manifolds induced by plane graphs with a bipartition of its edge set (blinks) up to 9 edges. Blinks form a universal encoding for such manifolds. We hope that this census becomes as useful for the study of concrete examples of 3-manifolds as the tables of knots are in the study of knots and links.

1 Introduction

After presenting some instances of closed 3-manifolds, P. Alexandroff says in the English translation (1961) of his joint work with D. Hilbert [1], first published (1932) in German, [2]: *“These few examples will suffice. Let it be remarked here that, at present, in contrast with the two-dimensional case, the problem of enumerating the topological types of manifolds of three and more dimensions is in an apparently hopeless state. We are not only far removed from the solution, but even from the first step toward a solution, a plausible conjecture”*.

John Hempel in his book (1976) *3-Manifolds* [7] writes at the opening of Section 15, entitled Open Problems: *“The ultimate goal of the theory would be in providing solutions to: The homeomorphism problem: provide an effective procedure for determining whether two given 3-manifolds are homeomorphic, together with The classification problem: effectively generate a list containing exactly one 3-manifold from each homeomorphism class.”*

It is amazing how much the picture has changed in the 80 years since Alexandroff’s-Hilbert book. The progress was due to the deep advances in the 1950’s and 1960’s, starting with the proof that 3-manifolds are triangulable by Moise (1952), [20]. Next the presentation of them by framed links by Lickorish (1962) [12]. Following that Kirby presented its calculus for framed links (1978)[10]. starting in the early 1980’s W. Thurston’s breakthroughs, developing his conceptual theory on hyperbolic manifolds and of the geometrization conjecture. In the final 1980’s early 1990’s Witten [25] broke the psychological barrier that there were no good invariants for 3-manifolds. Following that a number of eastern European mathematicians like N. Reshetikhin, V. Turaev and O. Viro, [23, 21] using quantum groups were able to put in mathematical solid ground Witten’s findings. One of us, S. Lins, was a witness of the excitement these developments caused. L. H. Kauffman and W. B. R. Lickorish discovered the relationship of the Temperley-Lieb algebra with the new invariants, [13]. Starting with a sabbatical leave in to Chicago in 1990, S. Lins produced the joint monography with Kauffman [9], where blinks are first defined and extensive WRT-invariant computations were obtained from the theory developed from scratch, independently and simpler than that of quantum groups. In the early 2000’s, G. Perelman revolutionized the field proving Poincaré’s Conjecture and Thurston’s Geometrization Conjecture. More recently in the 2010’s, I. Agol is leading the field in this era post-Perelman. Of course, this is only a diagonal list of researchers. Many more have contributed and some

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are extremely active in this era pos-Perelman, [5]. Currently there is a great amount of important research issues going on and these are exciting times for 3-manifold theory. See the recent essay of E. Klarreich in the Simons Foundation, [11].

2 Closed orientable 3-manifolds are subtle class of plane graphs

Unexplored simplicity. This was the reason for birth of this work many years ago. A *blink* is a finite plane graph (that is already given embedded in the plane) together with an arbitrary bipartition of its edges into black and gray. Any closed, oriented 3-manifold is induced by some blink.

Even though this object is around since 1994 when it was introduced in the joint research monography of L. Kauffman and S. Lins, [9], the fact that they encode oriented closed 3-manifolds remains basically unknown. This is about to change because as a consequence of a recent result of B. Martelli, [19] each such a 3-manifold becomes a subtle equivalence class of blinks, [16].

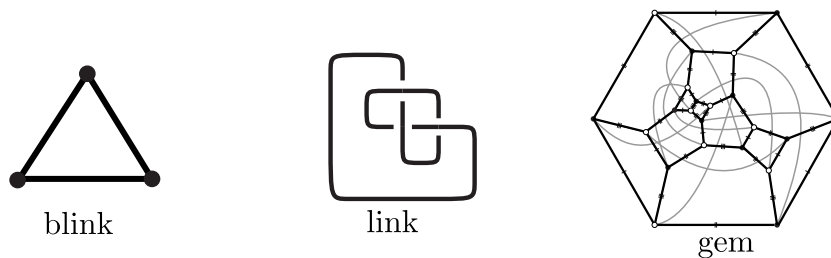


Figure 1: The minimum blink, minimum link and minimum gem inducing the binary tetrahedral space

Blinks are in 1-1 correspondence with blackboard framed links which in turn encodes every closed oriented 3-manifold. If we consider these three encodings of the same 3-manifold given in Fig. 1, the blink is the one that has the smallest “perceptual complexity”, see Fig. 1. Also, blinks are very easy to generate recursively. They have a rich simplifying theory which permits the generation of 3-manifold catalogues. Yet, their isomorphism problem is computationally simple. Being blinks so good, why do we need gems? The answer is that to prove that blinks induce the same 3-manifold (when they do) remains very difficult. It is straightforward to obtain a canonical gem from a blink, [9, 14]. Proving that two gems induce the same 3-manifold (when they do) is much easier because of the rich simplification theory of them (based on at least 4 intertwined planarities) leading to the attractors of 3-manifolds, [15]. Blinks are very good at proving that two manifolds are distinct, because from them we can extract the WRT-invariants, which are very strong invariants, yet not a complete one. These invariants do not have a direct computation from triangulations, including gems. Thus, gems and blinks collaborate in a symbiotic dance to decide (at a computational level) whether two 3-manifolds are or are not homeomorphic. And many types of census become available!

We present here our modest contribution to the topic. It is placed in the confluency of two deep passions of the authors: the study of closed orientable 3-manifolds and the study of plane graphs. Here, we mean to provide a strategy for a segmented answer of Hempel’s questions. The closed oriented 3-manifolds are partitioned by the number of edges in a minimum encoding of them by a blink.

Any plane drawing whatsoever of a graph with an arbitrary bipartition of its edge set, that is, a blink, corresponds to a unique closed oriented 3-manifold via the associated blackboard framed links. An important aspect about blinks is that each one possesses an easily obtainable *canonical form* inducing the same 3-manifold: it is named the *representative of the blink* and is obtained by lexicography from a small number of conventions, fixed in advance. This is explained, with a great amount of details, in L. Lins’ thesis, [14].

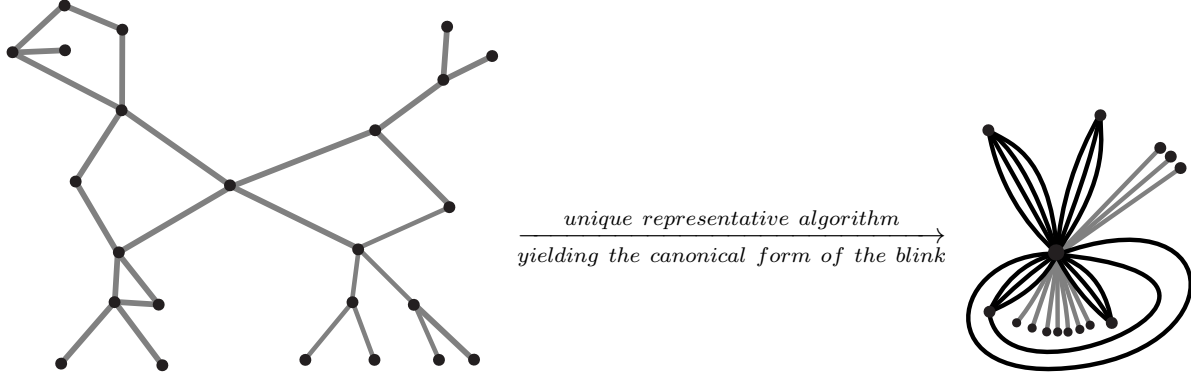


Figure 2: Blink representative algorithm: doglike blink with 27 edges and its representative with 25 edges.

