

Knot theory for spatial graphs

[Lecture 2]

Unknotting notions on the spatial graphs

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References for this special topics

- [1] A. Kawauchi, On a complexity of a spatial graph. in: Knots and soft-matter physics, Topology of polymers and related topics in physics, mathematics and biology, Bussei Kenkyu 92-1 (2009-4), 16-19.**
- [2] A. Kawauchi, On transforming a spatial graph into a plane graph, in: Statistical Physics and Topology of Polymers with Ramifications to Structure and Function of DNA and Proteins, Progress of Theoretical Physics Supplement, No. 191(2011), 235-244.**

2.1. A based diagram and a monotone diagram

Let Γ be a graph without degree one vertices, and $G = G(\Gamma)$ a spatial graph in R^3 . Let Γ_i ($i=1,2,\dots,r$) be an ordered set of the components of Γ , and $G_i = G(\Gamma_i)$ the corresponding spatial subgraph of $G = G(\Gamma)$. Let T_i be a maximal tree of G_i .

Note: We consider a topological graph without degree 2 vertices, so that $T_i = \phi$ if G_i is a knot or link, and $T_i = \text{one vertex}$ if G_i has just one vertex (of degree ≥ 3).

Let $T = T_1 \cup T_2 \cup \dots \cup T_r$. Call it a base of G .

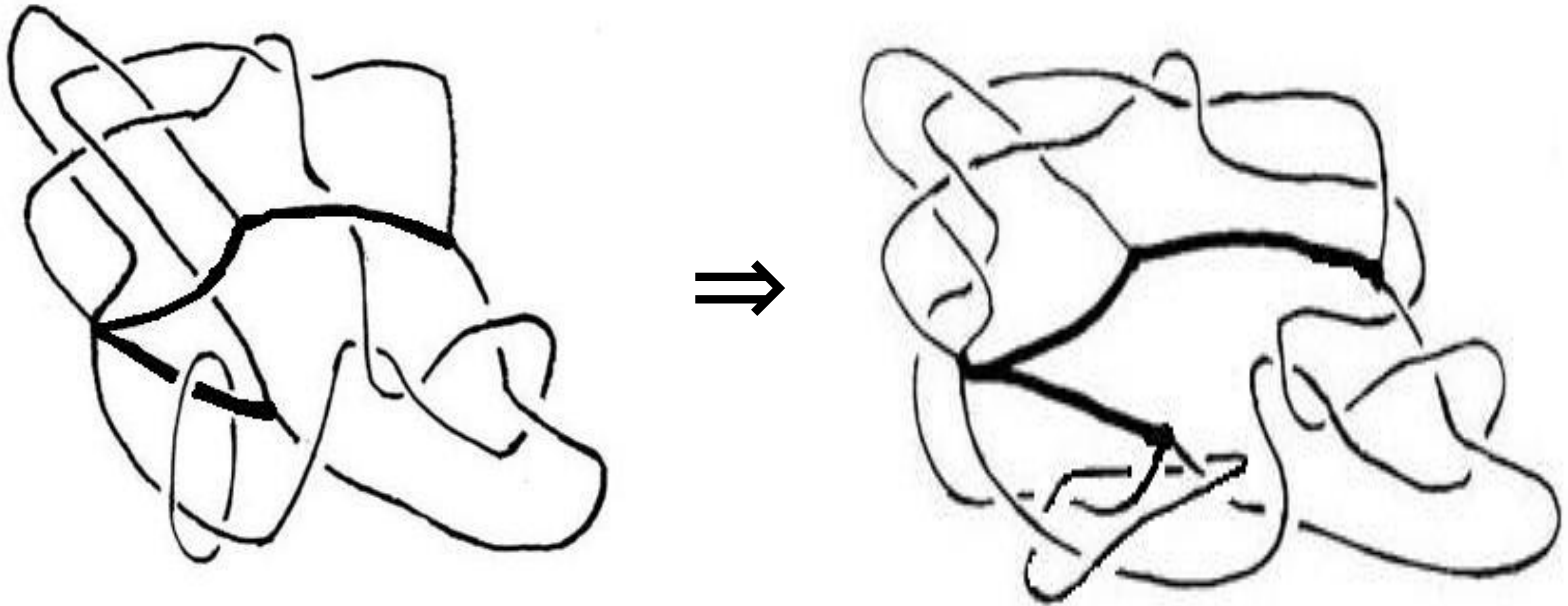
Note: There are only finitely many bases of G .

G is obtained from a basis T by attaching edges (i.e., arcs or loops) to T .

Let D be a diagram of a spatial graph $G = G(\Gamma)$, and D_T the sub-diagram of D corresponding to T .

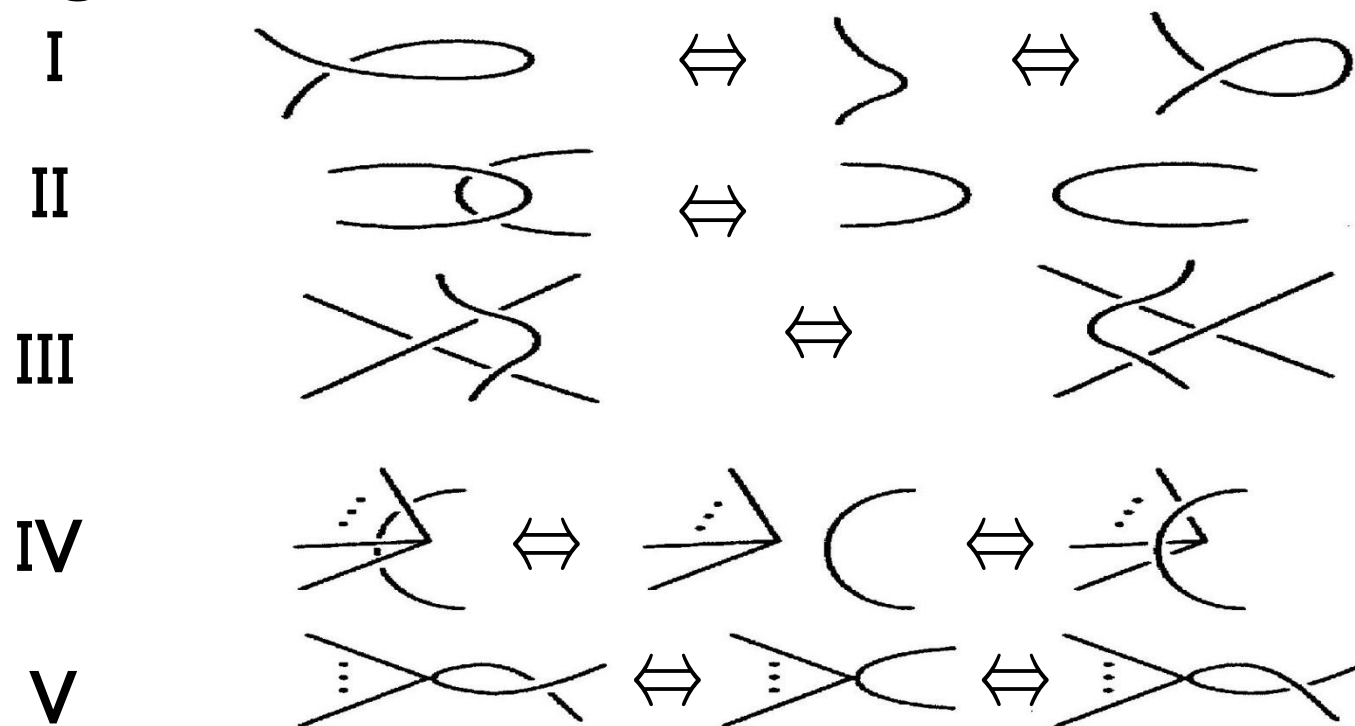
Let $c_D(D_T)$ be the number of crossing points of D whose upper or lower crossing points belong to D_T .

