

The reductivity of knot projections

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§ 0. Outline

P: a knot projection

$r(P)$: the reductivity of P

Example

$$r(\text{unknot})=0 \quad r(\text{Trefoil})=1 \quad r(\text{Figure-eight})=2 \quad r(\text{Unknot with self-tangle})=3$$

Theorem (S.)

$$r(P) \leq 4 \quad (\forall P)$$

Reducitivity problem

$$\exists ? P \text{ s.t. } r(P)=4$$



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§1. Knot projections

§2. Half-twisted splice

§3. Reductivity

§4. 2-gons & 3-gons

§5. Unavoidable sets

§6. 4-gons & 5-gons

§7. 2-gons & 3-gons again

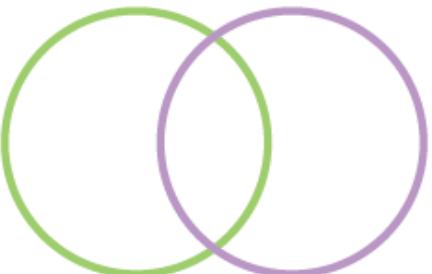




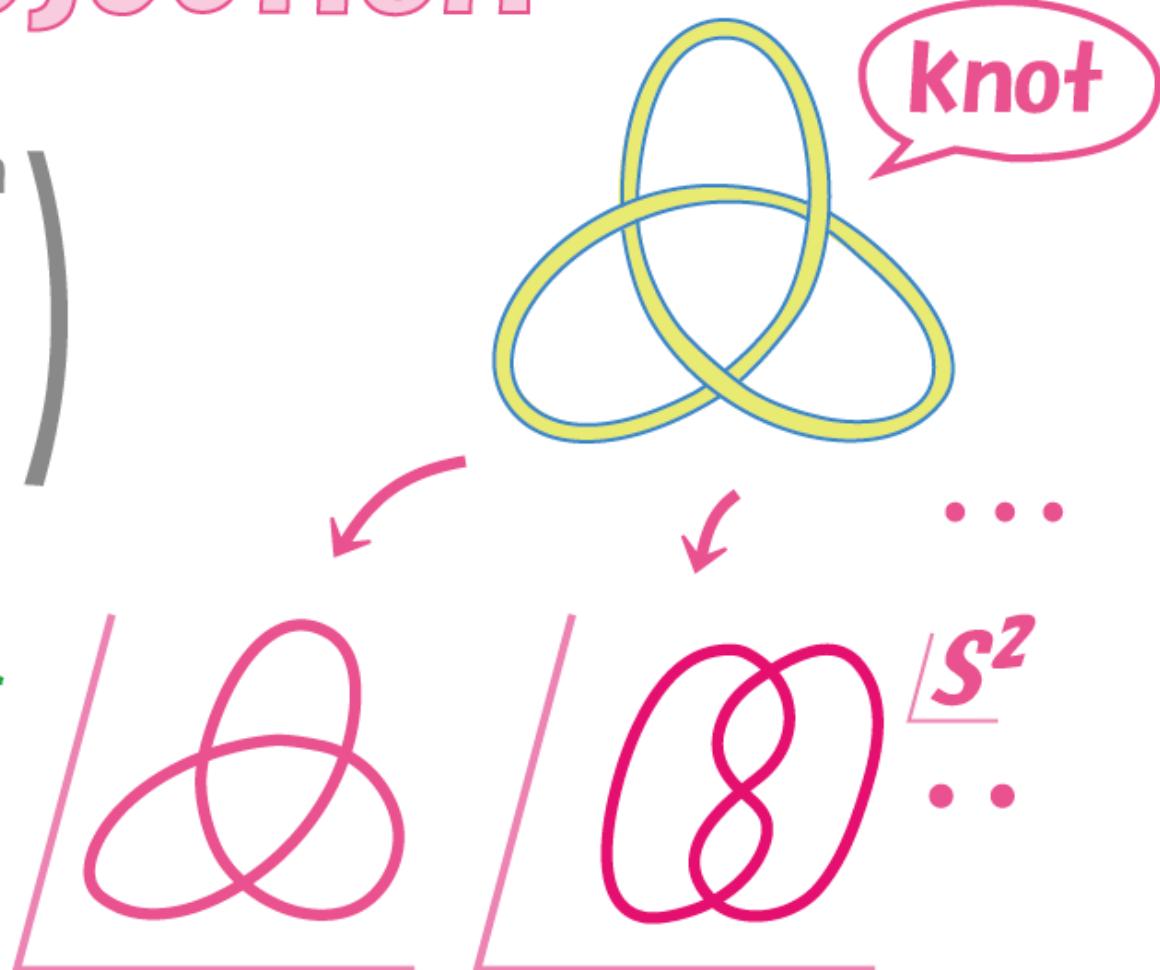
§ 1. Knot *projections*

Knot projection

(cf. link projection)

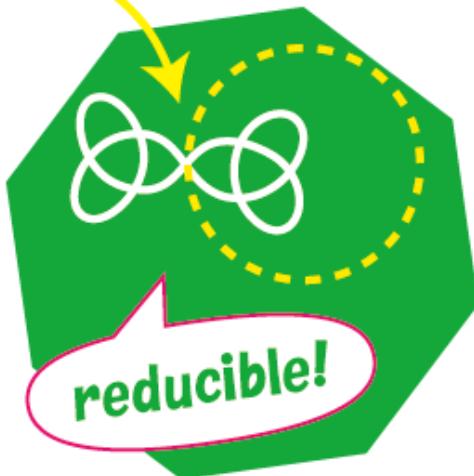


knot projection
(spherical curve)

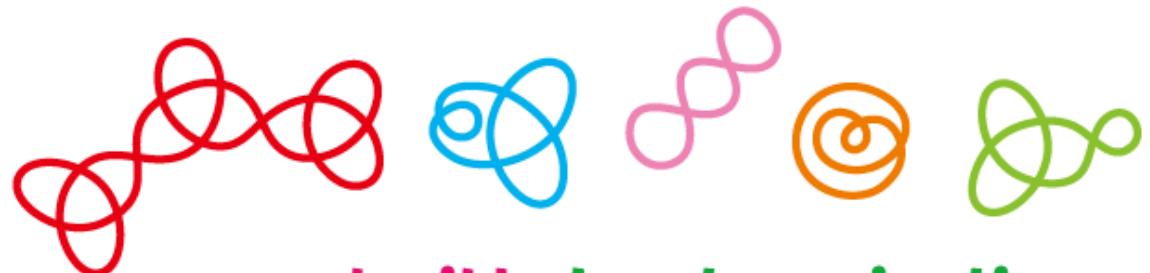


We consider knot projections which have
at least one crossing.