Lexicography is used to define a representative unique plane graph (a canonical form) for each closed oriented 3-manifold. We explicitly solve the segmented problem up to 9 edges, see Theorem 3.1. This work provides an efficient algorithm to make available the canonical form of any closed orientable 3-manifold induced by plane graphs at the current level of the catalogue (currently 9 edges) and, theoretically, this could be extended 10, 11, \dots , n , for arbitrarily large n . Our theory gives a road to effectively name each 3-manifold classified by some set of invariants INV . We have a universal set of object, the blinks up to n edges, which can be partitioned by these invariants. The INV -classes are then tried to be broken into homeomorphisms classes. New invariants are then discovered and added to INV making them homeomorphisms classes of n -small manifolds. The difficult cases are going to appear naturally and they lead to enhancement of the theory. It is not at all impossible that this process stops and we get INV so that the INV -classes be proved to be homeomorphisms classes for all n . The point we want to make is that good examples (hard to find, here exemplified by the $HG12QI$ classes 9_{126} and 9_{199}) are important in obtaining progress in a general theory. A classifying INV for the 9-small 3-manifolds is $INV = \{ \text{homology}, WRT_{12}, \text{length of smallest geodesic} \}$.

3 A complete duplicate free census of 9-small 3-manifolds

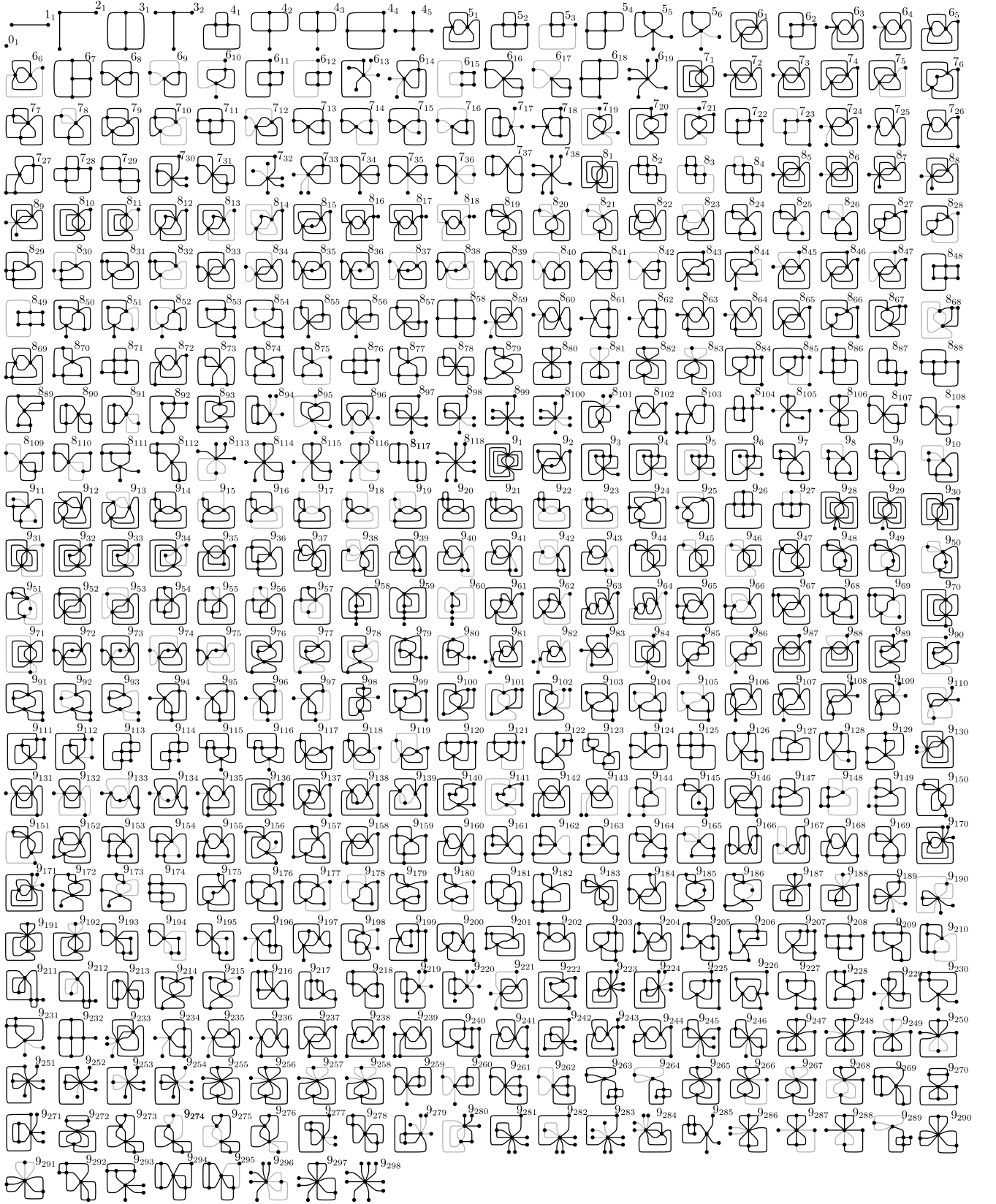
In references [9], [14] and [15] we have defined and show how a *blink*, that is, a plane graph with an arbitrary bipartition of its edges (here presented as colors black and gray) induces a well defined closed oriented 3-manifold. Moreover each such a manifold is induced by a blink (in fact, by infinite blinks). An n -small is a closed, orientable, and prime 3-manifold is a manifold induced by a blink with at most n edges. Relative to [14] the blinks of next theorem have receive two additions, the representative blinks $U[1563]$ and $U[2165]$. Also the previous $HG12QI$ -class 6_5 became the homomorphism class 0_1 corresponding to $S^2 \times S^1$. We have decreased by 1 the numbering of the $HG12QI$ -classes $6_6, 6_7, \dots, 6_{20}$ become the homeomorphisms classes $6_5, 6_7, \dots, 6_{19}$. This is because the $HG12QI$ -classes 9_{126} and 9_{199} of [14] split into two topological classes. An objective of the present work is to prove that the splittings indeed take place.