Definition. D is a based diagram (on base T),
written as $(D;T)$ if $c_D(D_T)=0$.



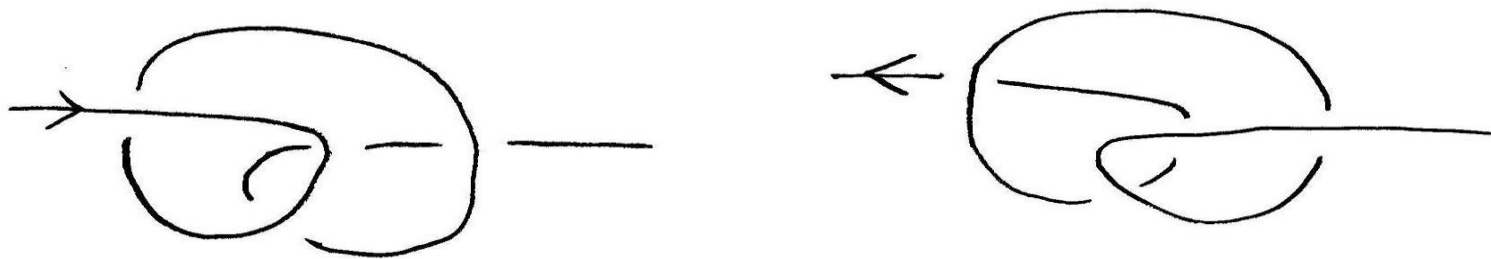
Lemma. For \forall base T of G , \forall diagram D of G is deformed into a based diagram on T by generalized Reidemeister moves.

The generalirez Reidemeister moves:



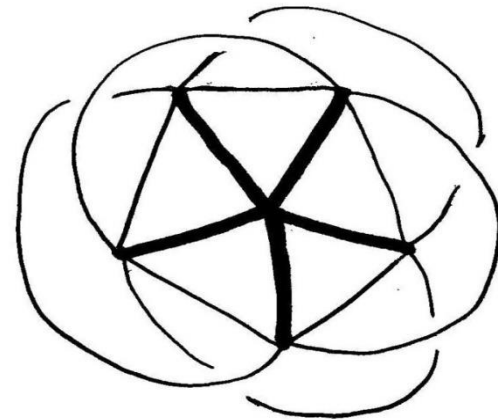
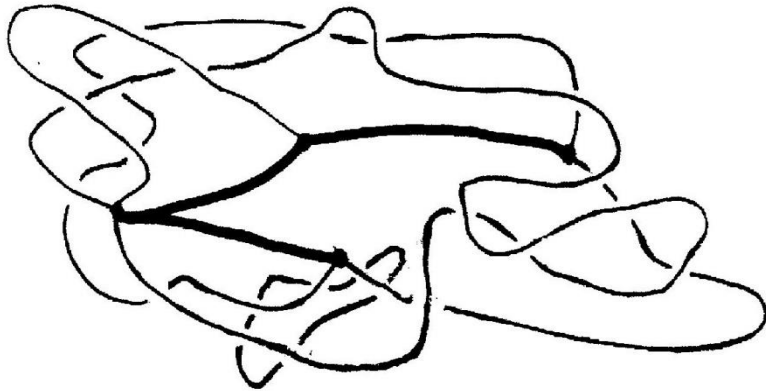
Let α be an edge of $G=G(\Gamma)$ attaching to a base T .

Definition. An edge diagram D_α in a diagram D of G is monotone if:



A sequence on the edges of a based graph (G, T) is regularly ordered if an order on the edges such that any edge belonging to G_i is smaller than any edge belonging to G_j for $i < j$ is specified.

Definition. A based diagram $(D;T)$ is **monotone** if there is a regularly ordered edge sequence α_i ($i=1,2,\dots,m$) of (G,T) such that D_{α_i} is monotone and D_{α_i} is upper than D_{α_j} for $i < j$.



2.2. Complexity

Definition.

The warping degree $d(D;T)$ of a based diagram $(D;T)$ is the least number of crossing changes on edge diagrams attaching to T needed to obtain a monotone diagram from $(D;T)$.

The crossing number of $(D;T)$ is denoted by $c(D;T)$.

If D is a knot or link diagram or an edge diagram, then the warping degree and crossing number of D are denoted by $d(D)$ and $c(D)$, respectively.

A similar notion for a knot or link is given in :

[Lickorish-Millett 1987] W. B. R. Lickorish and K. C. Millett, A polynomial invariant of oriented links, *Topology* 26(1987), 107-141.

[Fujimura 1988] S. Fujimura, On the ascending number of knots, thesis, Hiroshima University, 1988.

[Fung 1996] T. S. Fung, Immersions in knot theory, a dissertation, Columbia University, 1996.

