

**On a topological interpretation of  
quandle cocycle invariants of classical links**

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## Question & History

**Q.** Give a t.p.l. meaning of a quandle cocycle invariants.

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$X$ : a finite quandle

$L \subset S^3$ : link

(Fenn-Rourke-Sanderson, 1996\*)

**Quandle homotopy invariant**

$$\mathbb{E}_X(L) \in \mathbb{Z}[\pi_2(BX)]$$

quandle  
cocycle  
invariant

(Carter  
-Jelsovsky  
-Kamada  
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generalized  
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For “some” quandles  $X$ ,

take the 1-st stage of the Postnikov tower:

$$H_3(\pi_1(BX)) \rightarrow \pi_2(BX) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{H}} H_2(BX) \rightarrow H_2(\pi_1(BX)) \rightarrow 0$$

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**Fact.** (Eisemann)  $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{E}_X(L)) =$  “Colouring polynomial” [Eis]

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**Fact.** (Eisemann)  $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{E}_X(L)) =$  “Colouring polynomial” [Eis]

“Cor.”

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{q'dl homotopy} \\ \text{inv. } \mathbf{E}_X(L) \end{array} \right) = (\text{Colouring poly.}) + \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{“Dijkgraaf-Witten”} \\ \text{inv. DW}_\phi(\hat{C}_L^\ell) \end{array} \right)$$

$\hat{C}_L^\ell$ : cyclic  $\ell$ -fold cov. branched over  $L$ .



Goal: Explanation of the split.

## Contents

§1 Review of quandles

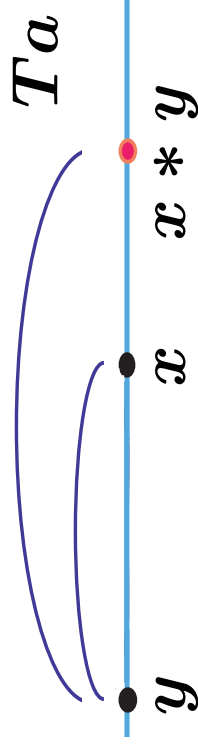
§2 Review of the quandle homotopy invariants

§3 Construction of the splitting

**Def.** A **quandle** is  $\begin{cases} Q : \text{a set} \\ * : Q \times Q \longrightarrow Q \end{cases}$  s.t.

- $\forall x \in Q, \quad x * x = x$
- $\forall x, y \in Q, \quad x = \exists! z * y$
- $\forall x, y, z \in Q, \quad (x * y) * z = (x * z) * (y * z)$

**Ex.** **Alexander quandle** on a finite field  $X = \mathbb{F}_q$



$$x * y \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} y + \omega(x - y)$$

$(\bullet * y) \neq \omega$  multiple centered at  $y$ ,

**Ex. Symplectic quandle**

$\Sigma_g$ : ori. closed surface of genus  $g$

$$X = H_1(\Sigma_g; \mathbb{F}_q)$$

$\langle , \rangle : H_1(\Sigma_g; \mathbb{F}_q) \otimes H_1(\Sigma_g; \mathbb{F}_q) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  : symplectic form.

$$x * y := \langle x, y \rangle \cdot y + x$$

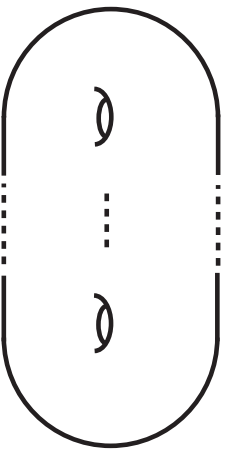
**Def.** (Associated group)

Let  $X$  be a quandle

$$\text{As}(X) := \langle x \in X \mid y \cdot x = (x * y) \cdot y \quad (\forall x, y \in X) \rangle$$

**Def.**  $X$  is of **type**  $\ell$   $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \ell = \min\{n \mid \underbrace{(x * y) \cdots * y}_{n\text{-times}} = x\}$ .