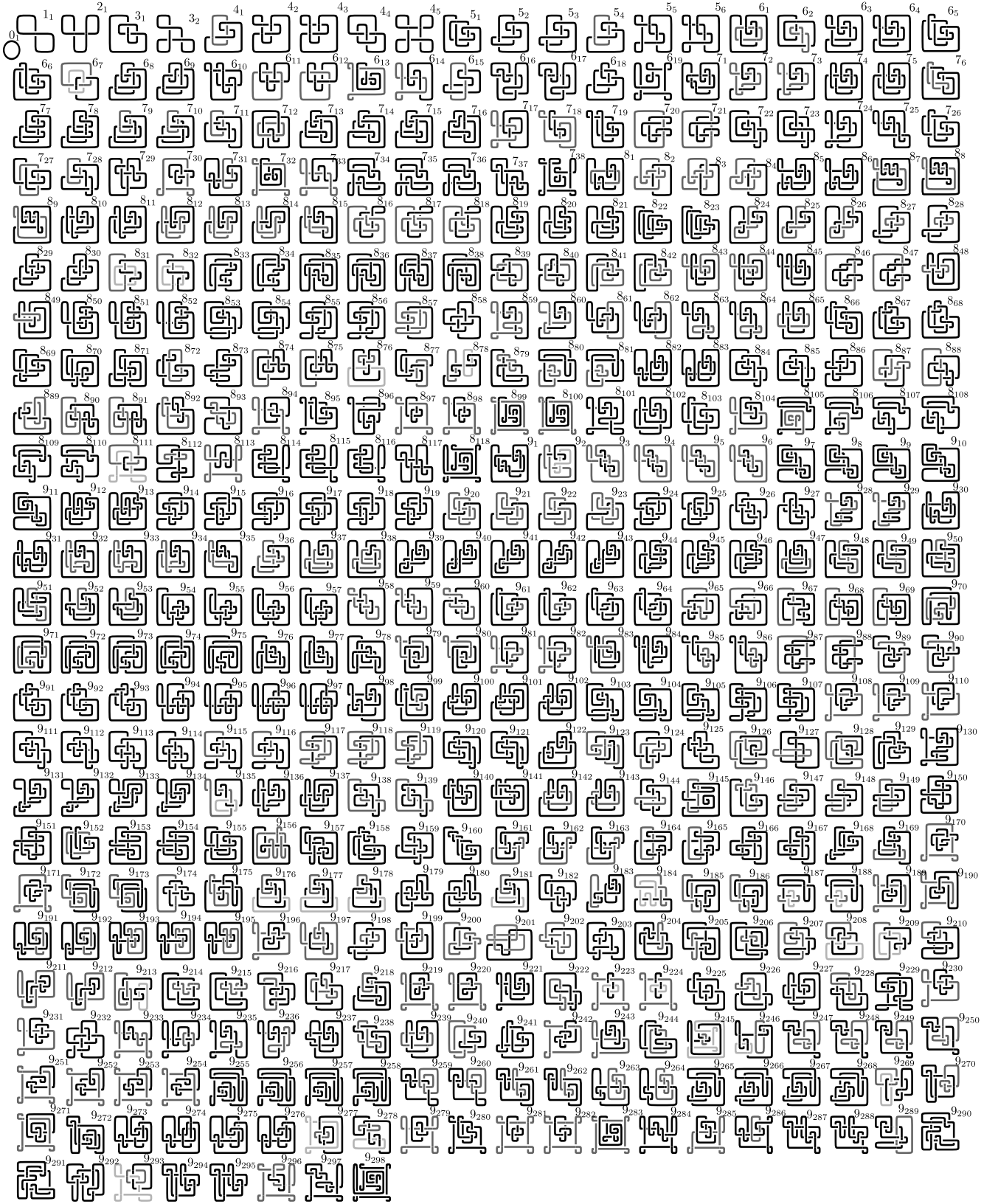
We observe that the blinks are enlarged in the appendix, showing them together with the corresponding blackboard framed links. The notation n_i attached to each blink below, is the name of its homeomorphism class, not merely its $HG12QI$ -class, as in [14].

This paper concludes the proof of the following theorem:

(3.1) Theorem (The first 489 closed orientable 3-manifolds). *Let M^3 be a closed, oriented and prime 3-manifold induced by a blink with at most 9 edges. Then M^3 is homeomorphic to exactly one of the 3-manifolds induced by the 489 blinks below. Moreover all of these are pairwise non-homeomorphic.*

(However being redundant, we also present the corresponding census for the blackboard framed links. These census are enlarged in the Appendix)





Proof. The bulk of the proof follows from L. Lins' thesis under the supervision of S. Lins, [14]. In this work a theory of filtered blink generation is obtained by pure combinatorics, lexicography and

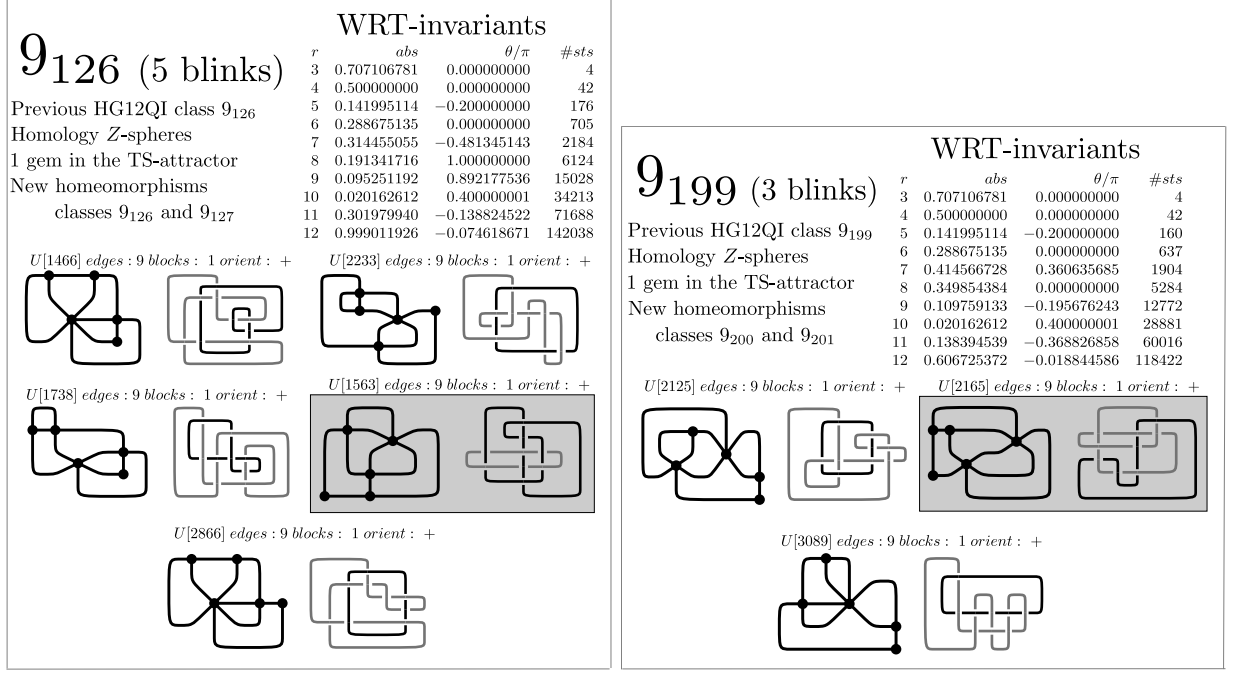


Figure 3: The two doubts left in L. Lins's thesis are solved. In both cases the manifolds induced by the shaded blink-link pairs are proved very recently to be non-homeomorphic to the other in the same class, by geometric means. All the other pairs are proved to be homeomorphic by BLINK which keeps each such homeomorphism as a coded sequence which is stored in a data basis, and, in principle reproducible at will. This shows that BLINK finds all available homeomorphic pairs and, in conjunction with the length of the smallest geodesic, provides the topological classification of the 9-small 3-manifolds. More details in Section 4.

