

Annoying trailers:

SnapPy

<http://snappy.computop.org>

What is SnapPy?

SnapPy is a user interface to the SnapPea kernel which runs on Mac OS X, Linux, and Windows. SnapPy combines a link editor and 3D-graphics for Dirichlet domains and cusp neighborhoods with a powerful command-line interface based on the [Python](#) programming language. You can see it [in action](#), learn how to [install](#) it, and read the [tutorial](#).



Contents

- [Screenshots: SnapPy in action](#)
- [Installing and running SnapPy](#)
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- [Using SnapPy's link editor](#)
- [To Do List](#)
- [Development Basics: OS X](#)
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Credits

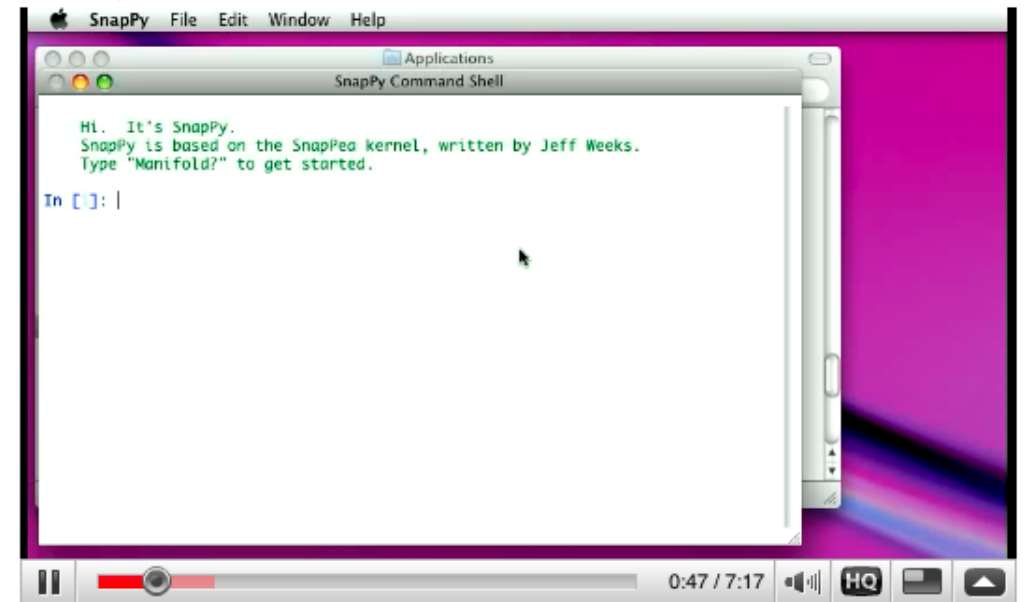
Written by [Marc Culler](#) and [Nathan Dunfield](#). Uses the SnapPea kernel written by [Jeff Weeks](#). Released under the terms of the GNU General Public License.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NathanDunfield/>

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SnapPy tutorial, Part I: Basics



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Warwick

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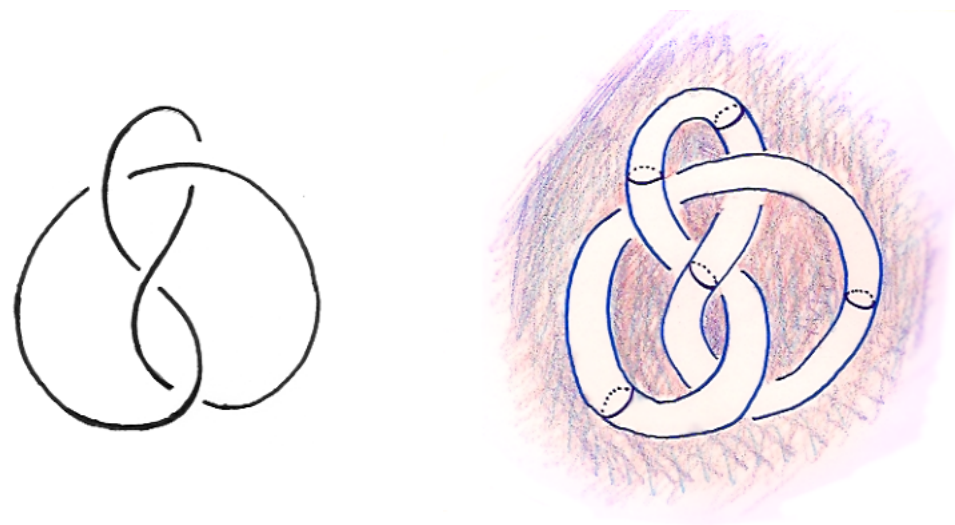
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- Knot: $K = S^1 \hookrightarrow S^3$
- Exterior: $M = S^3 - \mathring{N}(K)$