reducible crossing

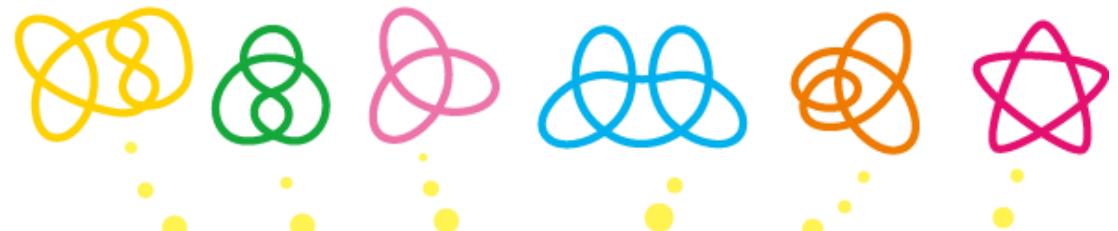


Knot
projections



reducible knot projections

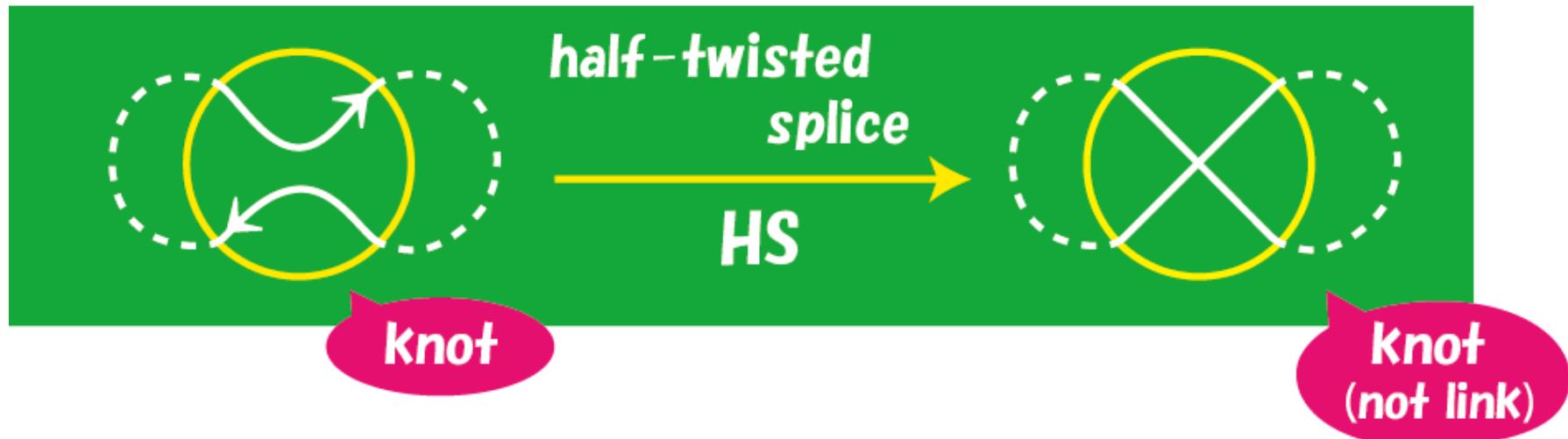
reduced knot projections



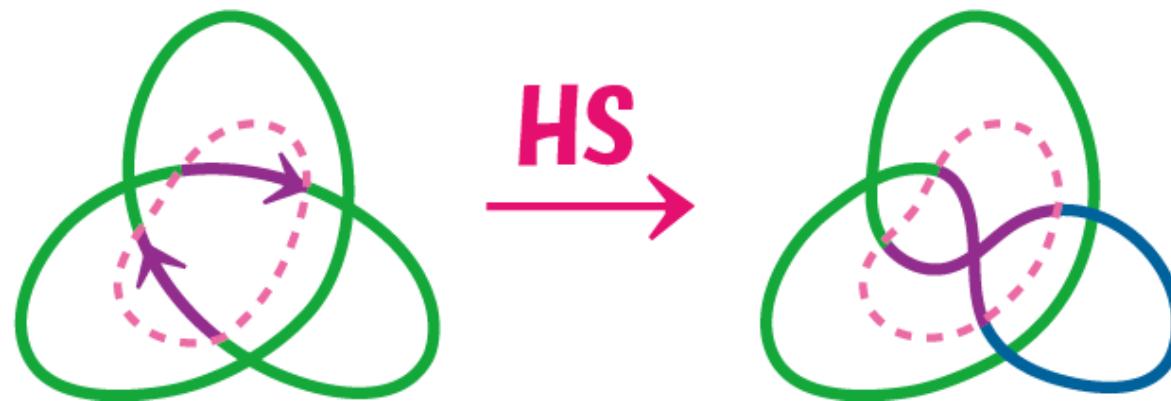
How reduced are we??

§ 2. Half-twisted splice

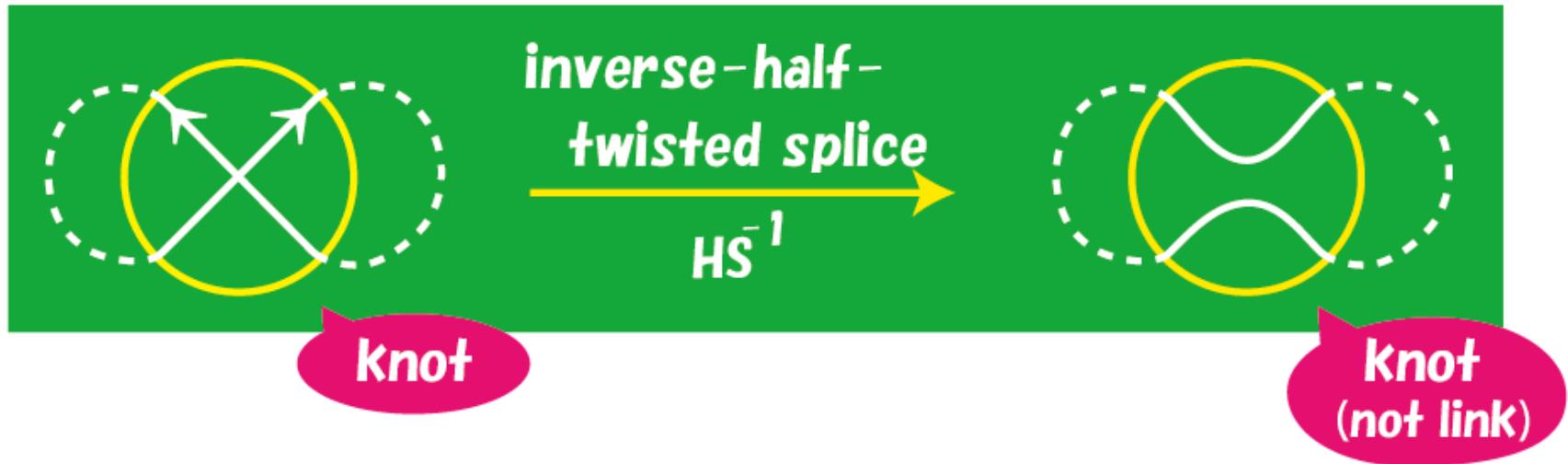
Half-twisted splice (HS)



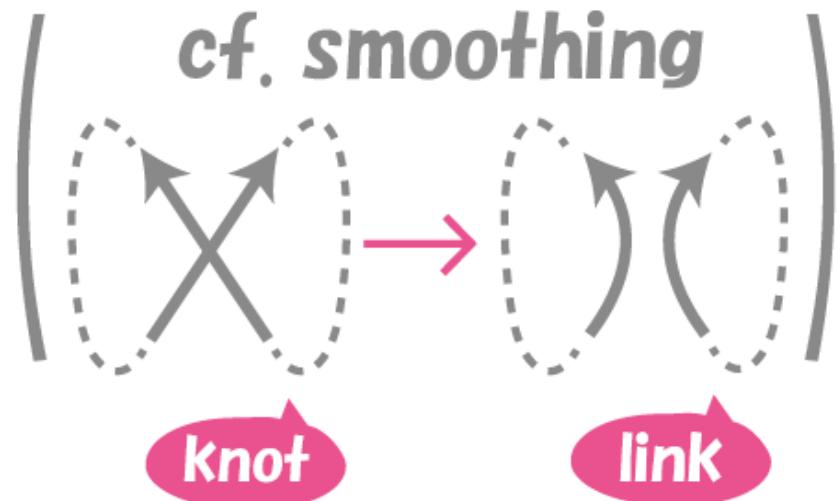
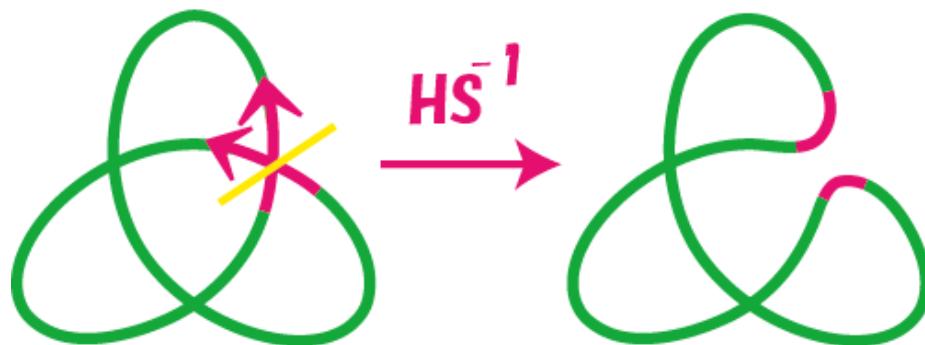
Example



Inverse-half-twisted splice (HS^{-1})