topological filtering of duplicates. This resulted in a set U of 3437 blinks. This universal set of 9-small 3-manifold is partitioned by homology and WRT_{12} into 487 classes, named $HG12QI$ -classes. This is achieved by explicitly obtaining homeomorphisms between any two blinks in the same $HG12QI$ -class. Here is the explanation of how each such homeomorphism can be coded into a sequence that is frozen in a data basis forever, and reproduced at will. What remained to be done was to decide the status of the two $HG12QI$ -classes 9₁₂₆ and 9₁₉₉ depicted in Fig. 3. After 7 years we posted these doubts as a Challenge in the arXiv, [18]. As a result, we got a prompt solution for the two doubts: the 3-manifolds are non-homeomorphic. Among other people, M. Culler, N. Dunfield and C. Hodgson sent distinct proofs of this fact. \square

4 How the exhaustive catalogue was obtained

4.1 Gems

For completeness we briefly recall the basic definitions of gem theory, leading to its definition, [15]. A 4-graph G is a finite bipartite 4-regular graph whose edges are partitioned into 4 colors, 0,1,2, and 3, so that at each vertex there is an edge of each color, a proper edge-coloration, [3]. For each $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, let E_i denote the set of i -colored edges of G . A $\{j, k\}$ -residue in a 4-graph G is a connected component of the subgraph induced by $E_j \cup E_k$. A 2-residue is a $\{j, k\}$ -residue, for some distinct colors j and k . A gem is a 4-graph G such that for each color i , $G \setminus E_i$ can be embedded in the plane such that the

boundary of each face is a 2-residue. From a gem there exists a straightforward algorithm to obtain a closed orientable 3-manifold, in two different, dual ways. Every such a manifold is obtainable in this way. An unnecessary big gem is obtained from a triangulation T for a manifold by taking the dual of the barycentric subdivision of T . Here the colors corresponds to the dimensions. Doing simplifications in the gem completely destroys this correspondence.

5 The resolution of the doubts left in L. Lins' thesis

The topological classification of the 9-small spaces was nearly completed in [14]. This work develops a theory for generating a distinguished set of blinks named U_n and indexed lexicographically, $U_n[i]$ is the i -th such blink. The relevance of U_n is that it misses no closed, orientable, prime and irreducible 3-manifold which is induced by a blink up to n edges.

The 3-manifolds of [14] are classified by homology and the quantum WRT_r -invariants $r = 3, \dots, u$, with 10 significant decimal digits forming $HGuQI$ -classes of blinks. Our algorithm for computing the WRT_r^u -invariants are based on the theory developed in [9]. After 6 years we have put our doubts as a Challenge to topologists and group algebraists, [18]. They were quickly solved by some researchers among others M. Culler, N. Dunfield and C. Hodgson, at least in two different ways. They proved that the two pairs of manifolds which were left unresolved by BLINK are indeed non-homeomorphic. All the other pairs in the $HG12QI$ -classes 9_{126} and 9_{199} have been checked to be homeomorphic, as BLINK proved 6 years ago. The new solutions were obtained using the software [4], which uses the kernel of [24]. They also use GAP ([6]) and Sage ([22]).

The first solution that we got, and that still blows our mind, was by Craig Hodgson using length spectra techniques, based in his joint paper with J. Weeks entitled *Symmetries, isometries and length spectra of closed hyperbolic three-manifolds* ([8]). By using SnapPy Craig showed that even though the quantum WRT -invariants as well as the volumes of the hyperbolic Z -homology spheres induced by the blinks $U[1466]$ and $U[1563]$ are the same, the *length of the smallest geodesics of them are distinct*. As for the other pair of blinks, $U[2125]$ and $U[2165]$, the same facts apply. Here is a summary of Craig's findings extracted from the SnapPy session that he kindly sent me. As Craig writes: *"The output of the length spectrum command shows the complex lengths of closed geodesics — the real part is the actual length and the imaginary part is the rotation angle as you go once around the geodesic."*

Class 9_{126} :

First geodesic of U[1466]: 1.0152103824828331+0.39992347315914334i.
First geodesic of U[1563]: 0.9359206605025168+2.333526236965665i.
Volume of both manifolds: 7.36429600733.

Class 9_{199} :

First geodesic of U[2125]: 0.8939075859248593+0.761197185679321i.
First geodesic of U[2165]: 0.7978548001747316+2.9487425029345973i.
Volume of both manifolds: 7.12868652133.

6 Conclusion

A closed orientable 3-manifold is denoted n -small if it is induced by surgery on a blackboard framed link with at most n crossings. We provide an instance of the general theory to produce a recursive indexation of n -small 3-manifolds up to homeomorphism. We solve this problem up to $n = 9$. Conceptually we could go on forever, finding in the way tougher and tougher examples to be distinguished

by yet to be found new invariants. The topological classification of the 9-small 3-manifolds involve three invariants:

$$INV = \{ \textit{homology}, \textit{WRT}_{12}, \textit{length of smallest geodesic} \}.$$

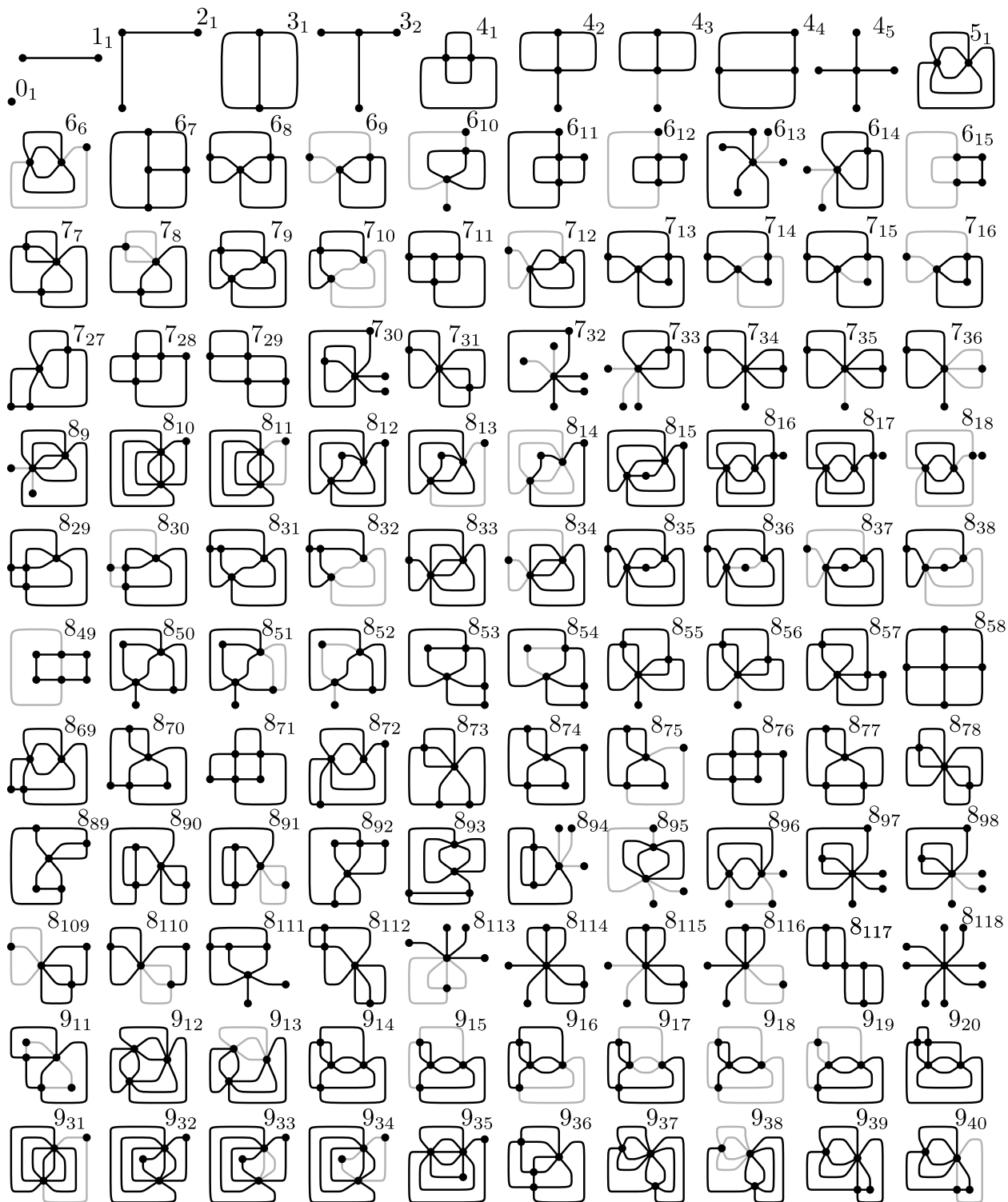
The classification was nearly complete in [14], except for two doubts. Recently, after we posted a challenge in the arXiv, [18] these doubts were solved by M. Culler, N. Dunfield and C. Hodgson using SnapPy [4]. This made us add