**[Kawauchi 2007] A. Kawauchi, Lectures on knot theory (in Japanese),
Kyoritu Shuppan, 2007.**

[Ozawa 2010] M. Ozawa, Ascending number of knots and links. *J. Knot Theory Ramifications* 19 (2010), 15-25.

[Shimizu 2010] A. Shimizu, The warping degree of a knot diagram, *J. Knot Theory Ramifications* 19(2010), 849-857.

Properties of the warping degree

For the warping degree \vec{d} of an *oriented* edge diagram D_α ,

$$\vec{d}(D_\alpha) + \vec{d}(-D_\alpha) = c(D_\alpha),$$

$$d(D_\alpha) = \min\{ \vec{d}(D_\alpha), \vec{d}(-D_\alpha) \}.$$

Example. $d(\text{---} \langle \text{---} \rangle \text{---}) = 1$, for

$$\vec{d}(\text{---} \langle \text{---} \rangle \text{---}) = 1, \quad \vec{d}(\text{---} \langle \text{---} \rangle \text{---}) = 3.$$

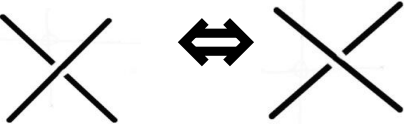
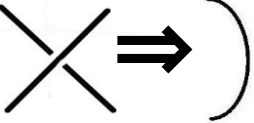
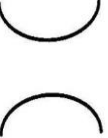
Definition.

The complexity of a based diagram $(D;T)$ is the pair $cd(D;T) = (c(D;T), d(D;T))$. The complexity of a spatial graph G is

$$\gamma(G) = \min\{cd(D;T) \mid (D;T) \in [D_G]\}$$

in the dictionary order. Let $\gamma(G) = (c_\gamma(G), d_\gamma(G))$.

Our basic viewpoint of complexity. This complexity

is reducible by a crossing change  or
a splice  (or  until we obtain a graph
in a plane.

2.3. The warping degree and an unknotted graph

Definition.

The warping degree of G is :

$$d(G) = \min\{d(D;T) \mid (D;T) \in [D_G]\}$$

Definition.

G is unknotted if $d(G) = 0$.

When Γ consists of loops,

G is unknotted $\Leftrightarrow G$ is a trivial link.

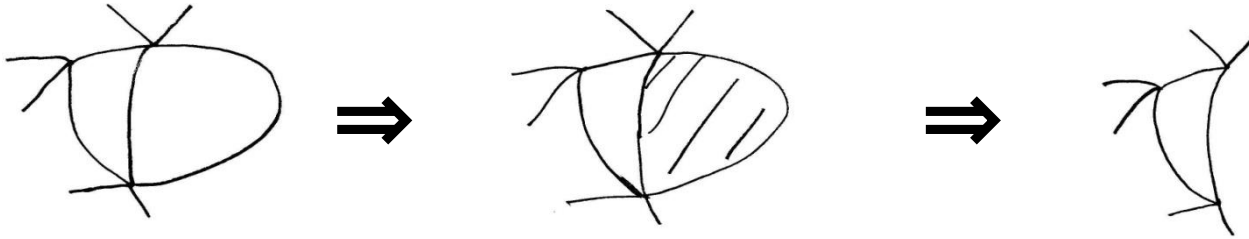
Assume Γ has a vertex of degree ≥ 3 .

Lemma 2.3.1. For $\forall G$, \exists finitely many crossing changes on G to make G with $d(G)=0$.

Lemma 2.3.2. For \forall given graph Γ , \exists only finitely many G of Γ with $d(G)=0$ up to equivalences.

Lemma 2.3.3. If $d(G)=0$, then $\exists T$ such that G/T is equivalent to $S^1 \vee S^1 \vee \dots \vee S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.

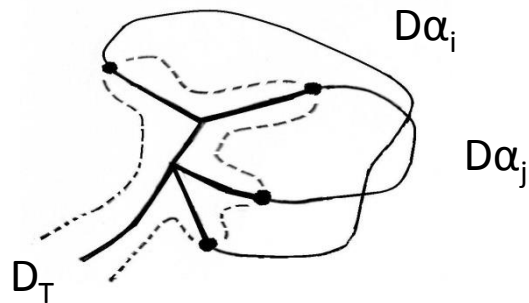
Lemma 2.3.4. A connected G with $d(G)=0$ is deformed into a basis T by a sequence of edge reductions:



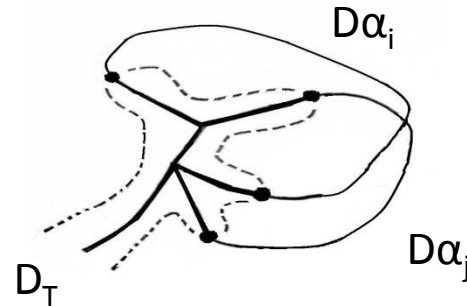
Corollary 2.3.5. For $\forall G$ with $d(G)=0$, $\exists T$ such that every edge (arc or loop) attaching to T is in a trivial constituent knot.

Given D_T , the cross index of α_i and α_j ($i \neq j$):

$$\varepsilon(\alpha_i, \alpha_j) = [1 - (-1)^{\#(D\alpha_i \cap D\alpha_j)}] / 2 \quad (=0 \text{ or } 1).$$



cross index = 0



cross index = 1

The total cross index of Γ on D_T :

$$\varepsilon(\Gamma; D_T) = \sum_{i < j} \varepsilon(\alpha_i, \alpha_j).$$

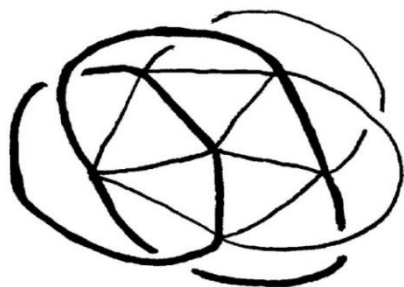
Lemma 2.3.6. Let $d(G)=0$. Then

$$\min\{c(D;T) \mid (D;T) \in [D_G], d(D;T)=0\} = \varepsilon(\Gamma; D_T).$$

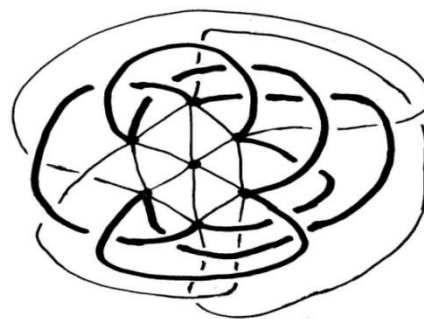
Conway-Gordon Theorem.