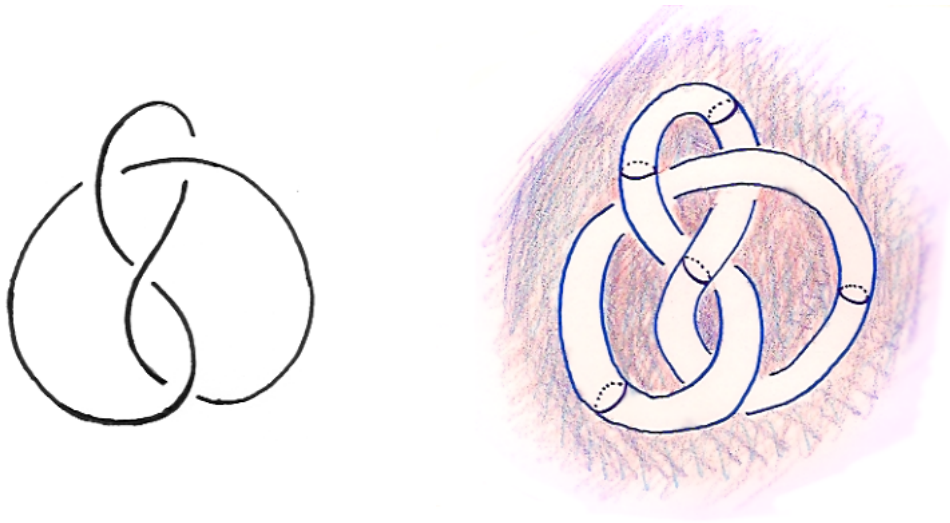
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Alexander polynomial (1923):

$$\Delta_K(t) = \Delta_M(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$$

Universal cyclic cover: corresponds to the kernel of the unique epimorphism $\pi_1(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$.