$$\textit{length of smallest geodesic}$$

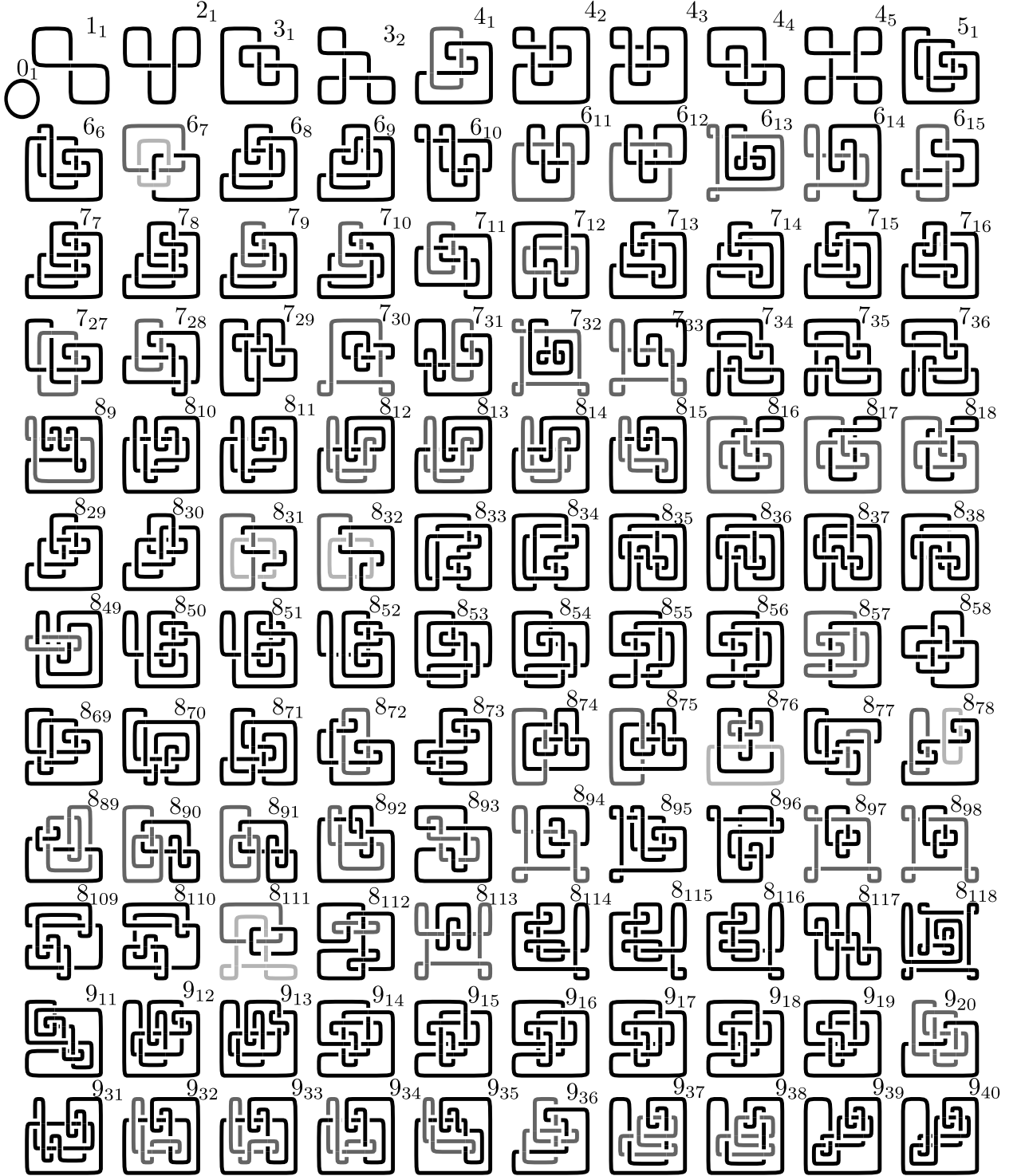
which we define as 0, if the manifold is not hyperbolic, to our list of invariants, The 9-small 3-manifold classification maintains live the two Conjectures of page 15 of [15]: the TS - and u^k -moves yield an efficient algorithm to classify n -small 3-manifolds by explicitly displaying homeomorphisms among them, whenever they exist. In the second of these conjectures $k = 1$. A recent finding by C. Hodgson concerning manifolds $T[71]$ and $T[79]$ forming the HG8QI-class 14_{24}^t , in the notation of page 239 of [14] shows that the 3 invariants are not enough to decide the pair. This pair is the first one of 11 pairs that we display as some tougher challenges to 3-manifold topologists, [17]. Craig's finding is that the volume as well as the lengths of the smallest geodesics fail to distinguish $T[71]$ and $T[79]$. He proves them to be non-homeomorphic by more sophisticated techniques, involving drilling along the smallest geodesics to get non-isometric manifolds with toroidal boundary. Using SnapPy, GAP and Sage, N. Dunfield shows that $T[71]$ and $T[79]$ are distinguished by its 5-covers.