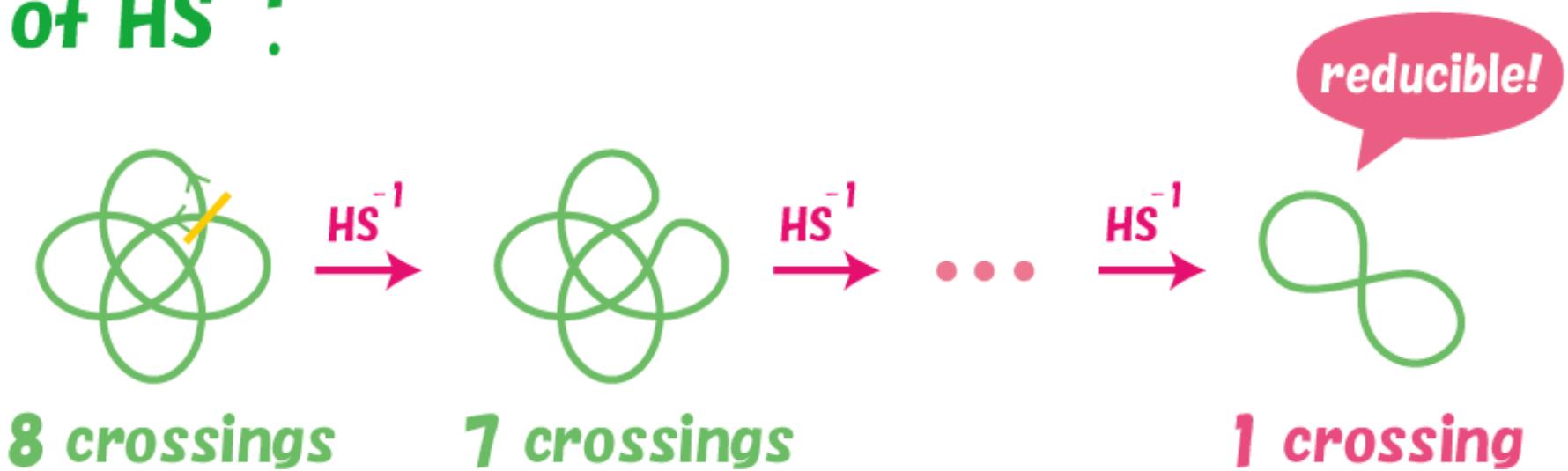


Example



Remark

We can obtain a **reducible knot projection** from any knot projection by a finite number of HS^{-1} !



§ 3. Reductivity

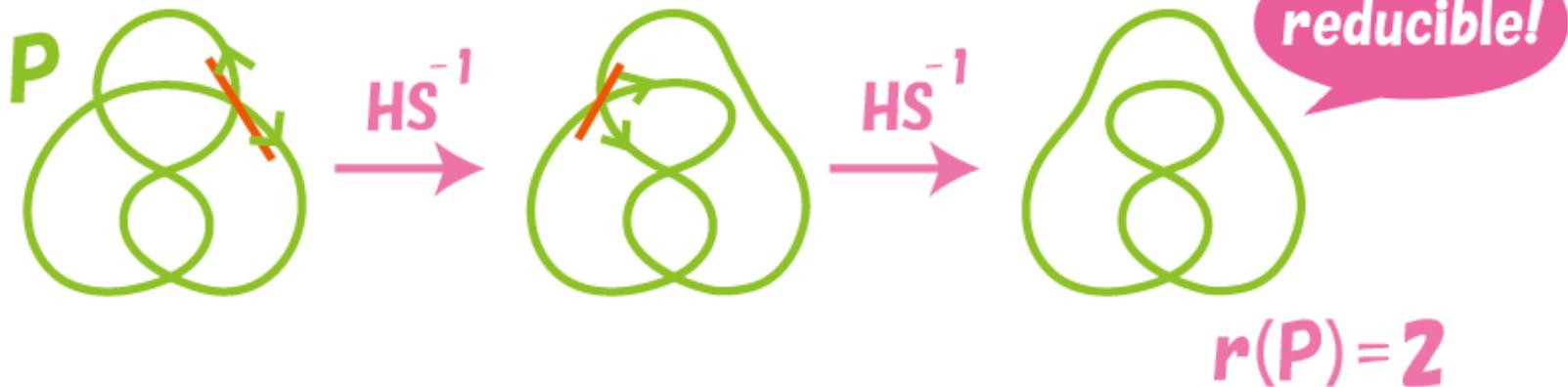


Reducitivity - how much reduced??

Definition P : a knot projection

The **reductivity** $r(P)$ of P is the minimal number of HS^{-1} which are needed to obtain a **reducible knot projection** from P .

Example



Example

$$r\left(\text{Trefoil Knot}\right)=0 \quad r\left(\text{Figure-eight Knot}\right)=1$$

$$r\left(\text{Unknot}\right)=2 \quad r\left(\text{Borromean Rings}\right)=3$$



There exist infinitely many Knot projections P with $r(P)=0, 1, 2,$ and $3.$

Reducitivity is four or less

Theorem 1 (S)

$$r(P) \leq 4 \quad (\forall P)$$

Reducitivity problem

$$\exists ? P \text{ s.t. } r(P) = 4$$

Reference: A. Shimizu, The reductivity of spherical curves, Topology and its Applications 196 (2015).

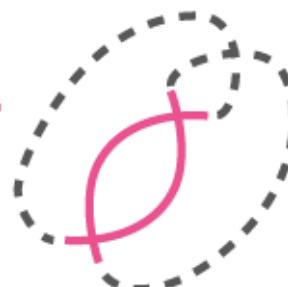


§4. 2-gons & 3-gons

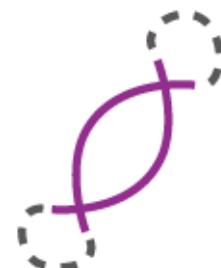
2-gons & 3-gons

There are two types of 2-gons:

incoherent
2-gon



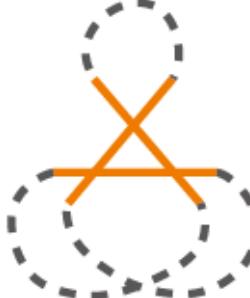
coherent
2-gon



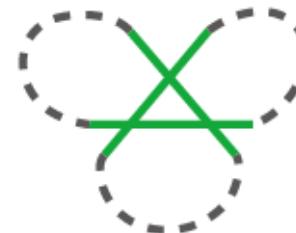
There are four types of 3-gons:



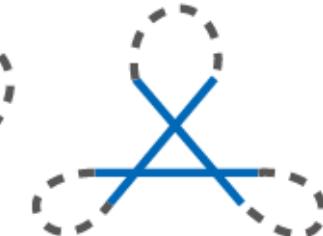
type A



type B

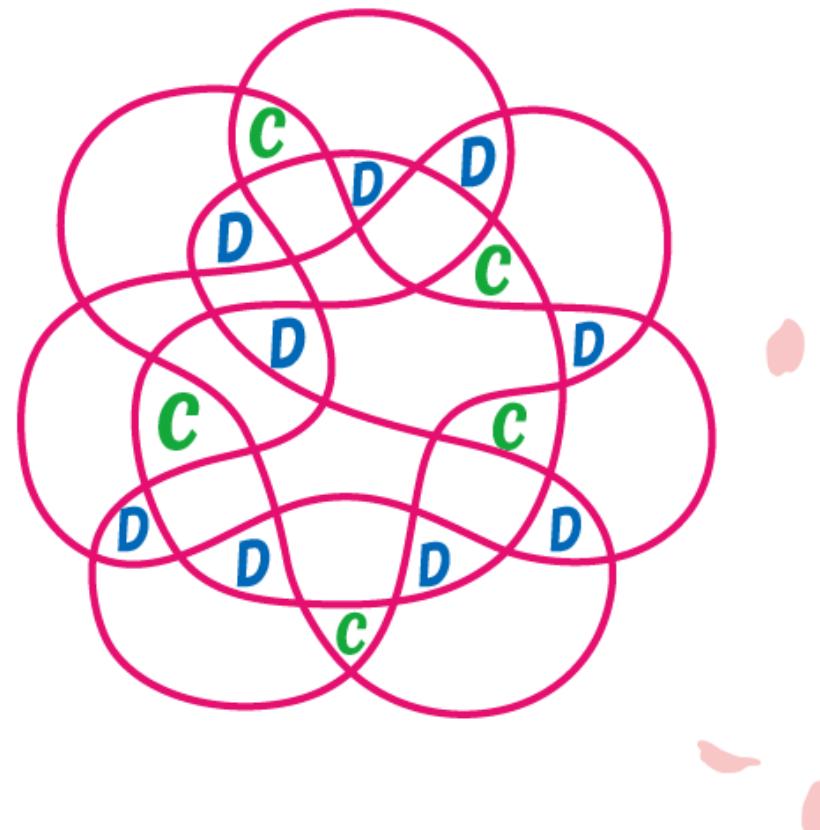
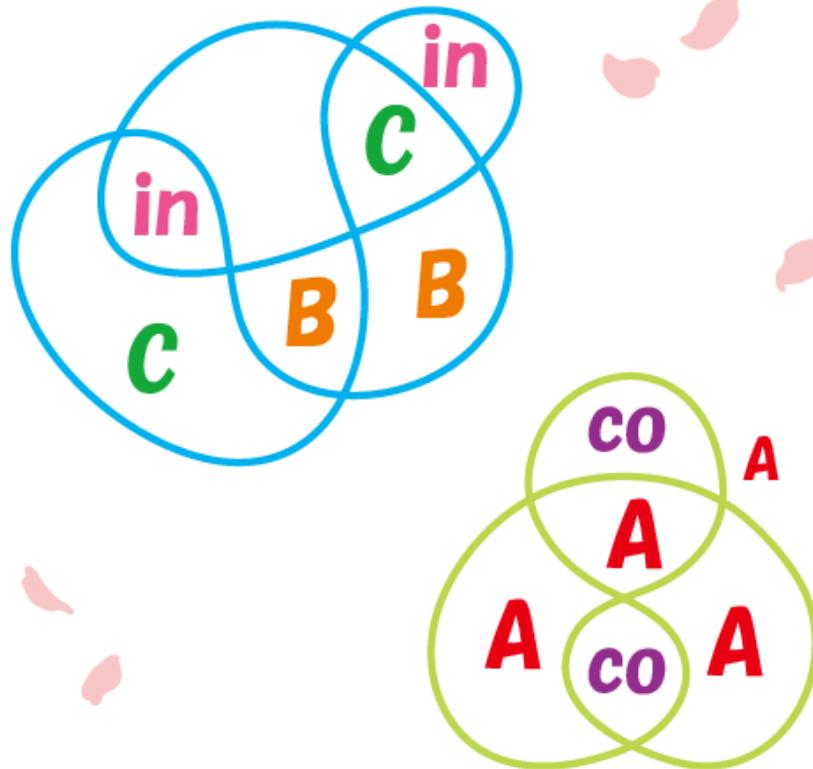