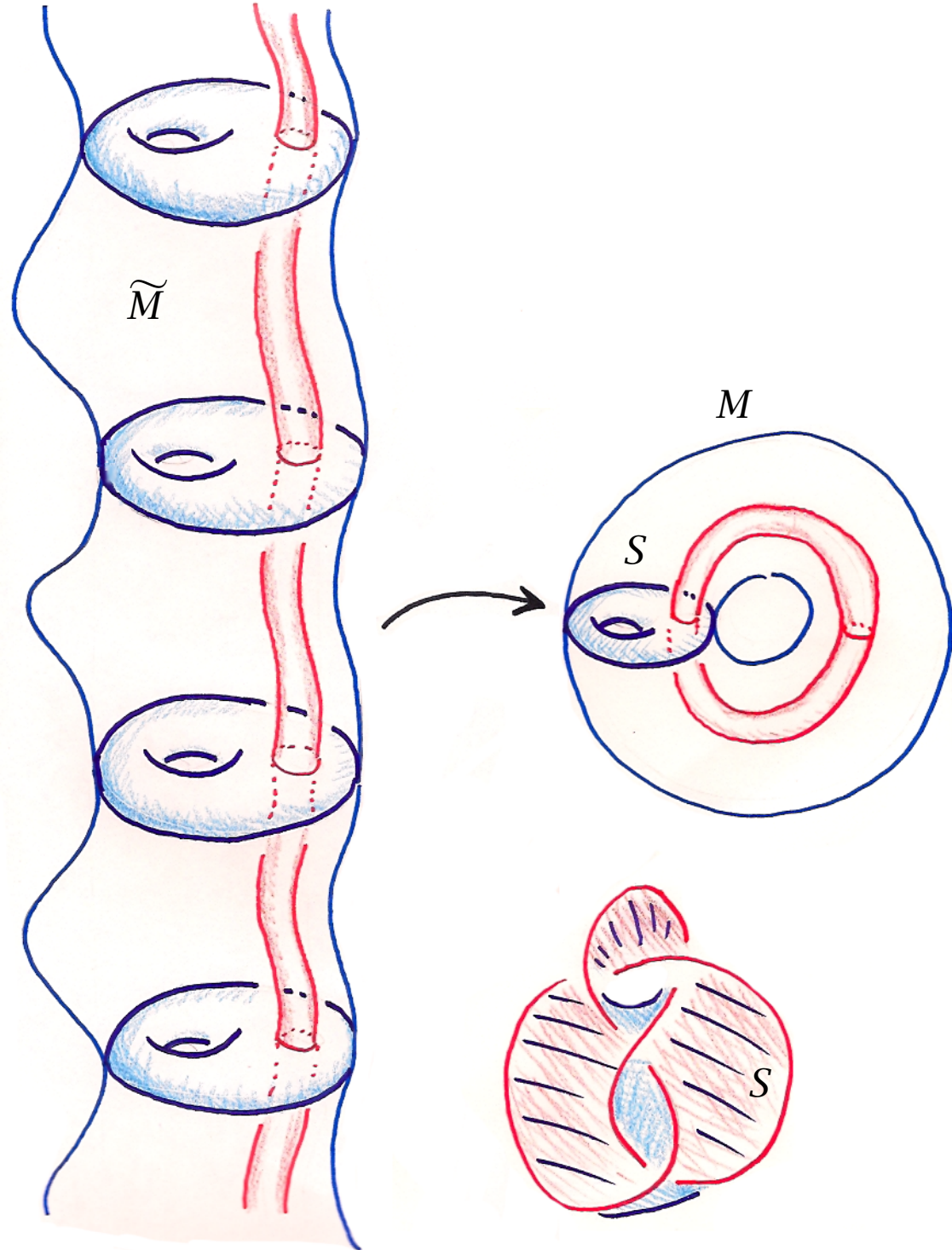
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