Describing Non-Algebraic Tangles with Graphs

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Types of 2-String Tangles Generalizing the Planar Diagram Code Non-Algebraic Tangles and Constellations

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Background Properties and Operations Notations

Connection to Knot Theory: Conway's Tabulation¹

- Conway introduced tangles as a way to tabulate knots.
- Tangles are regarded as portions of knot diagrams.
 - planar polyhedra describe diagrams
 - vertices represent tangles
- All knots up to 11 crossings can be described this way.
 - basic polyhedra (right)
 - algebraic tangle vertices
- Improved on by Caudron.



¹J. H. Conway. An enumeration of knots and lints, and some of their algebraic properties. In *Computational Problems in Abstract Algebra (Proc. Conf., Oxford 1967)*, pages 329-358. Pergamon, Oxford, 1970

Types of 2-String Tangles Generalizing the Planar Diagram Code Non-Algebraic Tangles and Constellations

Definition

Background Properties and Operations Notations

Definition

An **n-string tangle** consists of a 3-dimensional ball with a fixed boundary which has n strings properly embedded inside.

- Endpoints are fixed on the surface of the ball.
- For 2-string tangles, label these NW, NE, SE, SW.



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Background Properties and Operations Notations

Tangle Diagrams and Parity

Definition

A tangle diagram is a 2-dimensional projection of a tangle.

- Crossings distinguish over-strand and under-strand.
- Endpoints are identified by NW, NE, SE, SW (2-string).

A 2-string tangle has three possible parities.



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Types of 2-String Tangles Generalizing the Planar Diagram Code Non-Algebraic Tangles and Constellations Background Properties and Operations Notations

Equivalent Tangles and Reidemeister Moves

Definition

Two tangles are said to be **equivalent** if there exists an ambient isotopy between them which leaves the boundary of the ball fixed.



Two tangle diagrams are equivalent if and only if they are related by a sequence of **Reidemeister moves**.

Types of 2-String Tangles Generalizing the Planar Diagram Code Non-Algebraic Tangles and Constellations Background Properties and Operations Notations

Equivalent Tangles and Reidemeister Moves

Example:



These are equivalent tangle diagrams related by an R1 move.

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Types of 2-String Tangles Generalizing the Planar Diagram Code Non-Algebraic Tangles and Constellations

Tangle Closure

Definition

The **closure** of a 2-string tangle joins the endpoints:

- numerator: join NW-NE and SW-SE.
- denominator: join NW-SW and NE-SE.

The closure forms a knot or link.

Numerator Closure:



Denominator Closure:

Properties and Operations



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Tangle Orientation

Definition

An orientation on a tangle is a choice of direction for each string.

Orientation convention for 2-string tangles:

- Travel inward from NW endpoint.
- Use denominator closure for parity 0 or 1.
- Use numerator closure for parity ∞ .



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Types of 2-String Tangles Generalizing the Planar Diagram Code Non-Algebraic Tangles and Constellations

Crossing Sign

Background Properties and Operations Notations

Definition

The **sign** of an oriented crossing is determined by the direction of the overstrand and understrand.



Negative Crossing:



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Background Properties and Operations Notations

Sum and Product of 2-String Tangles

Definition

A sum of tangles $T_1 + T_2$ joins the tangles horizontally as shown. A **product** of tangles $T_1 * T_2$ joins the tangles vertically as shown.



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Background Properties and Operations Notations

Tangle Diagram Notations

Dowker Code:

Coloring Matrix:

Gauss Code:

1	-2	0	1	0]
-2	1	1	0	0
_ 1	0	0	-2	1

|)a1+b2+(|)a3+b1+a2+b3+(| Example:

Planar Diagram Code:

+	b2	a3	d3	с2
+	<i>b</i> 3	<i>a</i> 1	<i>d</i> 1	<i>c</i> 3
+	<i>b</i> 1	a2	d2	c1



Types of 2-String Tangles Generalizing the Planar Diagram Code Non-Algebraic Tangles and Constellations Background Properties and Operations Notations

Gauss Code: Algorithm

Algorithm:

- **1** Start at NW corner.
- Index crossings with subsequent integers.
- For each crossing encounter, record:
 - above/below (a or b)
 - crossing index
 - crossing sign
- 4 List crossing information.
- O Place bar between strings.