type C



type D

Example



incoherent
2-gon



coherent
2-gon



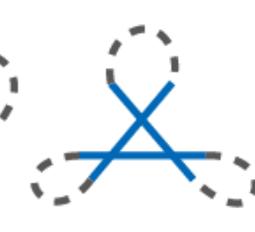
type A



type B



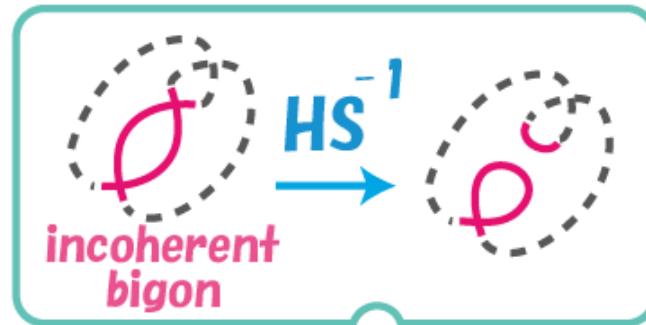
type C



type D

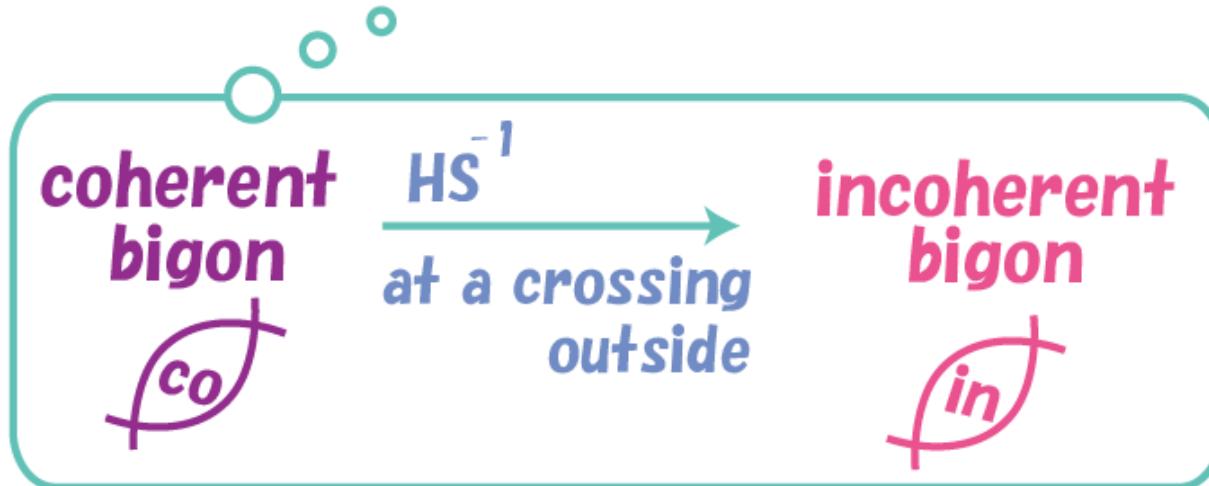
2-gons

Lemma 2



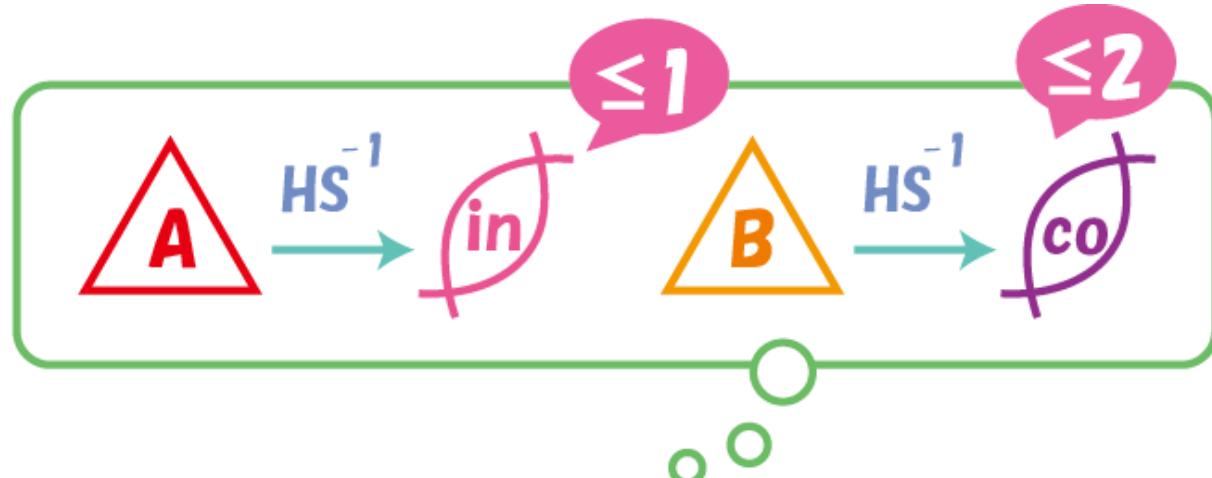
If P has an incoherent 2-gon, then $r(P) \leq 1$.

If P has a coherent 2-gon, then $r(P) \leq 2$.



3-gons

Lemma 3

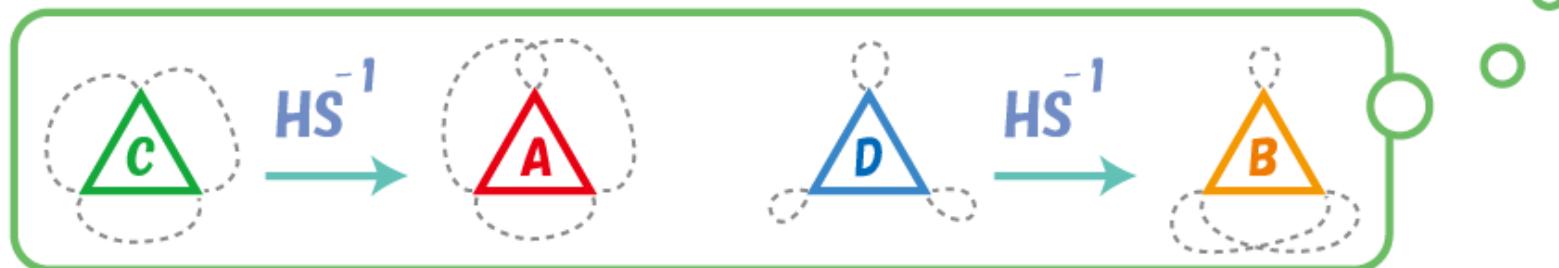


If P has a 3-gon of type A, then $r(P) \leq 2$.

If P has a 3-gon of type B, then $r(P) \leq 3$.