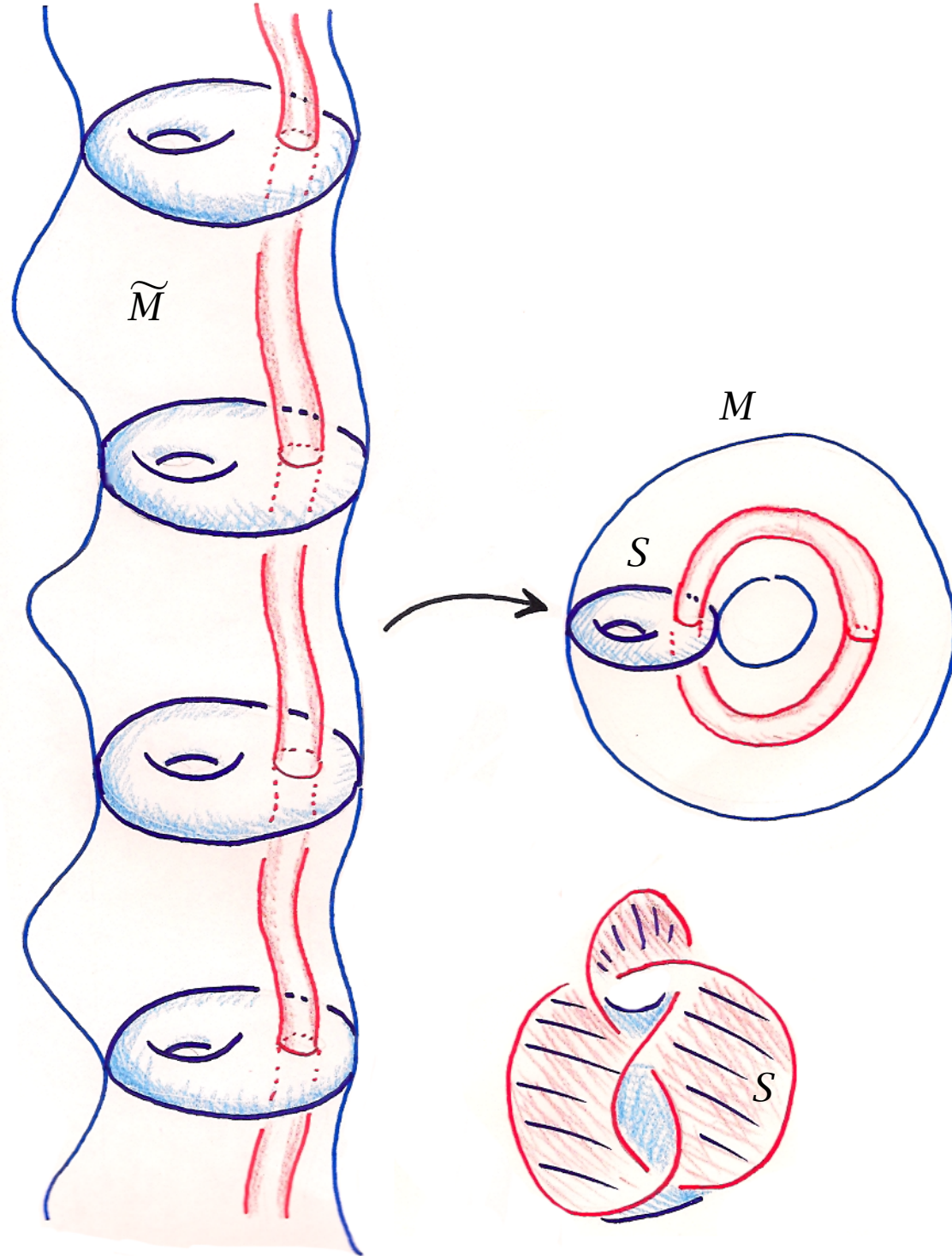