Every spatial 6-complete graph K_6 contains a non-trivial constituent link.

Every spatial 7-complete graph K_7 contains a non-trivial constituent knot.



An unknotted K_6



An unknotted K_7

2.4. The γ -warping degree and a γ -unknotted graph

Definition.

The γ -warping degree of G is the number $d_\gamma(G)$ for the complexity $\gamma(G) = (c_\gamma(G), d_\gamma(G))$ of G .

Definition. G is γ -unknotted if $d_\gamma(G) = 0$.

γ -unknotted \Rightarrow unknotted

2.5. A Γ -unknotted graph and the (γ, Γ) -warping degree

Let $\gamma(\Gamma) = \min\{\gamma(G) \mid G \text{ is a spatial graph of } \Gamma\}$.

Definition.

A Γ -unknotted graph G is a spatial graph of Γ with $\gamma(G) = \gamma(\Gamma)$.

Note.

(1) Let $\gamma(\Gamma) = (c_\gamma(\Gamma), d_\gamma(\Gamma))$. Then $d_\gamma(\Gamma) = 0$.

Γ -unknotted $\Rightarrow \gamma$ -unknotted \Rightarrow unknotted.

(2) $c_\gamma(\Gamma) = 0$ if and only if Γ is a plane graph.

(3) A spatial plane graph G is Γ -unknotted
 $\Leftrightarrow G$ is equivalent to a graph in a plane.

Definition.

$\mathbf{O} = \{\text{unknotted graphs of } \Gamma\}.$

$\mathbf{O}_\gamma^G = \{\gamma\text{-unknotted graphs on } (D;T) \in [D_G] \\ \text{with } \text{cd}(D;T) = \gamma(G)\}.$

$\mathbf{O}_\gamma = \cup \{\mathbf{O}_\gamma^G \mid G \text{ is a spatial graph of } \Gamma\}$
 $= \{\gamma\text{-unknotted graphs of } \Gamma\}.$

$\mathbf{O}_\Gamma = \{\Gamma\text{-unknotted graphs}\}.$

Then $\mathbf{O} \supset \mathbf{O}_\gamma \supset \mathbf{O}_\Gamma.$

Note: $\mathbf{O}_\gamma^G \subset \mathbf{O}_\Gamma$ or $\mathbf{O}_\gamma^G \cap \mathbf{O}_\Gamma = \phi$ for every $G.$

Definition.

The (γ, Γ) -warping degree $d_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G)$ of G is:

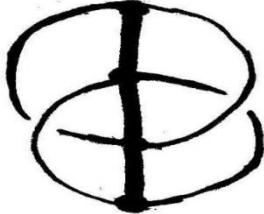
$$d_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G) = d_{\gamma}(G) + \rho(O_{\gamma}^G, O_{\Gamma}).$$

(ρ denotes the Gordian distance.)

By definition, $d(G) \leq d_{\gamma}(G) \leq d_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G)$.

$d_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G) = 0$ if and only if G is Γ -unknotted.

2.6. Examples

Example 1.6. 1. Let $G =$  .

G has $c_\gamma(G)=2$, for G has a Hopf link as a constituent link.

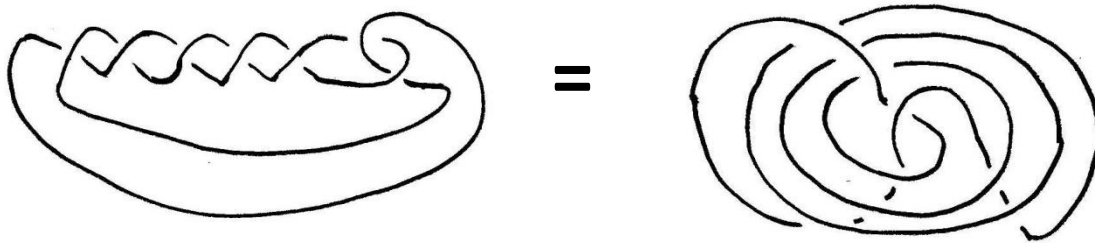
$d(G)=d_\gamma(G)= 0$.

Because G is a planar graph, if G is Γ -unknotted, then $c_\gamma(G)=0$, a contradiction.

Hence $d_\gamma^\Gamma(G) = 1$.

Lemma 2.6.2. (1) ([Fung 1996] , [Ozawa 2010])

If K is a knot with $d(K)=1$, then K is a non-trivial twist knot.



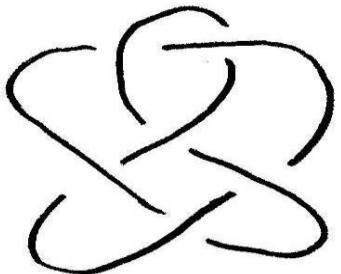
(2) If G is a θ -curve with $d(G)=1$, then the 3 constituent knots of G consist of two trivial knots and one non-trivial twist knot .

**Example 2.6.3. ([Fung 1996] , [Ozawa 2010],
[Shimizu 2010])**

For $K =$  5_2 , we have

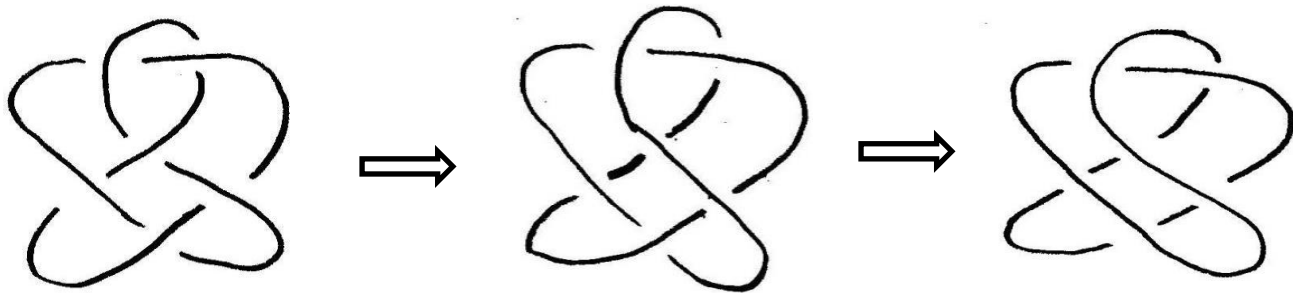
$$c_v(K)=5, \quad d(K)=1 < d_v(K) = d_v^{\square}(K)=2.$$

Example 2.6.4.