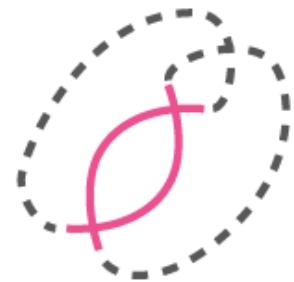
If P has a 3-gon of type C, then $r(P) \leq 3$.

If P has a 3-gon of type D, then $r(P) \leq 4$.

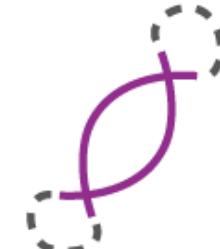


Corollary 4

If P has at least one of



incoherent
2-gon



coherent
2-gon



3-gon of
type A



3-gon of
type B



3-gon of
type C

then $r(P) \leq 3$.

§ 5. Unavoidable sets



Definition

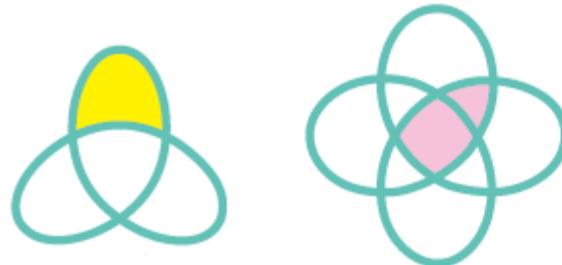
S : a set consisting of parts of knot projections

S is an unavoidable set for a knot proj. if every knot projection has at least one of the parts in S .

Example:



is an unavoidable set for a reduced knot projection.



prove later

AST's theorem

Theorem (Adams–Shinjo–Tanaka)

**Every reduced knot projection has
a 2-gon or 3-gon.**

i.e., $\{ \text{ } \circlearrowleft, \text{ } \times \text{ } \}$ is an unavoidable set for a reduced knot projection.

Reference: C. C. Adams, R. Shinjo and K. Tanaka,
Complementary regions of knot and link diagrams,
Ann. Comb. 15 (2011), 549–563.

Proof of AST's theorem

P: a reduced knot projection

C_n : the number of n -gons of P

Euler's
characteristic

$$v - e + f = 2$$

of crossings

$$\sum_k \frac{k C_k}{4}$$

of edges

$$\sum_k \frac{k C_k}{2}$$

of regions

$$\sum_k C_k$$

$$\rightarrow 2C_2 + C_3 = 8 + C_5 + 2C_6 + 3C_7 + \dots$$

$$\rightarrow C_2 > 0 \text{ or } C_3 > 0$$

AST's formula



Proof of Theorem 1

“reductivity is four or less”

If P is **reducible**, then $r(P)=0$.

(**by definition**)

If P is **reduced**, P has a **2-gon or 3-gon**.

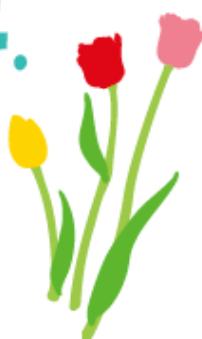
(**by AST's theorem**)

If P has a **2-gon**, then $r(P) \leq 2$.

(**by Lemma 2**)

If P has a **3-gon**, then $r(P) \leq 4$.

(**by Lemma 3**)



Further unavoidable set

Lemma 5

$$\{\text{ }\text{ }\text{ }\text{ }\text{ }\}$$


**is an *unavoidable set*
for a reduced knot projection.**

Proof of Lemma 5

Use the “*discharging method*”
from graph theory
(*four-color theorem*)!

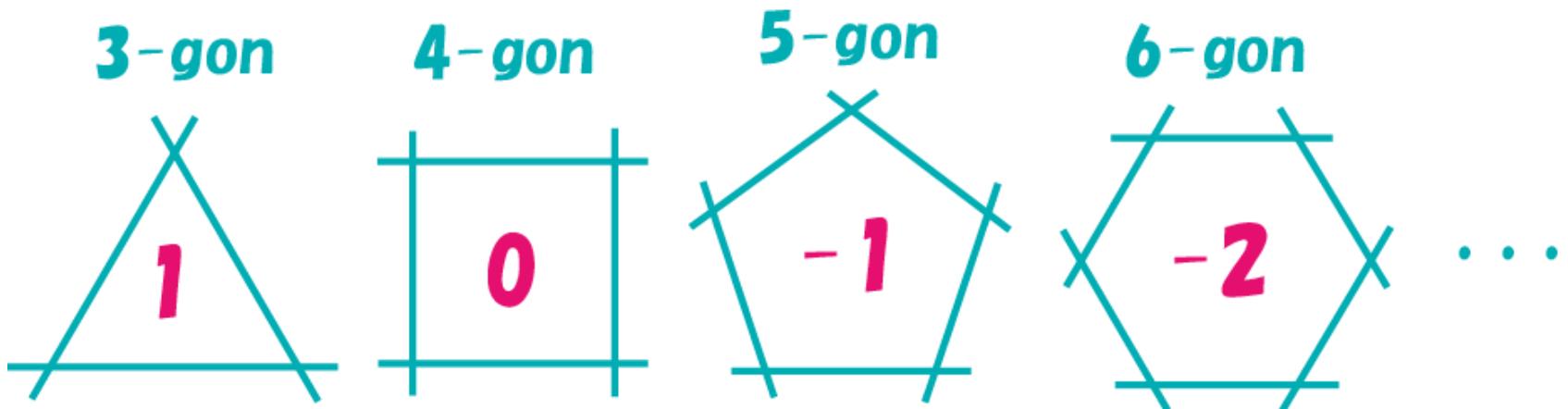
P: a **reduced knot projection**

Assume P does not have any part in



Then, ...

Give “charge” $(4-n)$ to each n -gon.



Then the total charge is...

$$c_3 - c_5 - 2c_6 - 3c_7 - \dots$$

c_n : the number
of n -gons

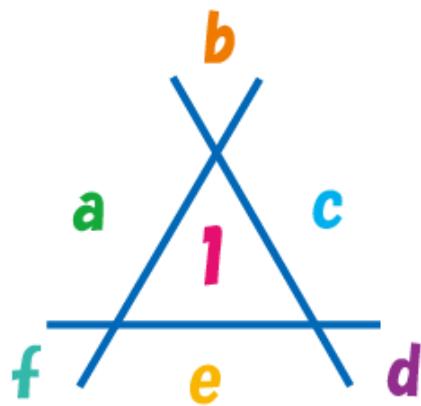
$$= 8$$



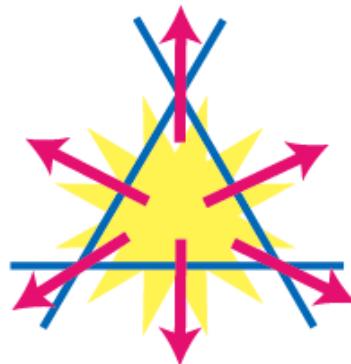
AST's formula
 $2c_2 + c_3 = 8 + c_5 + 2c_6 + 3c_7 + \dots$

“Discharging” at every 3-gon

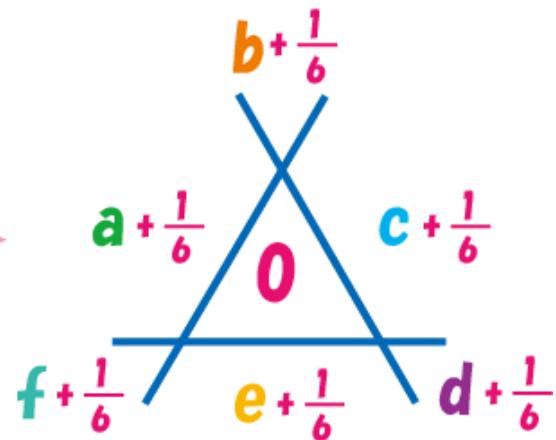
to the neighbor six regions by $\frac{1}{6}$.



before



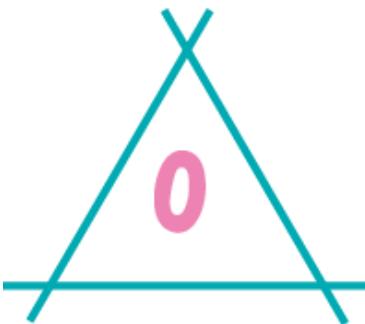
discharging!



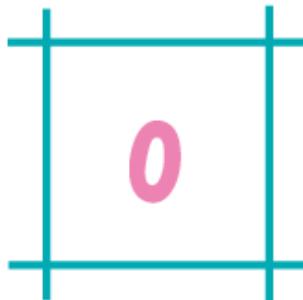
after

After discharging...