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$A_M = H_1(\tilde{M}; \mathbb{Q})$ is a module over $\Lambda = \mathbb{Q}[t^{\pm 1}]$, where $\langle t \rangle$ is the covering group.

As Λ is a PID,

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Figure-8 knot:

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Genus:

$$\begin{aligned} g &= \min (\text{genus of } S \text{ with } \partial S = K) \\ &= \min (\text{genus of } S \text{ gen. } H_2(M, \partial M; \mathbb{Z})) \end{aligned}$$

Fundamental fact:

$$2g \geq \deg(\Delta_M)$$

Proof: Note $\deg(\Delta_M) = \dim_{\mathbb{Q}}(A_M)$. As A_M is generated by $H_1(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Q}^{2g}$, the inequality follows.

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Kinoshita-Terasaka knot: $\Delta(t) = 1$ but $g = 2$.



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Assumption: M is hyperbolic, i.e.

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$$\tau_M(t) \in \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}] \quad \text{coming from } H_1(\tilde{M}; V_\alpha).$$

Examples:

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- Kinoshita-Terasaka:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_M \approx & (4.417926 + 0.376029i)(t^3 + t^{-3}) \\ & - (22.941644 + 4.845091i)(t^2 + t^{-2}) \\ & + (61.964430 + 24.097441i)(t + t^{-1}) \\ & - (-82.695420 + 43.485388i) \end{aligned}$$

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Many properties of M^3 are algorithmically computable, including

[Haken 1961] Whether a knot K in S^3 is unknotted. More generally, can find the genus of K .

[Jaco-Oertel 1984] Whether M contains an incompressible surface.

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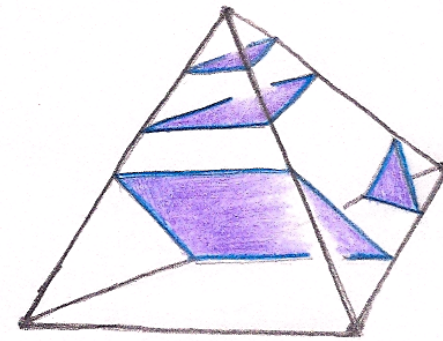
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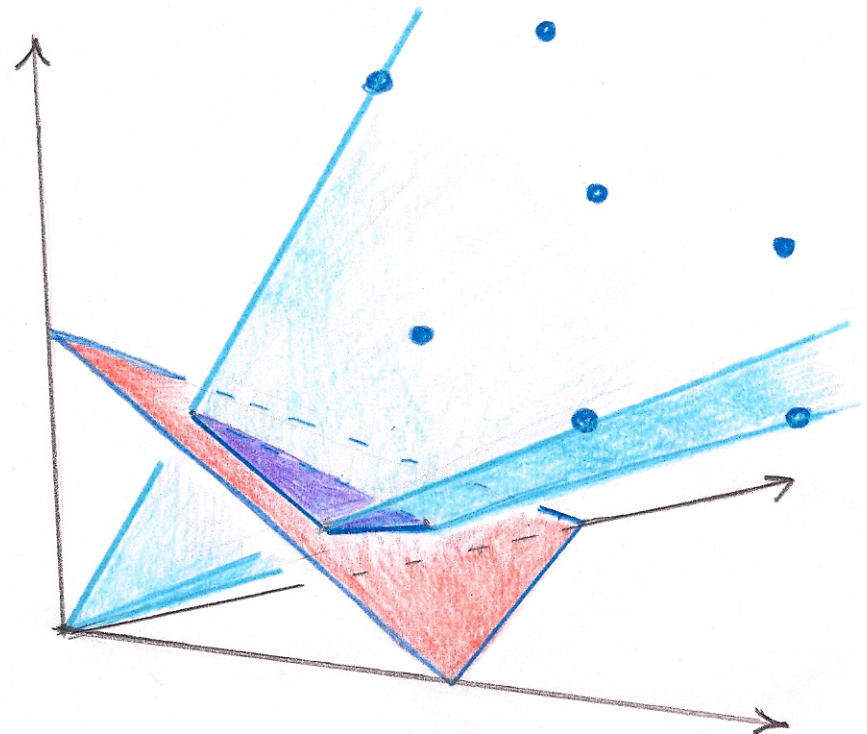
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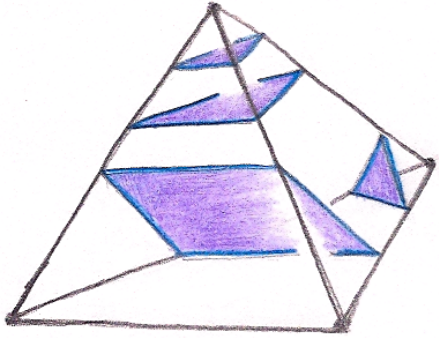
Normal surfaces meet each tetrahedra in a triangulation \mathcal{T} of M in a standard way:



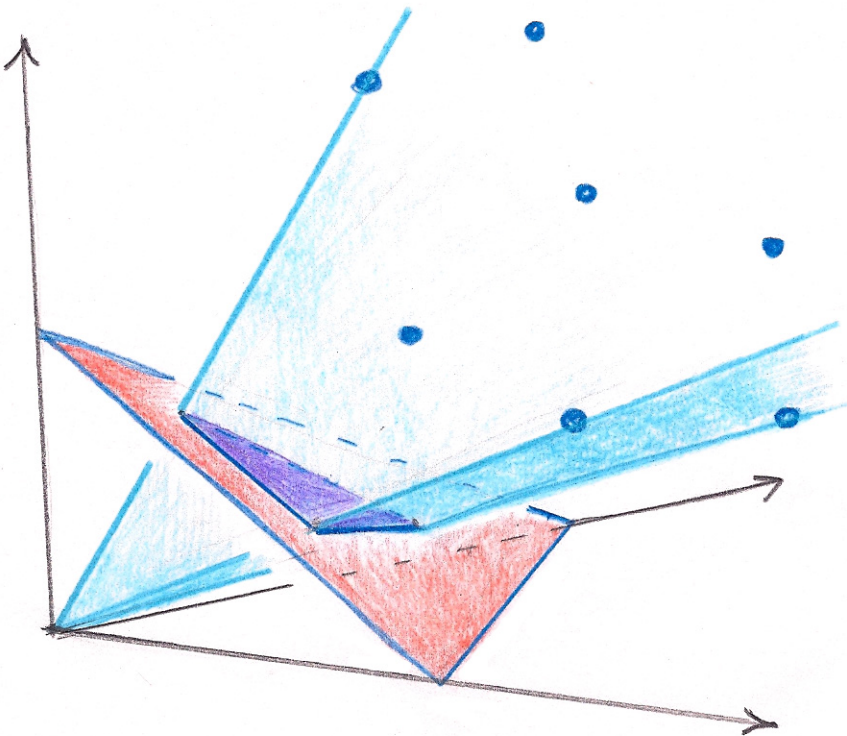
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Meta Thm. *In an interesting class of surfaces, there is one which is normal. Moreover, one lies on a vertex ray of the cone.*

E.g. The class of minimal genus surfaces whose boundary is a given knot.

Problem: There can be exponentially many vertex rays, typically $\approx O(1.6^t)$ [Burton 2009]. In practice, limited to $t < 40$.

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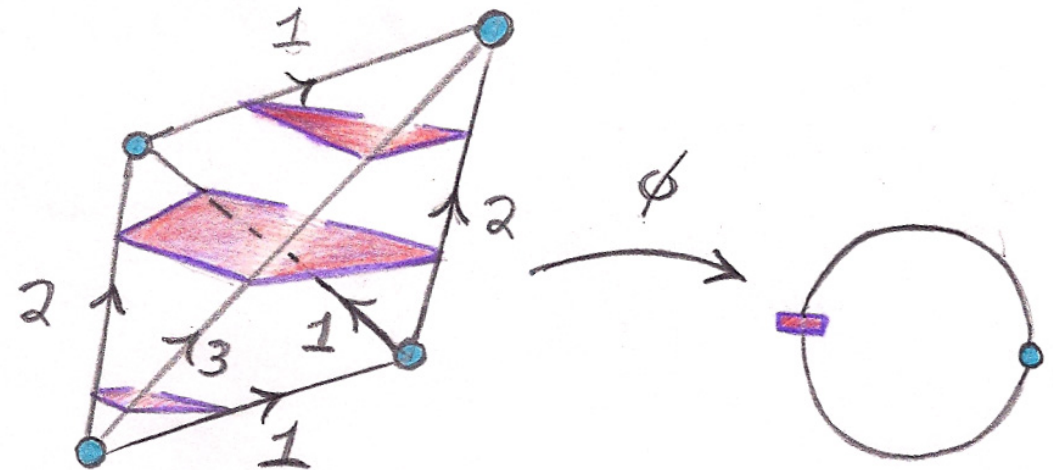
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Practical Trick: Finding the simplest surface representing some $\phi \in H^1(M; \mathbb{Z}) \cong H_2(M, \partial M; \mathbb{Z})$.