**Ex.**  $X$ : a symplectic q'dl  $\implies \text{type}(X) = \text{char}(\mathbb{F}_q) = p$ .



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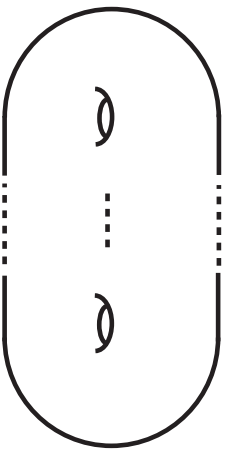
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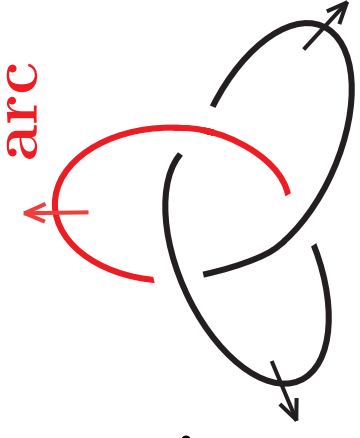
**Ex.**  $X$ : a symplectic q'dl  $\implies \text{type}(X) = \text{char}(\mathbb{F}_q) = p$ .

$$(g, q) \neq (1, 3) \text{ or } p \neq 2 \implies \text{As}(X) = \mathbb{Z} \times \text{Sp}(2g; \mathbb{F}_q).$$

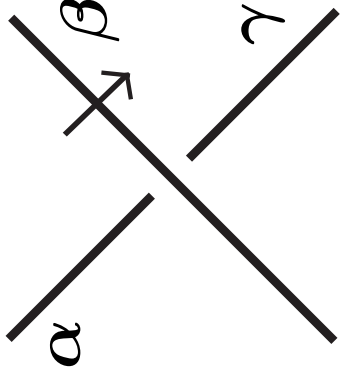


**Def.**  $X$  : a quandle

$D$  : an oriented link-diagram of  $L$ .



An **X-coloring** is a map  $C : \{ \text{arcs of } D \} \rightarrow X$  s.t.



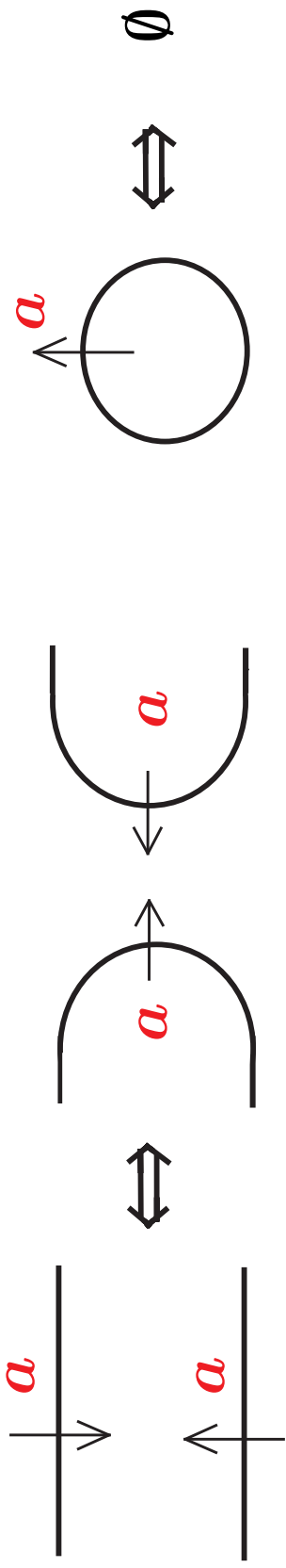
$$C(\gamma) = C(\alpha) * C(\beta)$$

Notation  $\text{Col}_X(D) := \{ X\text{-coloring of } D \}$

Property  $D \xrightarrow{\text{Remove}} D' \implies \text{Col}_X(D) \xrightarrow{\exists 1:1} \text{Col}_X(D')$

$\therefore X$  is finite  $\implies \#(\text{Col}_X(D))$  is a link inv.

$\overline{\Pi}(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ X\text{-coloring of } D \}_D / \text{R-moves, concordance rel.}$



- $\Pi(X)$  is an Abelian grp. by  $C_1 + C_2 := C_1 \sqcup C_2$ .

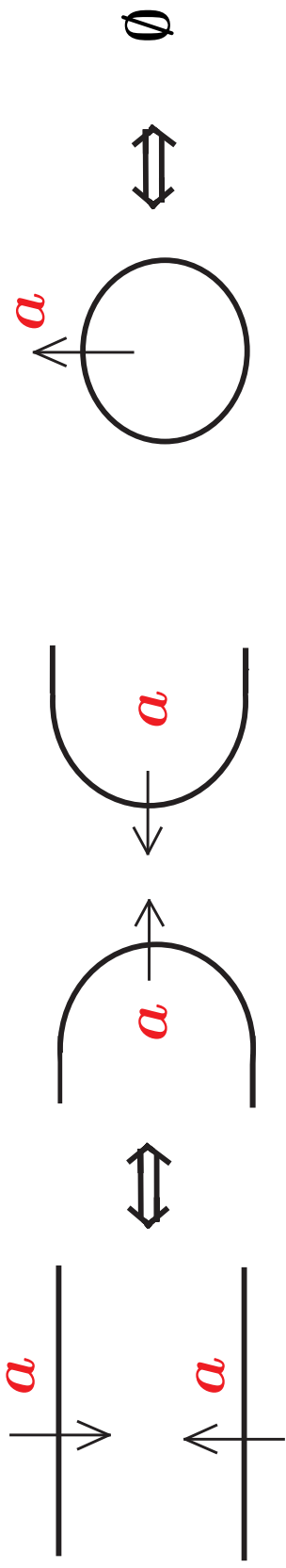
**Def.** [Fenn-Rourke-Sanderson]