For $K =$  $6_2,$

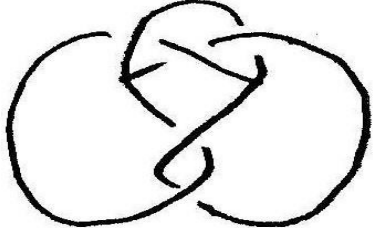
$$c_\gamma(K) = 6, \quad d(K) = d_\gamma(K) = d_\gamma^\Gamma(K) = 2.$$

In fact, $d_\gamma^\Gamma(K) \leq 2$:

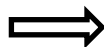
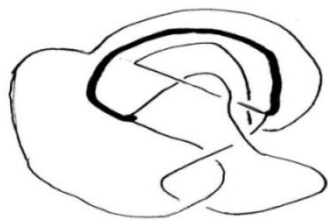


By Lemma, $d(K) \geq 2$ (, for K is not any twist knot).

Example 2.6.5. (Kinoshita's θ -curve)

For $G =$ , we have

$$c_\gamma(G) = 7 \text{ and } d(G) = d_\gamma(K) = d_\gamma^\Gamma(G) = 2.$$



a based diagram of G

a monotone diagram

$O_{\gamma}^G = O_{\Gamma}$ implies $\rho(O_{\gamma}^G, O_{\Gamma}) = 0$. Hence $d_{\gamma}(G) = d_{\Gamma}^{\Gamma}(G)$.
Since G is non-trivial and the 3 constituent knots are trivial, we have $d(G) \geq 2$ by Lemma.
Hence, if $c_{\gamma}(G) = 7$, then $d(G) = d_{\gamma}(G) = d_{\Gamma}^{\Gamma}(G) = 2$.

**By the diagram, $c_\gamma(G) \leq 7$. We show $c_\gamma(G) \geq 7$.
By the classification of algebraic tangles with
crossing numbers ≤ 6 in:**

**H. Moriuchi, Enumeration of algebraic tangles with applications
to theta-curves and handcuff graphs, Kyungpook Math. J.
48(2008), 337-357**

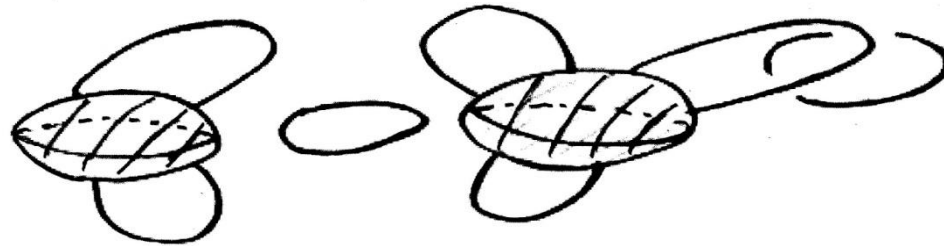
**the Kinoshita's θ -curve G cannot have any
based diagram with crossing number ≤ 6 .
Hence $c_\gamma(G)=7$.**

2.7. A β -unknotted graph

For a base $T = T_1 \cup T_2 \cup \dots \cup T_r$ of G , let B be the disjoint union of mutually disjoint 3-ball neighborhoods B_i of T_i in S^3 ($i=1,2,\dots,r$).

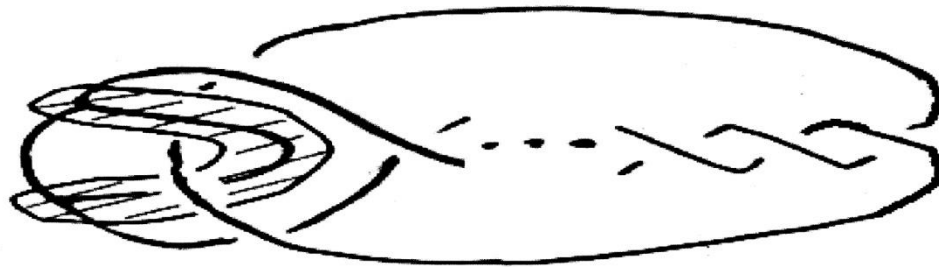
Let $B^c = \text{cl}(S^3 - B)$ be the complement domain of B with $L = B^c \cap G = a_1 \cup a_2 \cup \dots \cup a_n$ an n -string tangle in B^c , called the complementary tangle of T .

Definition. G is β -unknotted if \exists a base T of G whose complementary tangle (B^c, L) is trivial.



A trivial complementary tangle

Example 1.7.1. For a θ -curve Γ , \exists ∞ -many β -unknotted graphs G of Γ up to equivalences.



Example 1.7.2. Triviality of the complementary tangle (B^c, L) depends on a choice of a base.



Example 1.7.3. If G is β -unknotted, then G is a free graph (i.e., $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 - G)$ is a free group), but the converse is not true.



A free β -knotted graph

**By definitions and examples explained above,
we have:**

Theorem.

**Γ -unknotted \Rightarrow γ -unknotted \Rightarrow unknotted
 \Rightarrow β -unknotted \Rightarrow free.**

These concepts are mutually distinct.

**Note: Given a Γ , \exists only finitely many Γ -unknotted,
 γ -unknotted, or unknotted graphs of Γ .**

2.8. The unknotting number

Let $O = \{\text{unknotted graphs of } \Gamma\}$.

Definition.

The unknotting number $u(G)$ of a spatial graph G of Γ is the distance from G to O by crossing changes on edges attaching to a base:

$$u(G) = \rho(G, O).$$

2.9. A β -unknotting number

Let $O_\beta = \{\beta\text{-unknotted graphs of } \Gamma\}$.

Definition.

The β -unknotting number $u_\beta(G)$ of a spatial graph G of Γ is the distance from G to O_β by crossing changes on edges attaching to a base:

$$u_\beta(G) = \rho(G, O_\beta).$$

2.10. A γ -unknotting number

Given G , let

$$\{D_{G,\gamma}\} = \{(D;T) \in [D_G] \mid c(D;T) = c_\gamma(G)\}$$

(the set of minimal crossing based diagrams).