Example:





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Planar Diagram Code

Algorithm:

Example:



Background Properties and Operations Notations

Planar Diagram Code: Labeling Convention

Crossing Labeling Convention:

- Each crossing has four corners.
- Label outward pointing overstrand a.
- Label remaining corners clockwise by b, c, d.

Corner Connections:

Example:



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Background Properties and Operations Notations

Planar Diagram Code: Labeling Convention

Crossing Labeling Convention:

- Each crossing has four corners.
- Label outward pointing overstrand a.
- Label remaining corners clockwise by b, c, d.

Corner Connections:

- Index each crossing.
- Record crossing sign.
- For each corner, record connected crossing.



Example:



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Background Properties and Operations Notations

Planar Diagram Code: Algorithm

Algorithm:

- Start at NW corner.
- Index crossings with subsequent integers.
- Label corners of each crossing *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*.
- Record corner connections for each crossing.
- List rows with corner connection information.

Example:

1	+	b2	a3	d3	с2
2	+	<i>b</i> 3	<i>a</i> 1	<i>d</i> 1	<i>c</i> 3
3	+	b1	<i>a</i> 2	d2	<i>c</i> 1



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Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Hierarchy of 2-String Tangle Types

```
{arbitrary 2-string tangles}
       {algebraic tangles}
                UЛ
{generalized Montesinos tangles}
      {Montesinos tangles}
                UЛ
        {rational tangles}
                UЛ
        {integer tangles}
```

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Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Integer Tangles

Definition

An **integer tangle** is constructed from any sequence of horizontal or vertical twists.

Example: 3/1



horizontal

Example: 1/3



vertical

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Rational Tangles

Definition

A **rational tangle** is constructed from an alternating sequence of horizontal and vertical twists, denoted by a **twist vector**.

Example: rational tangle with canonical* diagram

- 2 horizontal twists
- 3 vertical twists
- 4 horizontal twists
- 2 vertical twists
- O horizontal twists

Twist Vector:

(2, 3, 4, 2, 0)



Well Understood Tangles

Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Rational Tangles: Bijection with Extended Rationals

Theorem

Rational tangles (up to equivalence with canonical form) are in bijection with the extended rational numbers.²

- Every rational tangle can be placed in canonical form.
- Every canonical form can be described with a twist vector.
- Each twist vector defines a continued fraction in $\mathbb{Q} \cup \{\infty\}$.

$$(a_1, a_2, \cdots, a_{n-1}, a_n) \qquad \leftrightarrow \qquad a_n + \frac{1}{a_{n-1} + \cdots + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{a_1}}}$$

• This fraction is a rational tangle invariant.

² J. H. Conway. An enumeration of knots and lints, and some of their algebraic properties. In *Computational Problems in Abstract Algebra (Proc. Conf., Oxford 1967)*, pages 329-358. Pergamon, Oxford, 1970

Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Rational Tangles: Example

Twist Vector:

Diagram:

(2, 3, 4, 2, 0)

Fraction:

$$0 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{4 + \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{2}}}} = \frac{30}{67}$$



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Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Montesinos Tangles

Definition

A tangle is **Montesinos** if it can be expressed as a horizontal or vertical joining of rational tangles.

Example: (2/5) + (1/2) + (2/5) + (1/3)



Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Generalized Montesinos Tangles

Definition

A **generalized Montesinos tangle** is a Montesinos tangle with endpoint twisting.

Example: Montesinos





Example: Generalized



Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Database of 2-String Tangles

Prototype of database of 2-string tangles:

- http://www.nick-connolly.com/tangles
- rational tangles up to 9 crossings
- generalized Montesinos tangles up to 11 crossings

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Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Algebraic Tangles

Definition

A tangle is **algebraic** if it can be expressed with a finite combination of sums and products of rational tangles.