Let  $|X| < \infty$ . **Quandle homotopy inv.** is

$$\overline{\mathbb{E}}_X(L) := \sum_{C \in \text{Col}_X(D)} [C] \in \mathbb{Z}[\Pi(X)].$$

**Rem.**  $\left( \begin{array}{l} \forall \text{ "quandle cocycle"} \\ \text{inv. " of links.} \end{array} \right) \longleftarrow \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{quandle homotopy} \\ \text{inv. } \in \mathbb{Z}[\Pi(X)] \end{array} \right)$

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Let's study the universal obj.

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## The group $\Pi(X)$ VS $\pi_2(BX)$

Fenn-Rourke-Sanderson defined a "classifying space"  $BX$ .

**Properties.** [FRS] Let  $X$  be a quandle

- $\pi_2(BX) \cong \Pi(X)$
- $\pi_1(BX) \cong \text{As}(X) = \langle x \in X \mid y \cdot x = (x * y) \cdot y \rangle$ .
- The action  $\pi_1(BX) \curvearrowright \pi_2(BX)$  is trivial.

Classical way to compute  $\pi_2$  (Cartan, Serre)

Take the 1-st stage of the Postnikov tower:

$$H_3(\pi_1(BX)) \rightarrow \pi_2(BX) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{H}} H_2(BX) \rightarrow H_2(\pi_1(BX)) \rightarrow 0$$

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I now construct it topologically.

### §3 Construction of the split

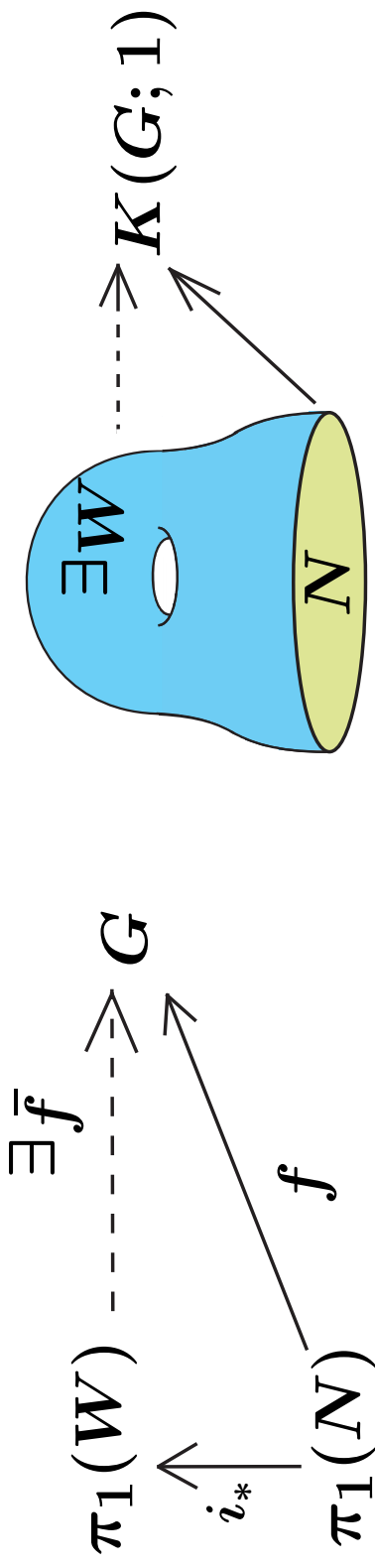
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Review of  $G$ -bordism grp. [Thom]  $G$ : a group.

$$\Omega_n(G) := \left\{ (N, \pi_1(N) \xrightarrow{f} G) \mid N : \text{cl. } n\text{-mfd} \right\} / G\text{-cobordant.}$$

Here  $(N, f : \pi_1(N) \rightarrow G)$  is  **$G$ -cobordant**.