Definition.

The γ -unknotting number $u_\gamma(G)$ of a spatial graph G of Γ is the distance from $\{D_{G,\gamma}\}$ to O by crossing changes on edges attaching to a base:

$$u_\gamma(G) = \rho(\{D_{G,\gamma}\}, O).$$

Note. G is γ -unknotted $\Leftrightarrow u_\gamma(G) = 0$.

2.11. Γ -unknotting number

Let $O_\Gamma = \{\Gamma\text{-unknotted graphs}\}$.

Definition.

The Γ -unknotting number $u^\Gamma(G)$ of G is the distance from G to O_Γ by crossing changes on edges attaching to a base:

$$u^\Gamma(G) = \rho(G, O_\Gamma)$$

Definition.

The (γ, Γ) -unknotting number $u_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G)$ of G is the distance from $\{D_{G, \gamma}\}$ to O_{Γ} by crossing changes on edges attaching to a base:

$$u_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G) = \rho(\{D_{G, \gamma}\}, O_{\Gamma}).$$

2.12. Distinctness of the unknotting numbers

Theorem 2.5.1. The unknotting numbers

$$u_{\beta}(G), u(G), u^{\Gamma}(G), u_{\gamma}(G), u_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G)$$

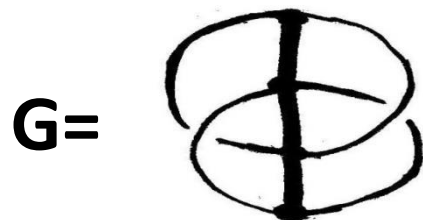
of \forall spatial graph G of \forall graph Γ are mutually distinct topological invariants and satisfy the following inequalities :

$$u_{\beta}(G) \leq u(G) \leq \{u_{\gamma}(G), u^{\Gamma}(G)\} \leq u_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G).$$

Proof. The inequalities are direct from definitions.

We show that these invariants are distinct.

(1)



G has $c_\gamma(G)=2$ and hence $u_\beta(G)=u(G)=u_\gamma(G)=0$.

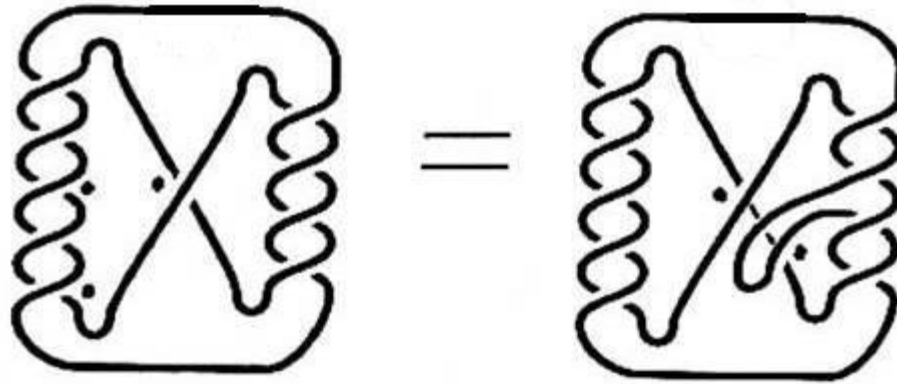
On the other hand, we have

$$u^\Gamma(G)=u^\Gamma_\gamma(G)=1,$$

for G is a spatial graph of a plane graph with a Hopf link as a constituent link and hence not Γ -unknotted.

(2)

Let $G =$



$G=10_8$ has $u(10_8)=2$ and $u_\gamma(10_8)=3$ by

[Nakanishi 1983] and [Bleiler 1984]. Hence

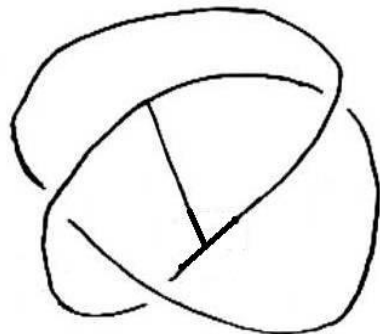
$$u_\beta(G) = u(G) = u^\Gamma(G) = 2 < u_\gamma(G) = u_\gamma^\Gamma(G) = 3.$$

[Nakanishi 1983] Y. Nakanishi, Unknotting numbers and knot diagrams with the minimum crossings, Math. Sem. Notes Kobe Univ. 11 (1983), no. 2, 257-258.

[Bleiler 1984] S. A. Bleiler, A note on unknotting number, Math. Proc. Cambridge Philos. Soc. 96 (1984), 469-471.

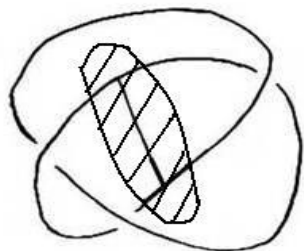
(3)

G =

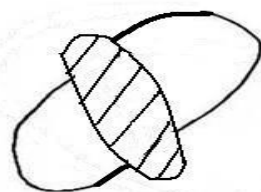


Then $u_{\beta}(G) = 0$.

In fact:



=



Since G is a Θ -curve,

$u(G) = 0 \Leftrightarrow G$ is isotopic to a plane graph.

G has a trefoil constituent knot.

Hence $u(G) \geq 1$.

Thus, we have $u(G) = u^{\Gamma}(G) = u_{\gamma}(G) = u^{\Gamma}_{\gamma}(G) = 1$. //

2.13. The values of the unknotting numbers

Theorem 2.13.1. For \forall given graph Γ and \forall integer $n \geq 1$, \exists ∞ -many spatial graphs G of Γ such that

$$u_{\beta}(G) = u(G) = u_{\gamma}(G) = u^{\Gamma}(G) = u_{\gamma}^{\Gamma}(G) = n.$$

Infinite cyclic covering homology of a spatial graph

For a spatial graph G of Γ in $S^3 = \mathbb{R}^3 \cup \{\infty\}$ with a base T and oriented edges $\alpha_i (i=1,2,\dots,s)$ attaching to T .

Let $E(G) = \text{cl}(S^3 - N(G))$ for a regular neighborhood $N(G)$ of G in S^3 .