Example:

$$((1/3)+(1/2))*((1/2)+(1/3))$$

Example of a non-Montesinos algebraic tangle.



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Well Understood Tangles Not-so-Well Understood Tangles

Non-Algebraic Tangles

Definition

A tangle is **non-algebraic** if it cannot be expressed in terms of a finite combination of sums and products of rational tangles.

Example:



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Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

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Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Recall: Conway's Tabulation³



³ J. H. Conway. An enumeration of knots and lints, and some of their algebraic properties. In *Computational* Problems in Abstract Algebra (Proc. Conf., Oxford 1967), pages 329-358. Pergamon, Oxford, 1970 ← 🖹 → 🚊 🧠

Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Adapting Conway's Idea

Observations:

- Rational tangles are well-behaved and easy to describe.
- Rational tangles "live inside" non-rational tangles.

Idea: Can we use rational subtangles rather than crossings?



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Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Recall: Planar Diagram Code

Example: T = (1/3) + (1/3)

+	2 <i>b</i>	3a	6 <i>d</i>	2 <i>c</i>
+	3 <i>b</i>	1 <i>a</i>	1d	3 <i>c</i>
+	1b	2 <i>a</i>	2 <i>d</i>	4 <i>c</i>
+	5 <i>b</i>	6 <i>a</i>	3 <i>d</i>	5 <i>c</i>
+	6 <i>b</i>	4 <i>a</i>	4 <i>d</i>	6 <i>c</i>
+	4b	5 <i>a</i>	5 <i>d</i>	1c



Tangles are described by their crossing connections.

Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

A Generalized Planar Diagram Code

Example: T = (1/3) + (1/3)



Tangles are described by their subtangle connections.

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Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Generalized PD Code: Subtangle Labeling Convention

New Rules for Subtangles:

- Each subtangle has two strings: *S*1 and *S*2.
- Each corner matches a string entrance or exit.
- Enter/Exit Labeling rule:
 - A = S1 entrance
 - B = S1 exit
 - C = S2 entrance
 - D = S2 exit
- Identify A as NW.
- Denote subtangle by corresponding rational p/q.

Example: T = (1/3) + (1/3)



Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Generalized PD Code: Additional Information

Row Information:

(one subtangle per row)

- Rational number p/q
- Connection information
- Subtangle parity
 - internal string direction
- Rational twist vector

Example:
$$T = (1/3) + (1/3)$$



$$\underbrace{\begin{array}{c}(1/3)\\(3/-1)\\p/q\end{array}}_{p/q} \underbrace{\begin{array}{c}1 \text{ ep } 2A \ 2D \ 1 \text{ ep}\\(P:1)\\connections\end{array}}_{parity} \underbrace{\begin{array}{c}(P:1)\\(P:1')\\(P:1')\\(P:1')\\twist \ vector\end{array}}_{twist \ vector}$$

Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Generalized PD Code: Rational Example

Example: T = (1/3) + (3/1)



(10/3) 1 ep 1 ep 1 ep 1 ep (P:0) TwiVec: (1 2 3)

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Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Generalized PD Code: Generalized Montesinos Example

Example: $T = ((1/-3) + (1/-3)) \circ (-3, -3, 0)$



(1/-3)4 ep 2*A* 4B2C (P:1') TwiVec: (-1 - 2 0)1D 4C (P:1) TwiVec: (3) (3/1) 1B 3*A* (3/-1) 2B 3 ep 4A (P:1) TwiVec: (-3) 3 ep 1C(P:1') TwiVec: (-1 - 2 0)(1/-3)3D 2D1 ep ・ 同 ト ・ ヨ ト ・ ヨ ト …

Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Generalized PD Code: Algebraic Example

Example: T = ((1/3) + (1/2)) * ((1/2) + (1/3))



(1/3)2 ep 2A 2B 3A (P:1) TwiVec: (1 2 0) 4D 1 ep (P:0') TwiVec: (-2) (2/-1)1B 1C 1D 4 ep 4*B* 4*C* (P : ∞') TwiVec: (-1 -1 0) (1/-2)3 ep (1/3)3*C* 3D 2*C* (P:1) TwiVec: (1 2 0) э

Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Generalized PD Code: Non-Algebraic Example

Example:



(2/1)2A4B5A (P:0) TwiVec: (2)5 ep (3/1)1B3 ep 4*C* (P:1) TwiVec: (3)3A (1/-2)2B4A5B2 ep $(\mathsf{P}:\infty)$ TwiVec: (-1 - 1 0)(1/-1)3*B* 1C2D 5*C* (P:1')TwiVec: (-1)(3/1)1D3*C* 4D (P:1) TwiVec: 1 ep (3)

Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Original Labeling: Enter/Exit

Example: T = (2/5) + (1/2) + (2/5) + (1/3)



(2/5)2*B* 3 ep (P:0) TwiVec: (2 2 0) 3 ep 2*A* (1/2)1B1C4B4*C* $(P:\infty')$ TwiVec: (1 1 0) (1/3)1 ep 4A4D 1 ep (P:1) TwiVec: (1 2 0) (5/-2)2*C* 2D 3*C* $(P:\infty)$ TwiVec: (-1 - 1 - 2)3B

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Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Alternate Labeling: Compass

Example: T = (2/5) + (1/2) + (2/5) + (1/3)



(2/5)3 ep 2 NW 2 SW (P:0) TwiVec: $(2 \ 2 \ 0)$ 3 ep 1 NE 4 SW 4 SE 1 SE (1/2) $(\mathsf{P}:\infty')$ TwiVec: $(1 \ 1 \ 0)$ (1/3)1 ep 4 NE 4 NW 1 ep (P:1) TwiVec: $(1 \ 2 \ 0)$ (5/-2)3 SE 3 NE 2 SE 2 NE $(P:\infty)$ TwiVec: (-1 - 1)-2

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Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Integer Subtangle Planar Diagram Code

Example: T = (2/5) + (1/2) + (2/5) + (1/3)



(2/1)	4 ep	2 NW	3 SW	3 SE	(P:0)
(1/2)	1 NE	5 SW	6 NW	3 NW	$(P:\infty')$
(1/2)	2 SW	4 ep	1 SW	1 SE	$(P:\infty)$
(1/3)	3 ер	6 SW	5 NW	1 ep	(P:1)
(1/-2)	4 SE	6 SE	6 NE	2 NE	$(P:\infty)$
(2/-1)	2 SE	5 SE	5 NE	4 NE	(P:0)

Subtangle Planar Diagram Code Variations on the Generalization

Algebraic Subtangle Planar Diagram Code

Example: T = (2/5) + (1/2) + (2/5) + (1/3)



(2/5) + (1/2) + (2/5) + (1/3) 1 ep 1 ep 1 ep 1 ep (P: ∞)

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Benefits of Programming with New Notation

In my research, I have developed a program that can:

- compute all generalized PD codes for given tangle;
- determine the algebraic construction;
- determine whether the diagram is internally canonical.

impress class with sample program output

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Diagrams and Graphs Algebraic and Non-Algebraic Diagram Graphs Constellations Constellation Notation

Diagrams and Graphs Algebraic and Non-Algebraic Diagram Graphs Constellations Constellation Notation

The Formal Definition of Graph

Definition

- A graph G = (V, E) consists of two things:
 - a collection of vertices V
 - a collection of edges E

Example:
$$G = (V, E)$$

$$V = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\} \\ E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$$



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Diagrams and Graphs Algebraic and Non-Algebraic Diagram Graphs Constellations Constellation Notation

Simple Graphs vs. Multi-Graphs

Definition

A graph is said to be **simple** if no two vertices are joined by more than one edge. A graph which is not simple is a **multi-graph**.

Example: Simple Graph

Example: Multi-Graph





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Planar Graphs

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Definition

A graph is **planar** if it can be drawn with no edges intersecting.

Example: Planar Graph

Example: Non-Planar Graph





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Konigsberg Graph

Vertex Degrees

Definition

The **degree** of a vertex v, denoted $\delta(v)$, is the number of edges connected to it. Loops are counted twice.