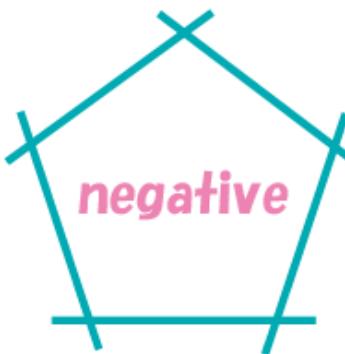
3-gon



4-gon



5-gon



6-gon

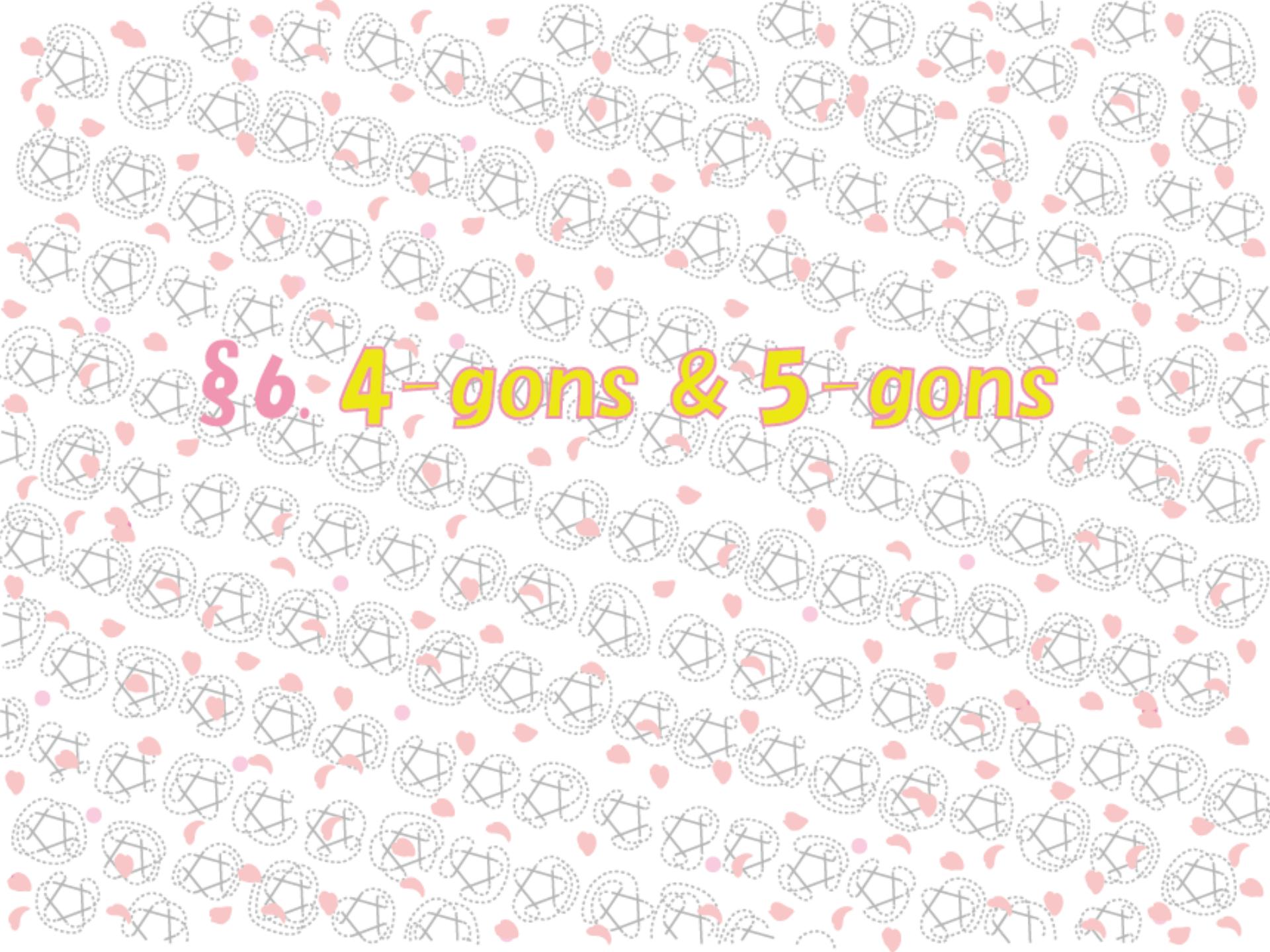


...

Contradicts that the total charge is 8.

Hence $\{\text{X}, \text{X}\textcircled{+}, \text{X}\texttimes, \text{X}\sharp, \text{X}\texttimes\texttimes\}$ is an un-

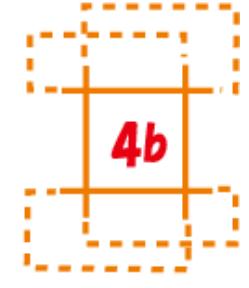
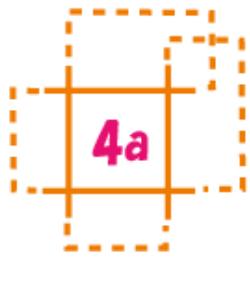
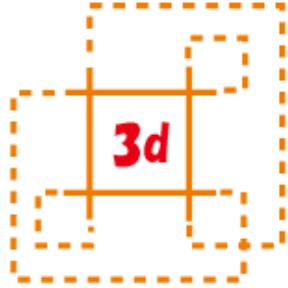
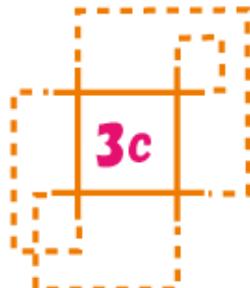
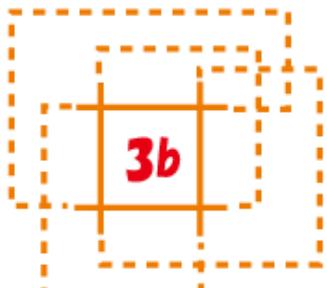
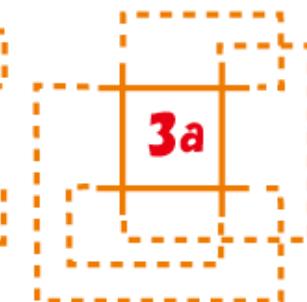
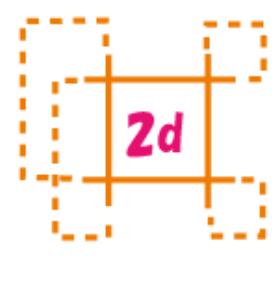
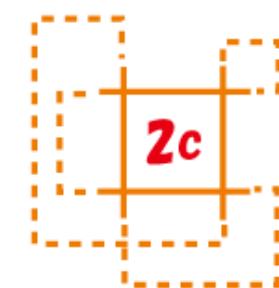
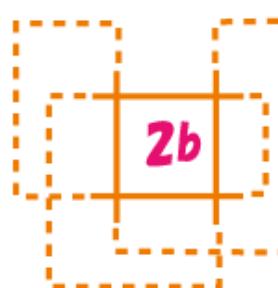
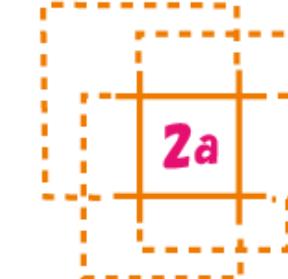
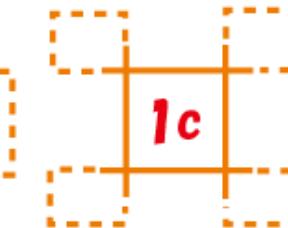
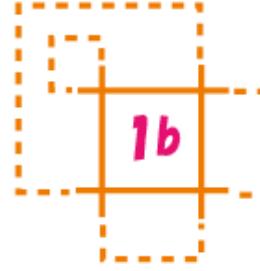
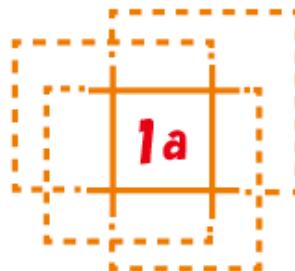
avoidable set for a reduced knot proj.