Let $\chi: H_1(E(G)) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be the epimorphism sending the meridians of $\alpha_i (i=1,2,\dots,m)$ to $1 \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Let $E(G)_\infty \rightarrow E(G)$ be the ∞ -cyclic cover of $E(G)$ associated with χ .

Let $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$.

The homology $H_1(E(G)_\infty)$ is a finitely generated Λ -module which we denote by $M(G, T)_\infty$.

We take an exact sequence (over Λ)

$$\Lambda^a \rightarrow \Lambda^b \rightarrow M(G, T)_\infty \rightarrow 0,$$

where we take $a \geq b$. A matrix $A(G, T)_\infty$ over Λ representing the homomorphism $\Lambda^a \rightarrow \Lambda^b$ is called a presentation matrix of the module $M(G, T)_\infty$.

For an integer $d \geq 0$, the d^{th} ideal $\varepsilon_d(G, T)_\infty$ of $M(G, T)_\infty$ is the ideal generated by all the $(b-d)$ -minors of $A(G, T)_\infty$.

The ideals $\varepsilon_d(G, T)_\infty$ ($d=0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$) are invariants of the Λ -module $M(G, T)_\infty$.

Let (Δ_d) be the smallest principal ideal containing $\varepsilon_d(G, T)_\infty$. Then the Laurent polynomial $\Delta_d \in \Lambda$ is called the d^{th} Alexander polynomial of $M(G, T)_\infty$.

If G is a knot (with $T=\phi$), then $\Delta_0 \in \Lambda$ is called the Alexander polynomial of the knot G .

Assume that G^* is obtained from G by k crossing changes on α_i ($i=1,2,\dots,m$). Then χ induces the epimorphism $\chi^*:H_1(E(G^*))\rightarrow Z$.

Let $m(G,T)_\infty$ and $m(G^*,T)_\infty$ be the numbers of minimal Λ -generators of the Λ -modules $M(G,T)_\infty$ and $M(G^*,T)_\infty$, respectively.

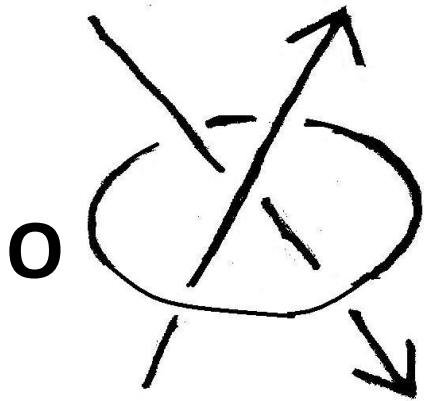
We use the following lemma:

Lemma A.

A. Kawauchi, Distance between links by zero-linking twists, Kobe J. Math.13(1996), 183-190.

$$|m(G,T)_\infty - m(G^*,T)_\infty| \leq k.$$

Proof.

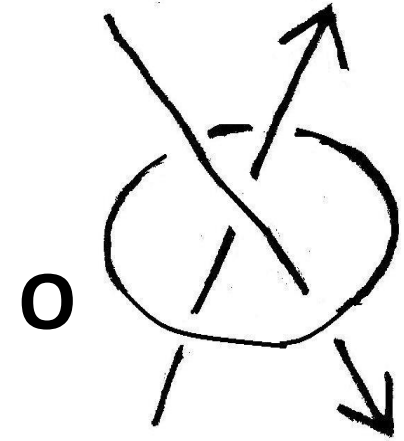


(-1)-crossing

(+1)-twist on O



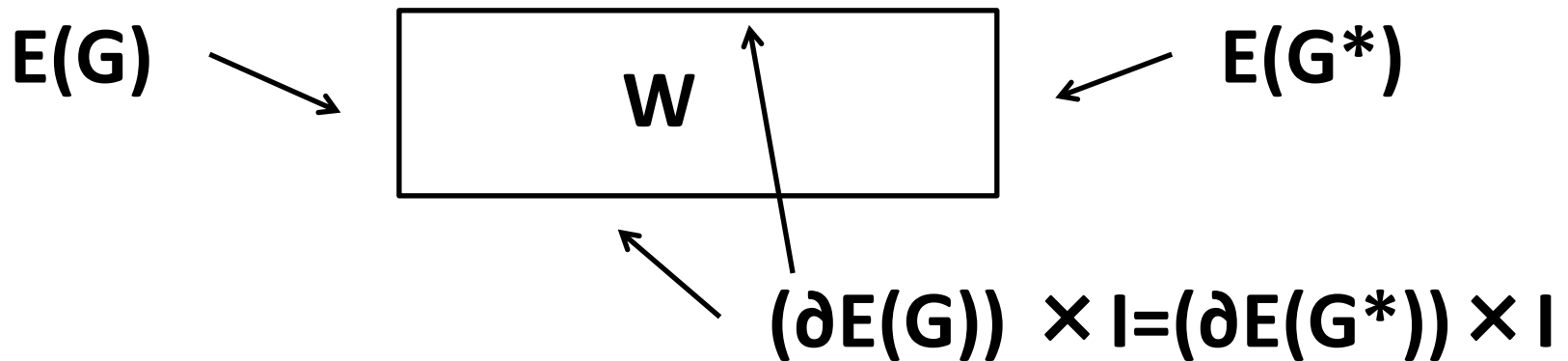
(-1)-twist on O



(+1)-crossing

G^* is obtained from G by k crossing changes on the edges α_i ($i=1,2,\dots,m$). G is also obtained from G^* by k crossing changes on the corresponding edges α_i^* ($i=1,2,\dots,m$).

Let $W = E(G) \times I \cup_{i=1}^k D^2 \times D^2_i$
 be a surgery trace from $E(G)$ to $E(G^*)$ by
 2-handles $D^2 \times D^2_i$ ($i=1,2,\dots,k$), which is also a
 surgery trace from $E(G^*)$ to $E(G)$ by the “dual”
 2-handles $D^2 \times D^2_i$ ($i=1,2,\dots,k$).



By construction, χ and χ^* extend to an epimorphism $\chi^+:H_1(W)\rightarrow Z$.

Let $(W_\infty;E(G)_\infty,E(G^*)_\infty)$ be the ∞ -cyclic cover of $(W;E(G), E(G^*))$ associated with χ^+ .