Example:

$$\delta(v_1) = 1$$

$$\delta(v_2) = 2$$

$$\delta(v_3) = 3$$



Definition

A graph in which each vertex has degree k is called k-regular.

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Diagrams and Graphs

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The Graph of a Knot Diagram

Any knot diagram can be turned into a graph.

- The crossings become vertices.
- The strands between crossings become edges.

Example: Trefoil Diagram

Example: Trefoil Graph





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Knot Orientation and Eulerian Circuits

Observe that a choice of orientation on a knot diagram induces an Eulerian circuit on the corresponding knot graph.

Example: Oriented Trefoil



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Properties of a Knot Diagram Graph

Properties:

- The graph is **connected**.
- The graph is planar.
- The graph is 4-regular (each vertex has degree 4).
- The graph contains an **Eulerian circuit**.

Graph:



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Reverse Question: Building Knot Diagrams from Graphs

Any connected, planar, 4-regular graph can be realized as a link.



A graph with n vertices can be realized by 2^n diagrams.

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Describing Tangles with Graphs

The generalized planar diagram code describes a tangle through joined subtangles; this description is graph theoretic!

Example: $T_3 * (T_1 + T_2)$



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Subtangle Graphs

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We can also model these subtangle combinations with a graph.

- The subtangles becomes vertices.
- The strands between subtangles become edges.

Example: Tangle Diagram

Example: Subtangle "Graph"



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Properties of a Subtangle Diagram Graph

Properties:

- The graph is **connected**.
- The graph is planar.
- The graph is **4-regular** (each vertex has degree 4).
- The graph contains an **Eulerian circuit**.
- The endpoints form an extra vertex at ∞.



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Eulerian Circuits and Subtangle Parities

Theorem

A choice of Eulerian circuit in a subtangle diagram graph uniquely induces a parity on each subtangle component.

Example: Parities 0, 0, ∞

Example: Parities 1, 1, 1



Finding possible parities is equivalent to finding Eulerian circuits.

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Reversing the Question

Every tangle diagram defines a graph with these properties.



Does every graph with these properties define a diagram?

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Building a Diagram from a Graph

Given a graph with these properties, we can build up a configuration of subtangles. Filling these in gives a tangle diagram.



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Necessary Assumptions

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Notice that we cannot connect subtangles without 4-regularity.



Can we add more restrictions to distinguish types of diagrams?

Image: A matrix

3 1 4 3 1

Algebraic Diagrams

Definition

A subtangle diagram is **algebraic** if it can be built from sums and products of subtangles.

Example: Algebraic



 $(T_1 * T_2) + (T_3 * T_4)$

Example: Non-Algebraic

Algebraic and Non-Algebraic Diagram Graphs



Tangle sums and products always join two endpoints at a time.

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Graphs of Algebraic Diagrams

In the corresponding subtangle graph, there are two edges between added/multiplied subtangles (it's a **multi-graph**).

Example: Algebraic



 $(T_1 * T_2) + (T_3 * T_4)$

Graph has multi-edges

Example: Non-Algebraic



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Graph is simple

Diagrams and Graphs Algebraic and Non-Algebraic Diagram Graphs Constellations Constellation Notation

The Maximal Algebraic Subtangle Graph

Definition

The **maximal algebraic subtangle graph** of a tangle diagram is obtained by collapsing together any vertices with two connections.

Example:



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Distinguishing Algebraic and Non-Algebraic Diagrams

Theorem

A tangle is algebraic if and only if its maximal algebraic subtangle graph consists of a single subgtangle vertex.

Example: Algebraic Tangle



MASG:



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When is a Diagram Non-Algebraic?

Theorem

A simple subtangle graph must be non-algebraic.





Diagrams and Graphs Algebraic and Non-Algebraic Diagram Graphs Constellations Constellation Notation

Non-Algebraic Condition: Sufficient but not Necessary

Simple subtangle graphs must be non-algebraic; the converse does **not** hold. A non-algebraic subtangle graph isn't always simple.