36: 4-gons & 5-gons

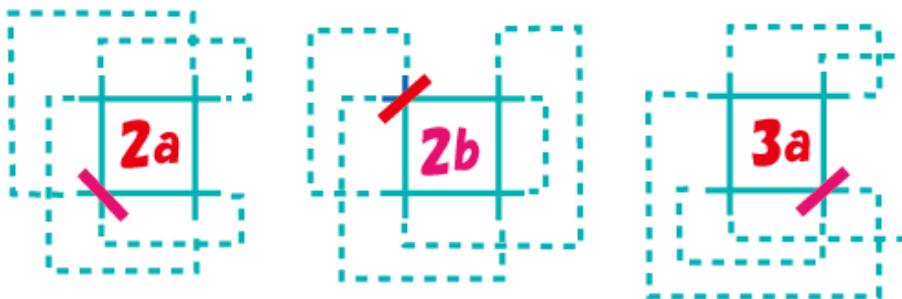
4-gons

There are 13 types of 4-gons:

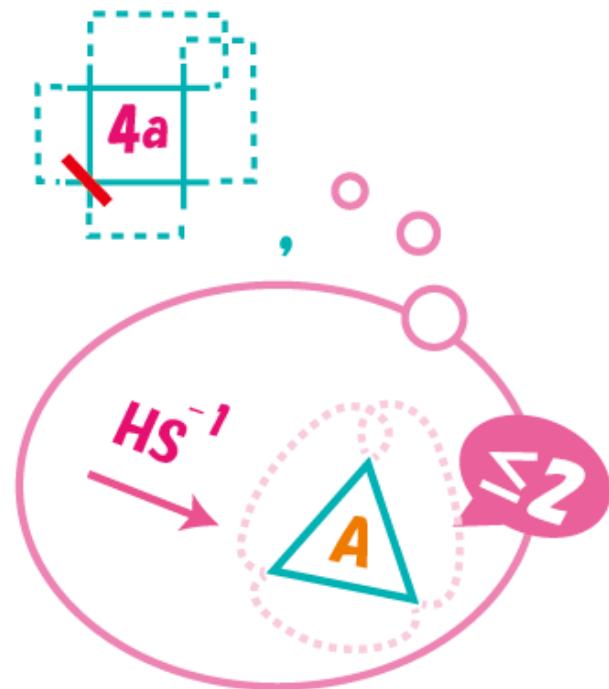


Lemma 6

If a knot projection P has one of

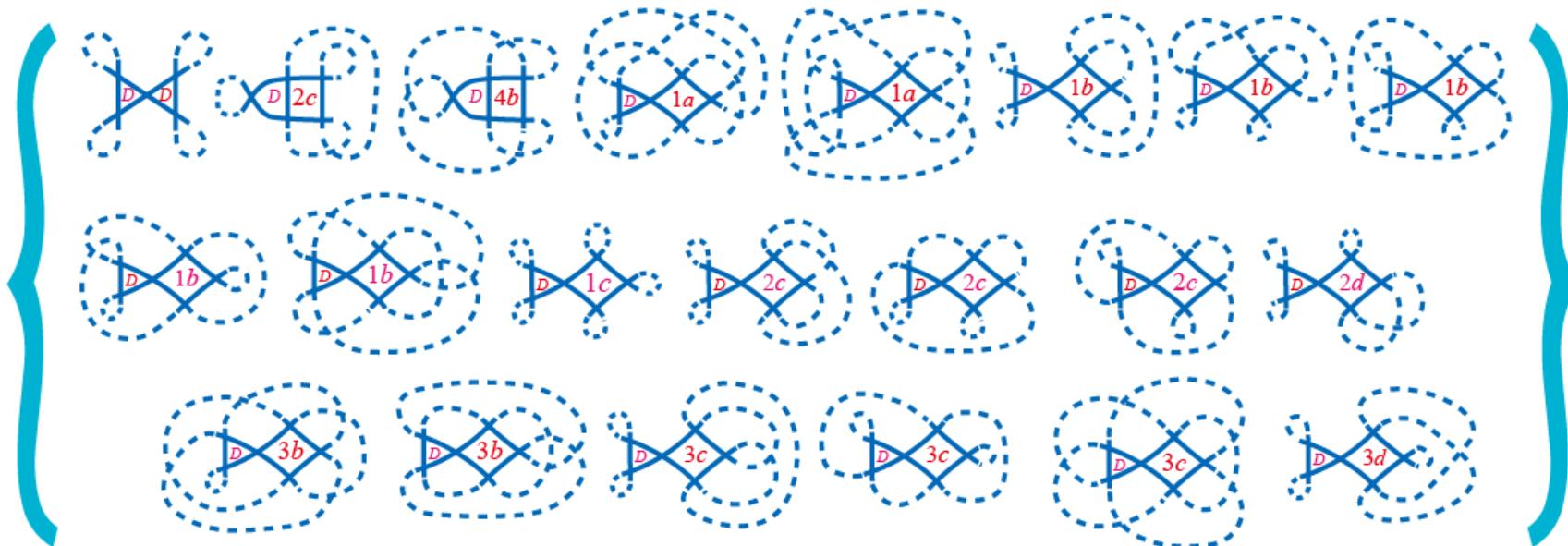


then $r(P) \leq 3$.



Unavoidable set for P with $r(P)=4$

Theorem 7 (Onoda-S)



is an **unavoidable set for a knot projection with reductivity four.**



Reference: Y. Onoda and A. Shimizu, The reductivity of spherical curves Part II: 4-gons, Tokyo J. Math. 41 (2018), 51–63.

5-gons

There are 56 types of 5-gons:



1abcde 1abced 1abdec 1abedc 1acebd 1acedb 1adbec 1aedcb



2abcde 2abced 2abdce 2abdec 2abecd 2abedc 2acbde 2acbed 2acebd 2acedb 2adbce 2adbec 2adcbe 2adceb 2aedbc 2aedcb



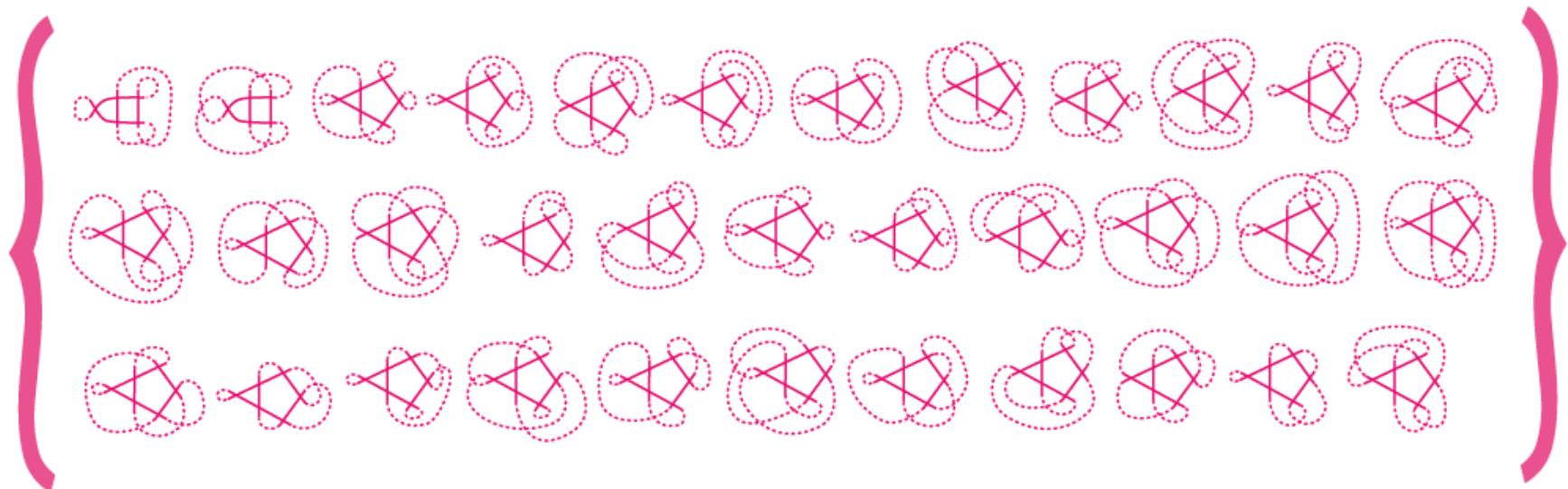
3abcde 3abced 3abdce 3abdec 3abecd 3abedc 3acbde 3acbed 3acdbe 3acebd 3adbec 3adcbe 3adceb 3adecb 3aebcd 3aedcb



4abcde 4abced 4abdce 4abdec 4abecd 4abedc 4acbde 4acbed 4acdbe 4acebd 4acecb 4adbce 4adbec 4adcbe 4adceb 4aecbd 4aedcb

Unavoidable set for P with $r(P)=4$

Theorem 8 (Kashiwabara-S)



is an unavoidable set for a knot projection with reductivity four.