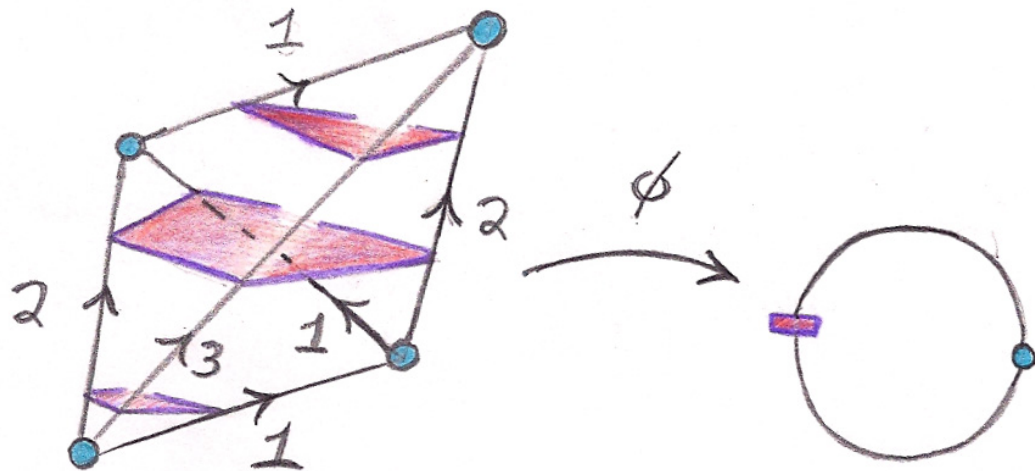
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Current focus: For 15 crossing knots, does τ_M determine whether M fibers?

By Gabai can reduce to the case of *closed* manifolds.

Practical Trick: Proving that $N = M \setminus \Sigma$ is $\Sigma \times I$.

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[Dunfield-Ramakrishnan 2008] Used this when $|\mathcal{T}| > 130$.

General approach uses Jaco-Rubinstein “crushing”. Compare [Burton-Rubinstein-Tillmann 2009].

Future work: Considering τ_M as a function on the character variety.

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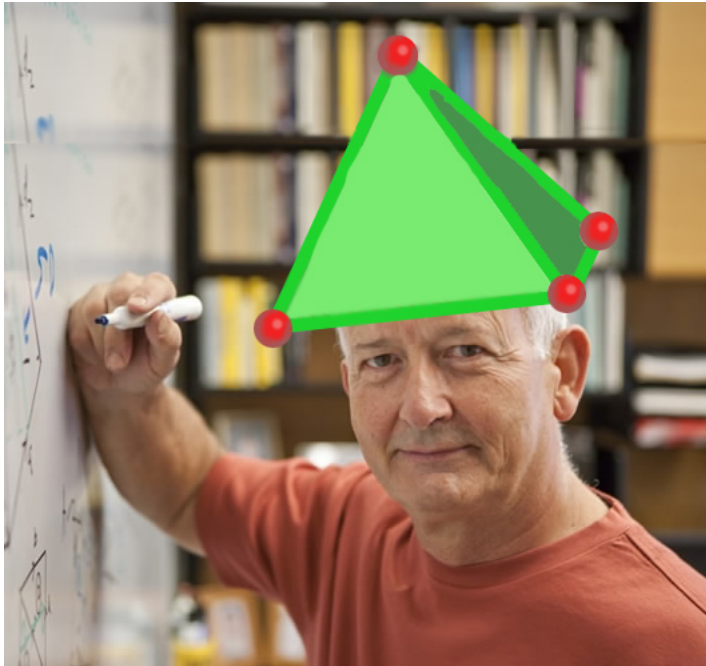
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Happy Birthday



Bus!