However, this graph contains a particular simple subgraph.

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A New Type of Graph: Constellations

Definition

A k + 1 constellation (C, p) consists of a graph C with k + 1 vertices which is <u>connected</u>, <u>planar</u>, <u>4-regular</u>, and <u>simple</u>, and a marked $k + 1^{st}$ vertex p.

- The $k + 1^{st}$ vertex p is called the **planet**.
- The induced subgraph $C^* = C \{p\}$ is called the **cosmos**.



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Constellation Examples

Definition

Two constellations are **equivalent** if they have isomorphic cosmos.



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Changing Planets

Theorem

A different choice of planet may yield non-equivalent constellations.



Constellations

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Constellations and Non-Algebraic Subtangle Graphs

Theorem

A subtangle graph is non-algebraic if and only if it contains a subgraph which is isomorphic to the cosmos of some constellation.



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Constellation Notation for Non-Algebraic Tangles

Definition

A non-algebraic tangle diagram can be described using sums and products of rational subtangles and constellations:

- use constellations in place of non-algebraic subtangles;
- list out the algebraic subtangle components;
- order tangles by encounter and indicate parity.

Example:

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$$\underbrace{C^{(1)}_{5+1}}_{\text{onstellation}} \left((2/1)^0, \underbrace{(3/1)^1}_{\text{subtangle}}, (1/-2)^\infty, (1/-1)^{1'}, (3/1)^1 \right)$$

The subtangles come from the algebraic planar diagram code.

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Reconstructing from Notation: Cosmos

$$\underbrace{C_{5+1}^{(1)}}_{\underbrace{}} \quad \left((2/1)^0, (3/1)^1, (1/-2)^\infty, (1/-1)^{1'}, (3/1)^1\right)$$

constellation



This tangle uses the cosmos of the 5 + 1 constellation.

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Reconstructing from Notation: Component Order



The parity of each component forces the location of the next component. In this example, the ordered parities are $(0, 1, \infty, 1', 1)$.

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Reconstructing from Notation: Filling in Components





Insert appropriate subtangle construction into each component.

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Reconstructing from Notation: Drawing Subtangles

$$C^{(1)}_{5+1}\Big((2/1)^0,(3/1)^1,(1/-2)^\infty,(1/-1)^{1'},(3/1)^1\Big)$$



Finally, draw in algebraic subtangles given by construction.

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Example: Scary Non-Algebraic Diagram

How to describe this diagram?



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Example: Gauss Code



 $\begin{array}{l} (|-b1-a2-b3-a4-b5-a6-b7+a8+b9-a10-b11-a12-b13+a14+b15-a7\\ -b6-a5+b16+a17-b18+a9+b8-a18+b19(|)+a20+b21+a16+b17\\ +a21+b20+a19-b12-a11-b10-a13-b22-a23-b24+a15+b14-a24\\ -b25-a26-b27-a3-b4-a25-b26-a27-b23-a22-b28-a29-b30-a1-b2-a30\\ -b29-a28|) \end{array}$

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Example: Planar Diagram Code



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Example: Algebraic Planar Diagram Code



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Example: Algebraic Subtangle Components by Parity



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Example: Identifying Cosmos of 8+1 Constellation



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Example: Constellation Notation



 $T = (2/7) + C_{8+1}^{(1)} ((2/1) * (3/1)^0, (1/3)^{1'}, (3/-2)^{\infty'}, (3/-4)^{\infty'},$ $(3/-2)^{\infty'}, (5/2)^{\infty'}, (1/1)^1, (1/2)^{\infty})$ Parity Vector : $(0, 0, 1', \infty', \infty', \infty', \infty', 1, \infty)$

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Constellation Notation Summary

Benefits:

- compact notation for non-algebraic diagrams
- combines with sum/product notation
- construction intuitive to visualize

Drawbacks:

- always assumes internally canonical components
- only helpful for known constellations
- classifies non-algebraic diagrams, but not tangles

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Major Advantage:

preferring canonical components eliminates many redundancies