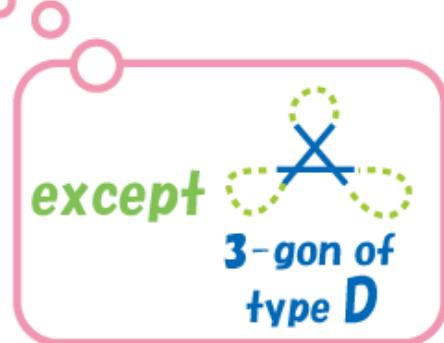
Reference: K. Kashiwabara and A. Shimizu, A note on unavoidable sets for a spherical curve of reductivity four, Kyungpook Math. J. 59 (2019), 821–834.

§7. 2-gons & 3-gons again

Question

Is $\{$  incoherent 2-gon,  coherent 2-gon,  3-gon of type A,  3-gon of type B,  3-gon of type C $\}$

an unavoidable set
for a reduced knot projection?

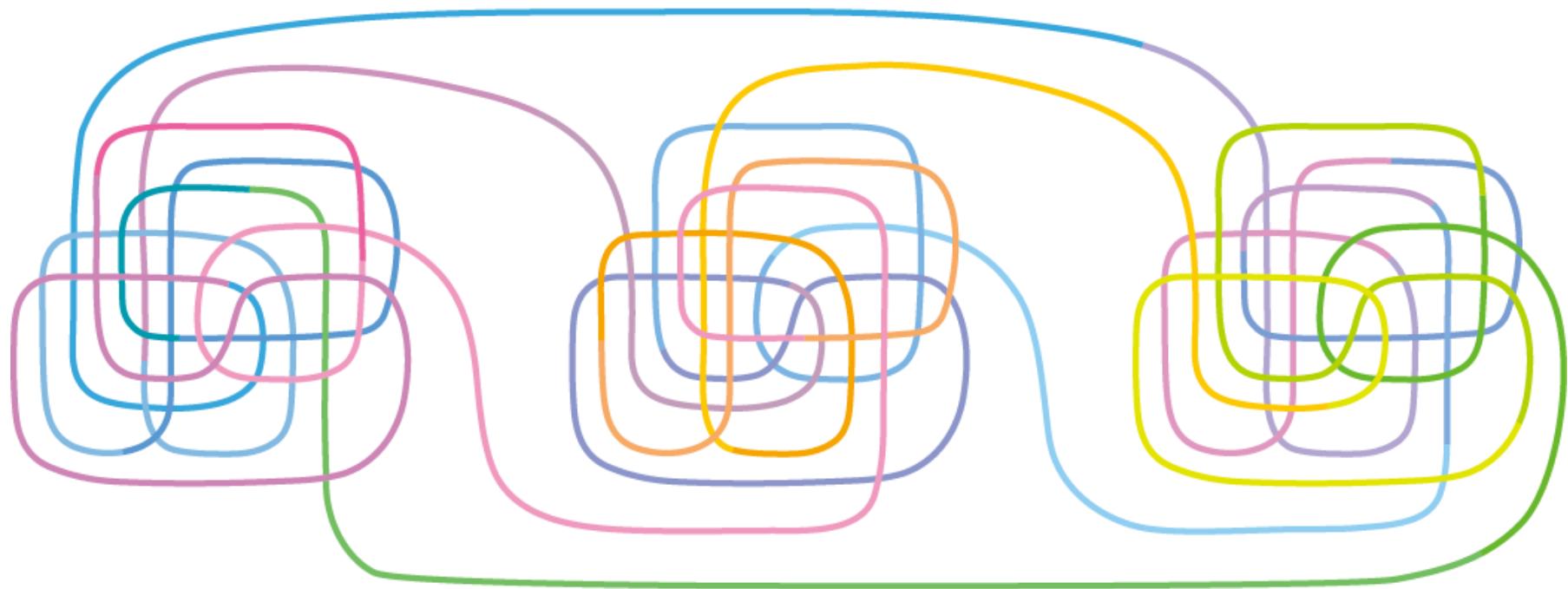


(If so, the reductivity problem
is to be solved negatively,
i.e., $r(P) \leq 3$ for any P .)

NO!

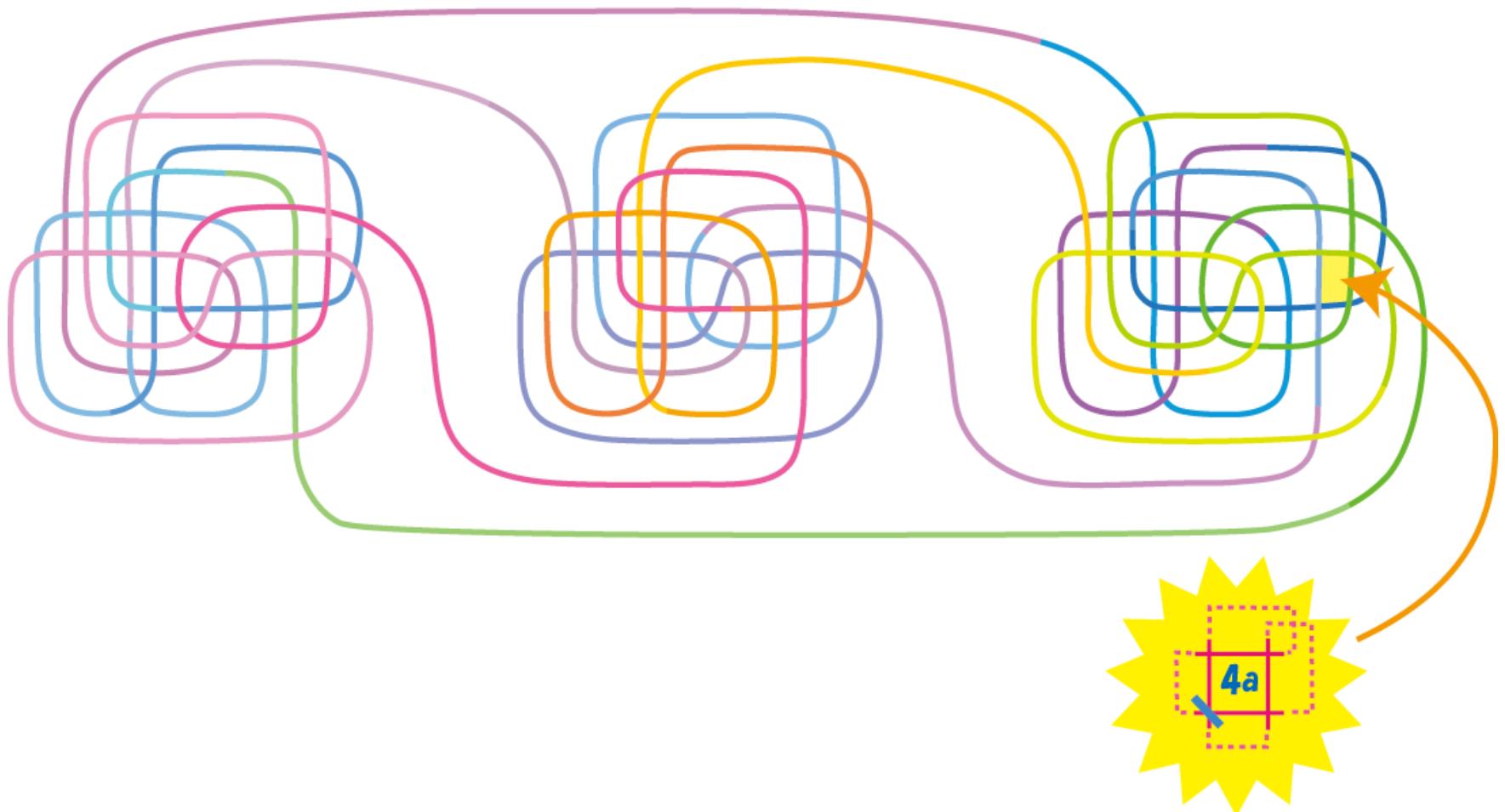
This does not have  or  ,
A B C

and has only  .



Reference: K. Kashiwabara and A. Shimizu, A note on unavoidable sets for a knot projection of reducibility four, Kyungpook Math. J. 59 (2019), 821–834.

However, the reductivity is not four!



Reductivity problem
 $\exists? P$ s.t. $r(P) = 4$



**Thank you
for watching!**