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{def } \exists W : (n+1)\text{-mfd s.t. } \partial W = N$$



Rem ( $n = 3$ )

$$\Omega_3(G) \cong H_3(G; \mathbb{Z}) \cong H_3(K(G, 1); \mathbb{Z}).$$

## From $\Pi(X)$ to $H_3(\text{As}(X))$ .

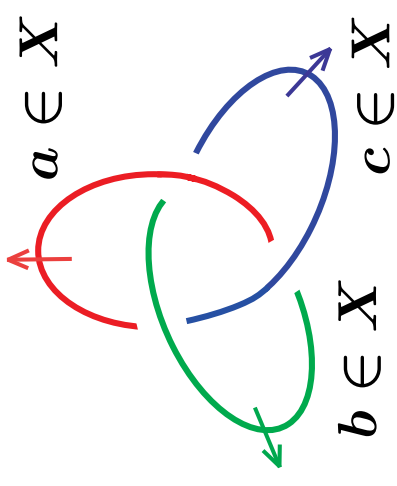
Let  $X$  be a quandle of type  $\ell$ .

Set an epi.  $\text{As}(X) = \langle x \in X \mid y \cdot x = (x * y) \cdot y \rangle \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \mathbb{Z} \quad (x \mapsto 1)$

Given an  $X$ -coloring  $C$  of  $L \subset S^3$

$\Downarrow$  Wirtinger presentation

$$\pi_1(S^3 \setminus L) \longrightarrow \text{As}(X) \quad \text{grp. homo.}$$



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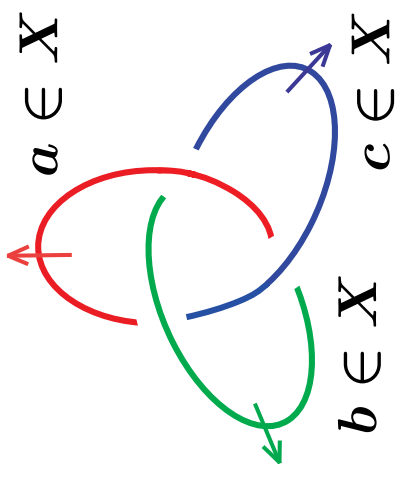
$$\pi_1(S^3 \setminus L) \longrightarrow \text{As}(X)$$

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$$\cup \quad \cup$$

$$\pi_1(S^3 \setminus L) \longrightarrow \text{Ker}(\epsilon)$$

$\widetilde{S^3} \setminus L$ : abelian covering of  $L$



$$\pi_1(\widehat{C}_L^\ell)$$

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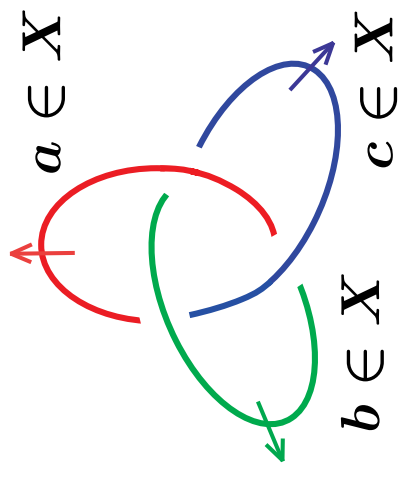
$$\mathbb{Z} \begin{array}{c} \longleftarrow \\ \longleftarrow \\ \longleftarrow \end{array} \mathbb{Z} \begin{array}{c} \longleftarrow \\ \longleftarrow \\ \longleftarrow \end{array} \mathbb{Z}$$

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$$\bigcup \quad \bigcup$$

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**In summary, we get a map**

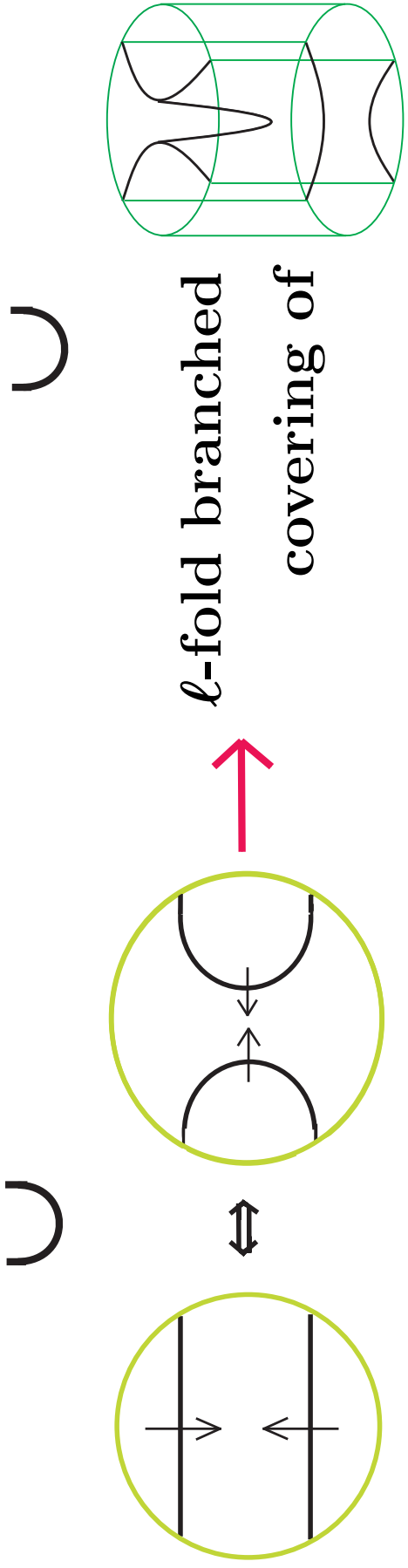
$$\{ \mathbf{C}: X\text{-coloring of } D \} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Hom}_{\text{gr}}(\pi_1(\widehat{C}_L^\ell), \mathbf{As}(X))$$