7 Appendix: census (no misses, no duplicates) of 9-small 3-manifolds

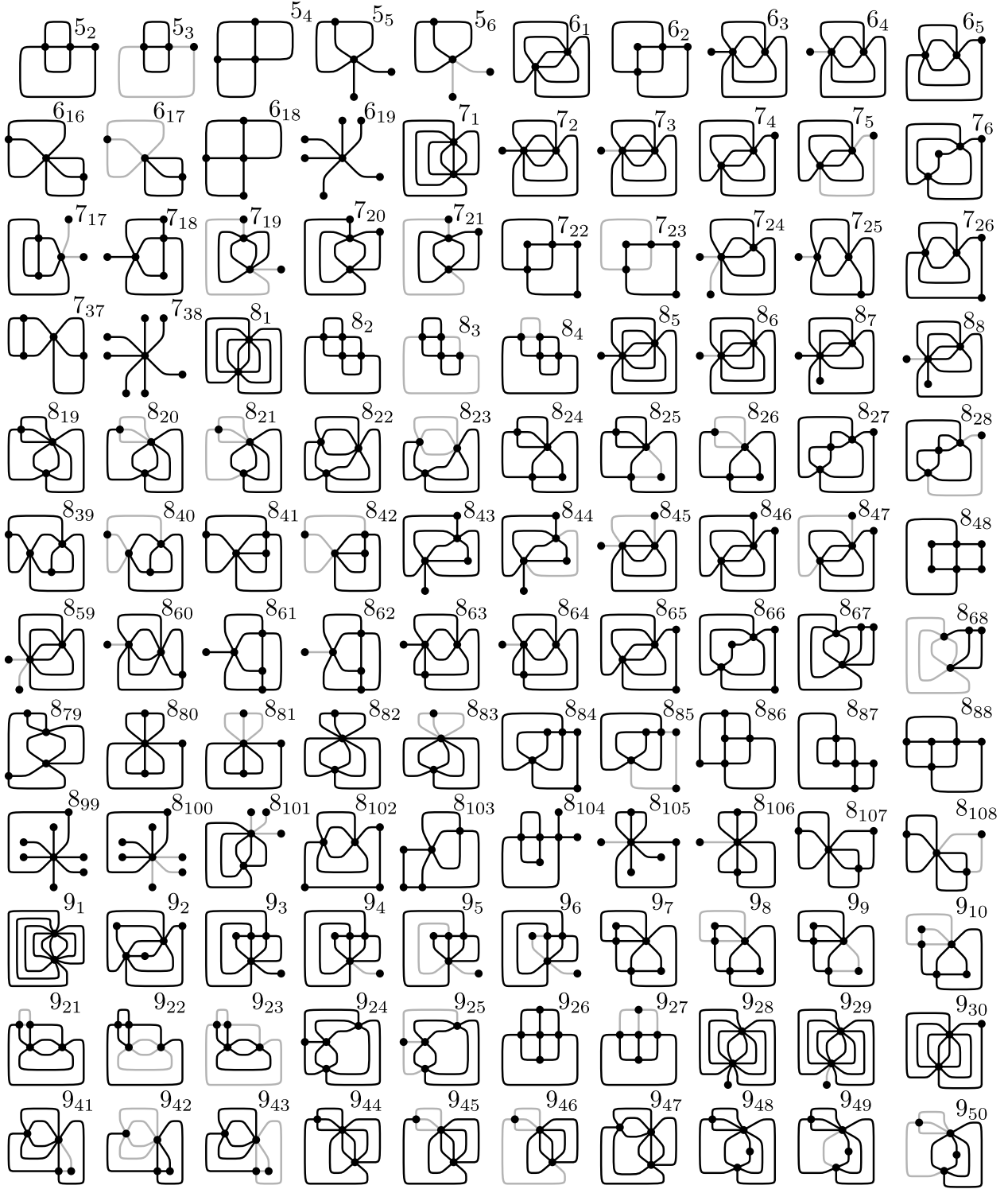
Part 1/4 in terms of blinks:



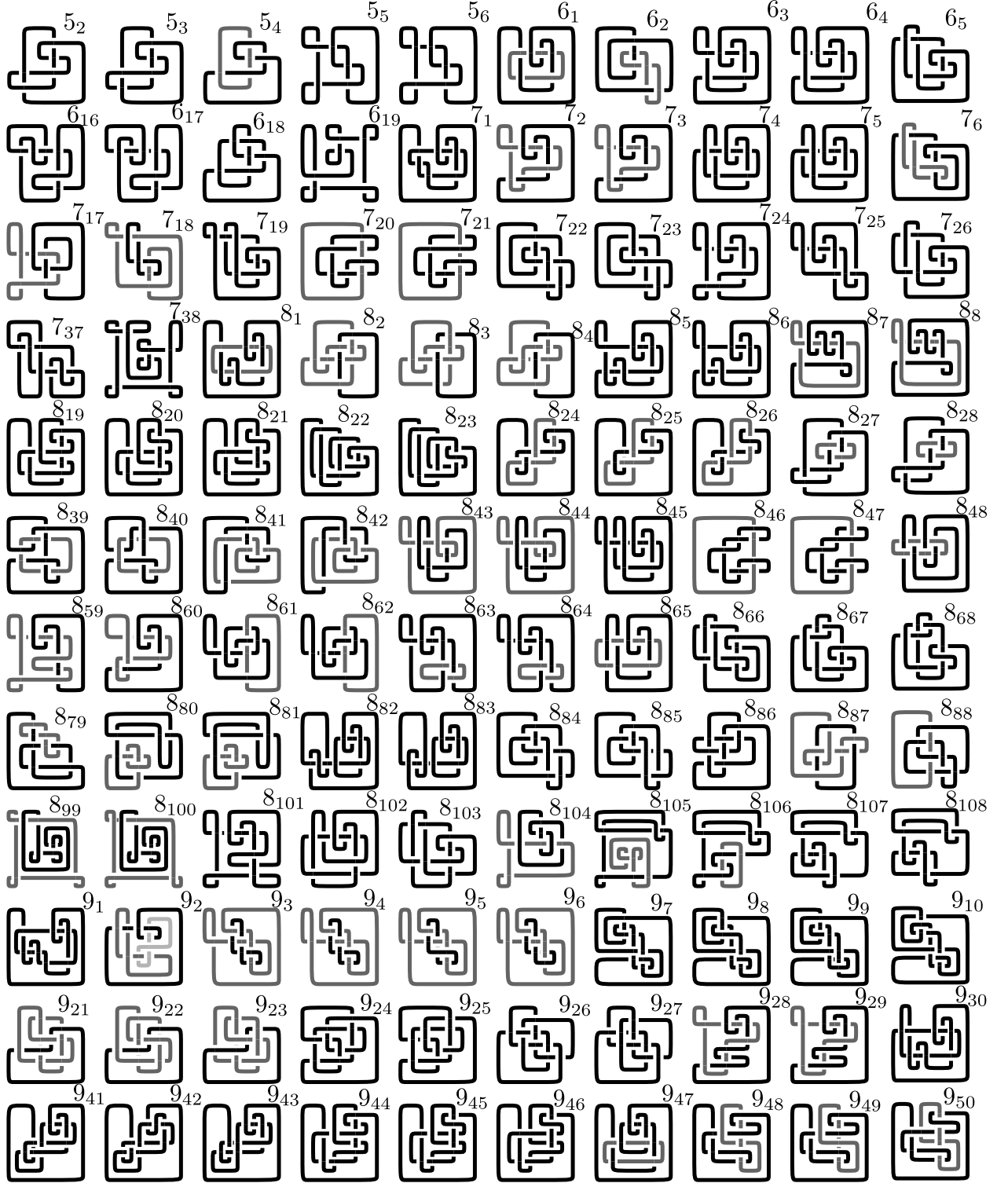
Part 1/4 in terms of blackboard framed links:



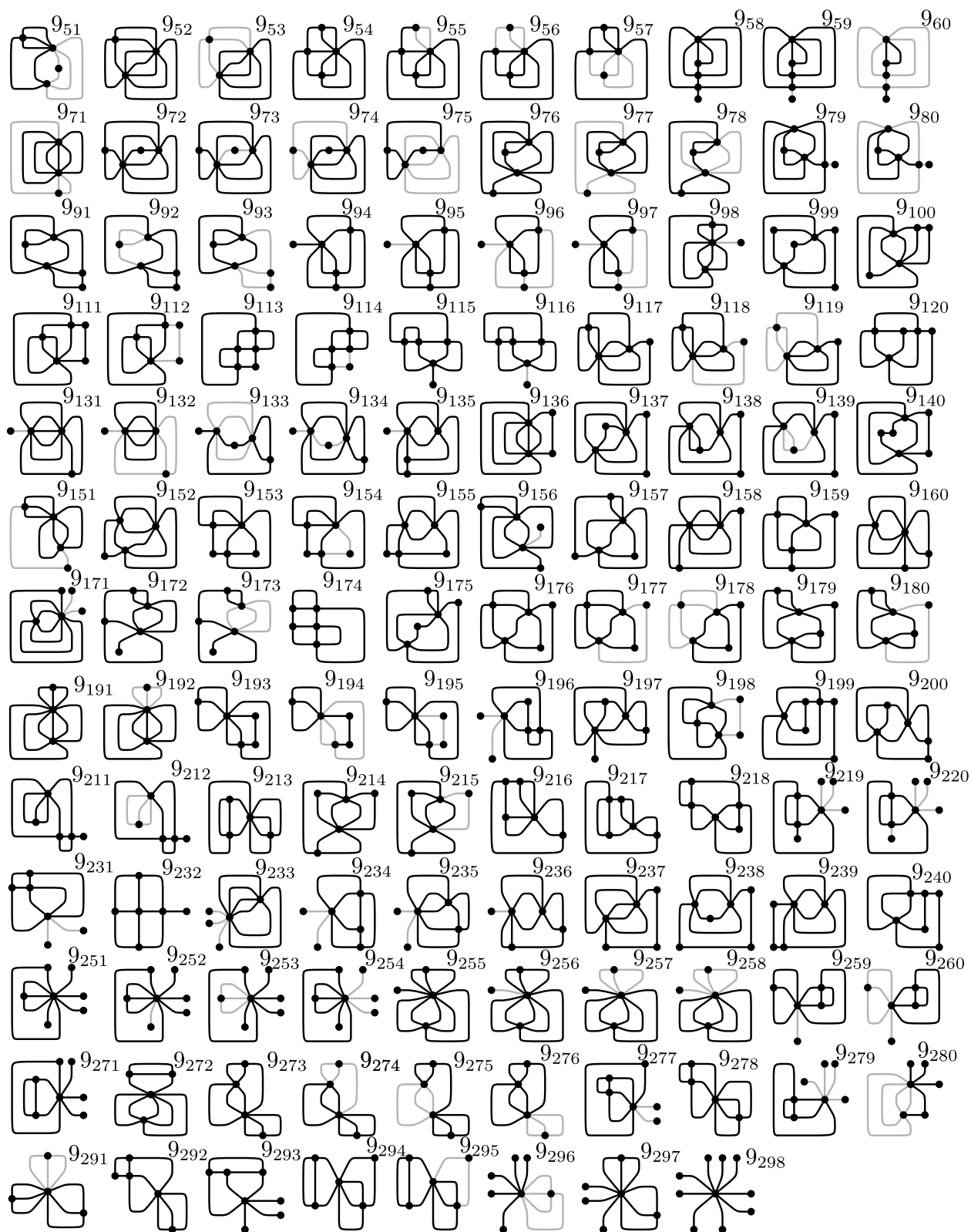
Part 2/4 in terms of blinks:



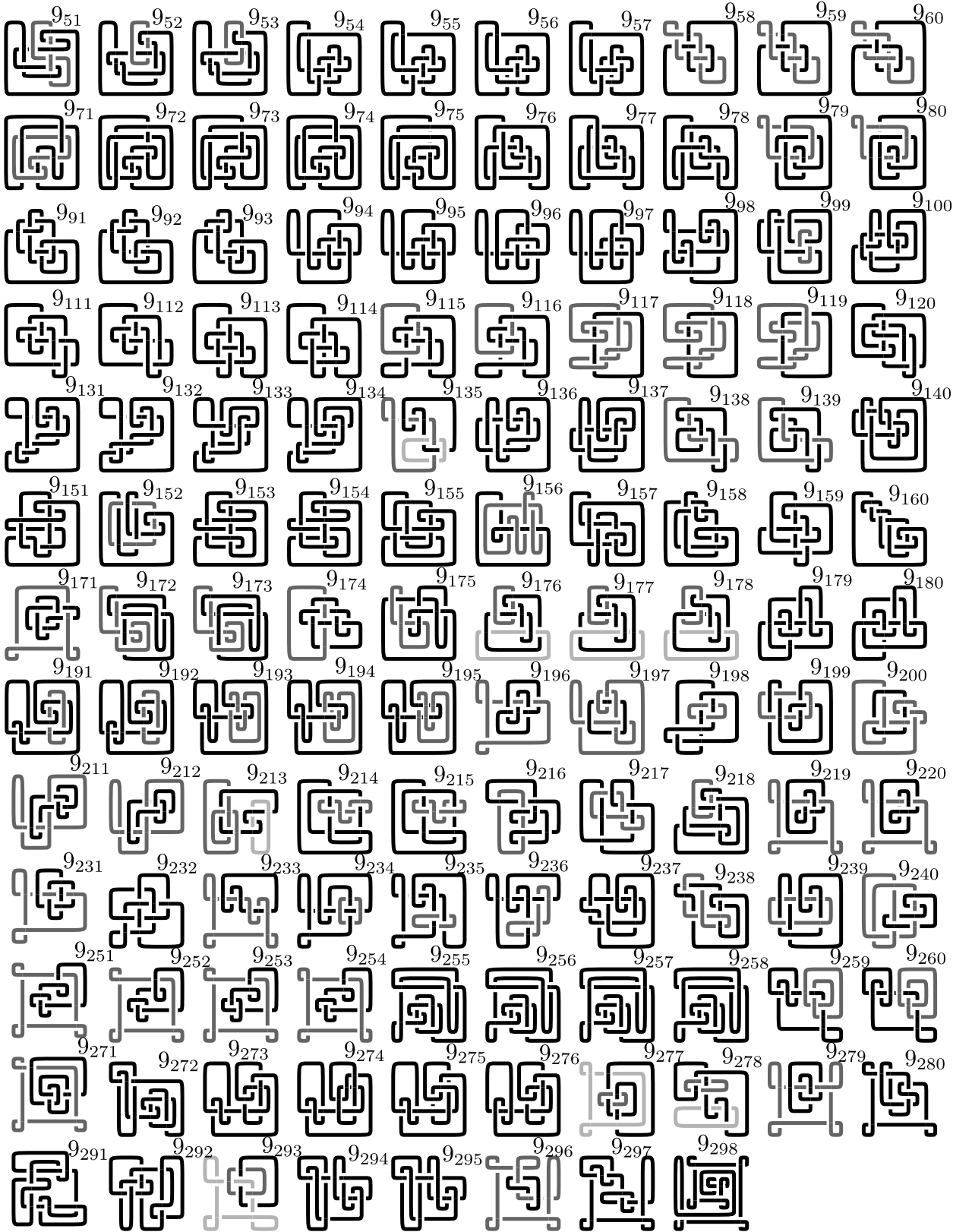
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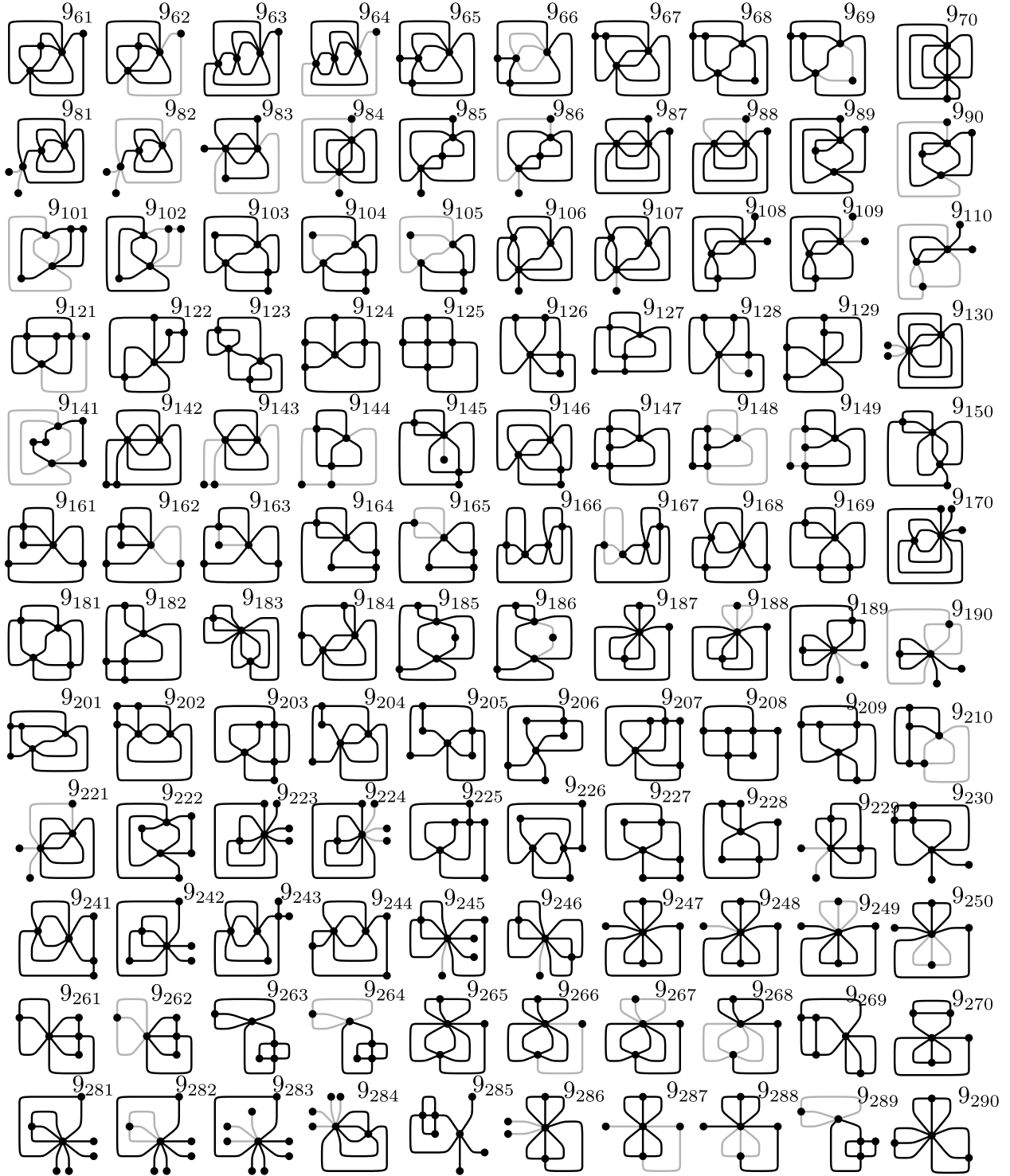
Part 3/4 in terms of blinks:



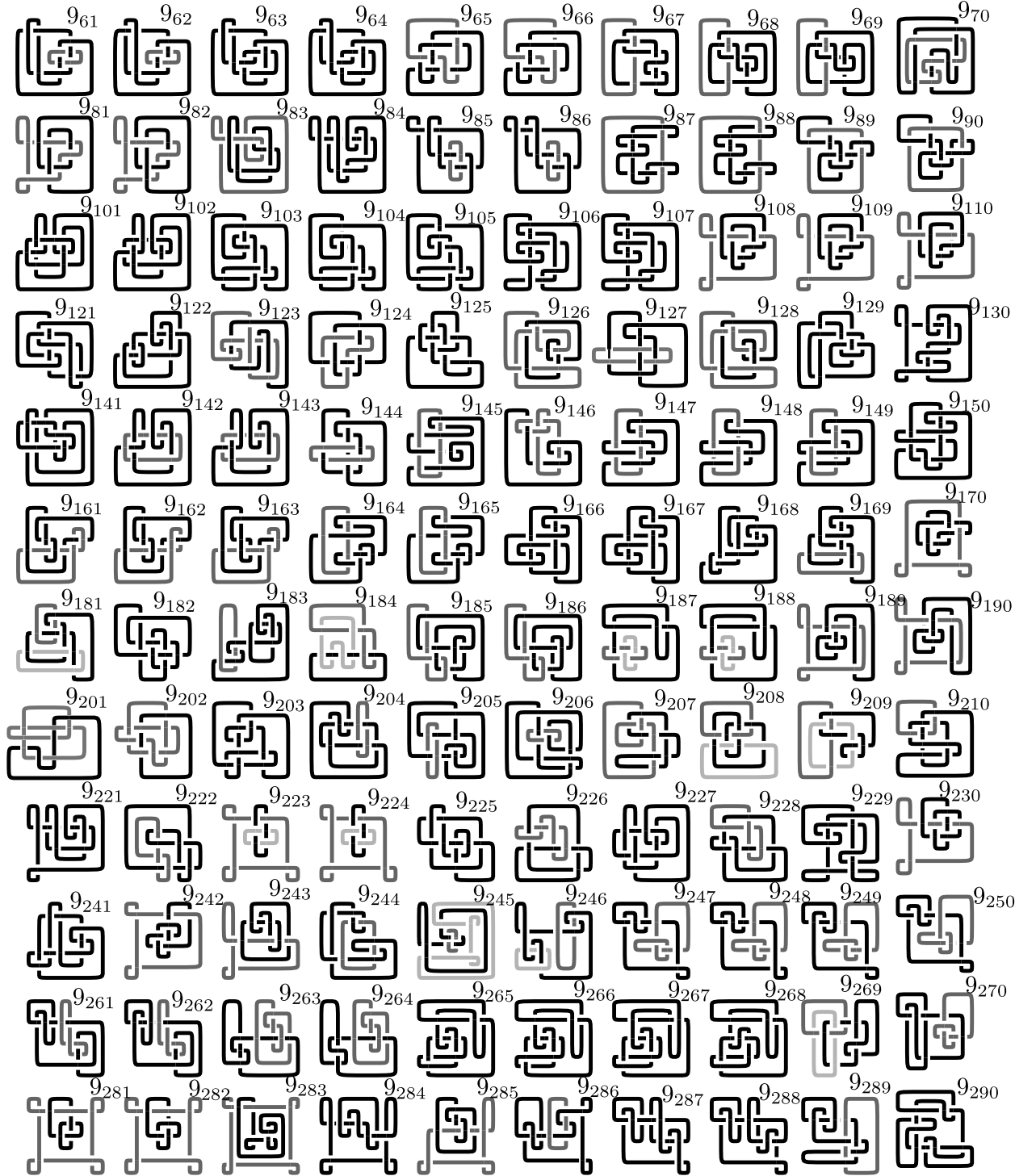
Part 3/4 in terms of blackboard framed links:



Part 4/4 in terms of blinks:



Part 4/4 in terms of blackboard framed links:



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