Let $m(W_\infty)$ be the minimal number of Λ -generators of the Λ -module $H_1(W_\infty)$.

Then we have

$$m(W_\infty) \leq m(G, T)_\infty,$$

$$m(W_\infty) \leq m(G^*, T)_\infty.$$

Because, the natural homomorphisms

$$\pi_1(E(G)) \rightarrow \pi_1(W) \text{ and } \pi_1(E(G^*)) \rightarrow \pi_1(W)$$

are onto, so that the natural homomorphisms

$$H_1(E(G)_\infty) \rightarrow H_1(W_\infty) \text{ and } H_1(E(G^*)_\infty) \rightarrow H_1(W_\infty)$$

are onto.

By the exact sequence of the pair $(W_\infty, E(G)_\infty)$

$$H_2(W_\infty, E(G)_\infty) \rightarrow H_1(E(G)_\infty) \rightarrow H_1(W_\infty) \rightarrow 0$$

and $H_2(W_\infty, E(G)_\infty) = \Lambda^k$, we obtain

$$m(G, T)_\infty \leq k + m(W_\infty) \leq k + m(G^*, T)_\infty.$$

Similarly,

$$m(G^*, T)_\infty \leq k + m(W_\infty) \leq k + m(G, T)_\infty.$$

Thus, we have

$$|m(G, T)_\infty - m(G^*, T)_\infty| \leq k. \quad //$$

Proof of Theorem 2.13.1.

Let G_0 be a Γ -unknotted graph.

Let K be a trefoil knot, and $K(n)$ the n -fold connected sum of K . Then

$$u(K(n)) = u_\gamma(K(n)) = n \text{ for } \forall n \geq 1.$$

Let $G = G_0 \# K(n)$ be the connected sum of $K(n)$ and an edge attaching to a base T_0 of G_0 .

Then $u_\gamma(G) \leq n$ since $c_\gamma(G) = c_\gamma(G_0) + c_\gamma(K(n))$.

We show $u_\beta(G) \geq n$.

Assume that $u_\beta(G)=k$. Then a β -unknotted graph G^* is obtained from G by k crossing changes on edges $\alpha_i (i=1,2,\dots,m)$ attaching to a base T in G .

We choose orientations on $\alpha_i (i=1,2,\dots,m)$ as it is stated in the following two cases.

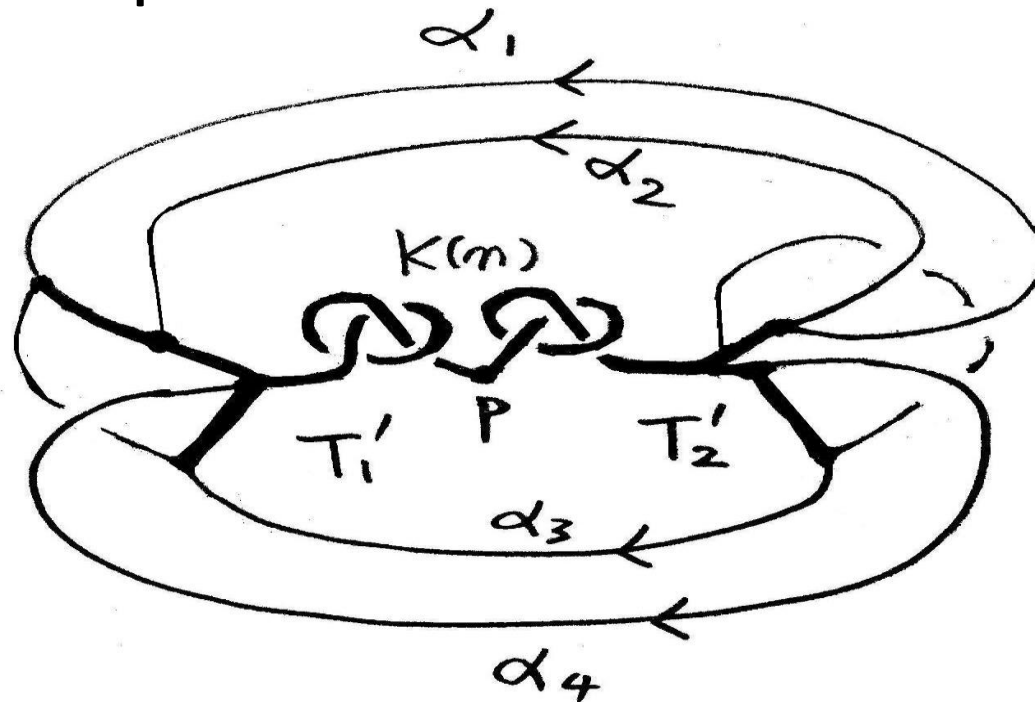
Case (I): $K(n)$ is in an edge α_i .

Case (II): $K(n)$ is in a component T' of the base T .

In Case (I), take any orientations on $\alpha_i (i=1,2,\dots,m)$.

In Case (II), let T'_1 and T'_2 be the components of $T' - \{p\}$ for a point $p \in K(n)$, and α_i ($i=1,2,\dots,u$) the edges joining T'_1 and T'_2 .

We take orientations of the edges α_i ($i=1,2,\dots,u$) going from T'_2 to T'_1 and any orientations of the other edges α_i ($i=u+1,u+2,\dots,m$).



Let $\chi: H_1(E(G)) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be the epimorphism sending the oriented meridians of α_i ($i=1,2,\dots,m$) to $1 \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Then we have

in Case(I), $M(G,T)_\infty = \Lambda^{m-1} \oplus [\Lambda/(\Delta_K(\mathbf{t}))]^n$, and

in Case(II), $M(G,T)_\infty = \Lambda^{m-1} \oplus [\Lambda/(\Delta_K(\mathbf{t}^u))]^n$.

In either case, we have $m(G,T)_\infty = m+n-1$.

On the other hand, $\pi_1(E(G^*))$ is a free group of rank m and hence $M(G^*, T)_\infty = \Lambda^{m-1}$.

Thus, $m(G^*, T)_\infty = m-1$.

By Lemma A, $|(m(G, T)_\infty - m(G^*, T)_\infty)| = n \leq k$.

Hence $u_\beta(G) \geq n$ and

$u_\beta(G) = u(G) = u_\gamma(G) = u^\Gamma(G) = u_\gamma^\Gamma(G) = n. //$