**In summary, consider all the link-diagrams:**

$$\left\{ C : X\text{-coloring of } D \right\} \xrightarrow{D} \left\{ \text{Hom}(\pi_1(\widehat{C}_L^\ell), \text{As}(X)) \right\}_L$$

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**Prop.** (N.)

This induces a hom.  $\Pi(X) \rightarrow \Omega_3(\text{As}(X)) = H_3(\pi_1(BX))$ .



**Thm.** (N.)

For “some” quandles  $X$  (e.g. Alexander or symplectic q’dl)

$$H_3(\pi_1(BX)) \rightarrow \pi_2(BX) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{H}} H_2(BX) \rightarrow H_2(\pi_1(BX)) \rightarrow 0 \quad (\text{exact})$$

The homomorphism gives its split.



**Ex.** ( $X = H_1(\Sigma_g; \mathbb{F}_q)$  : symplectic q’dl with  $g > 5$ )

Recall  $\pi_1(BX) = \mathbb{Z} \times Sp(2g; \mathbb{F}_q)$ .

**Fact D.** Quillen calculated  $H_*(Sp(2g; \mathbb{F}_q))$ .

Then the sequence becomes

$$\mathbb{Z} / (q^2 - 1) \rightarrow \pi_2(BX) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{H}} \mathbb{Z} \oplus (\mathbb{Z} / p)^h \rightarrow 0 \quad (q = p^h)$$

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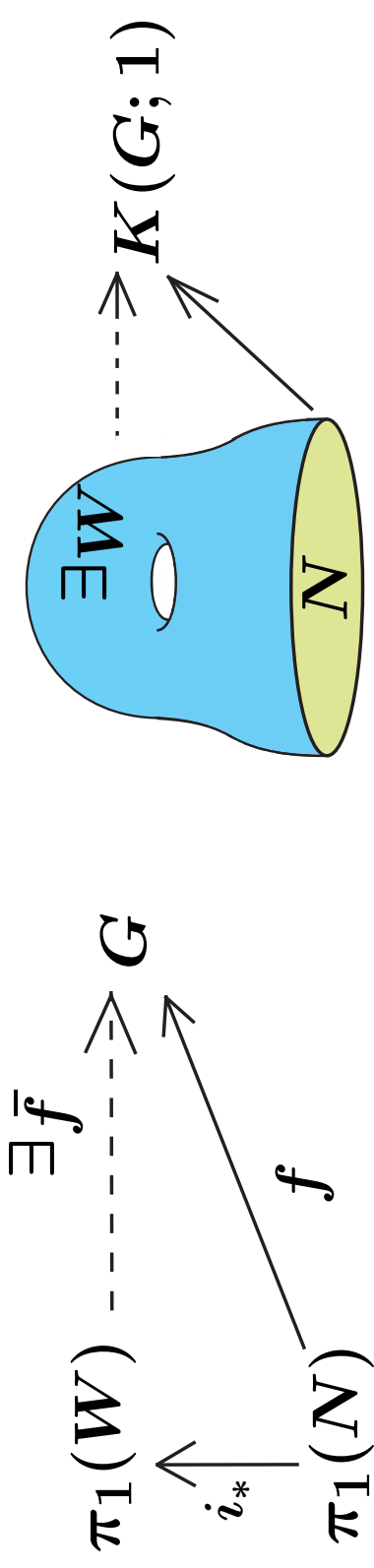
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**Def.**  $G$ : a finite group.  $M$ :  $n$ -mfd.

**Bordism D-W inv.** is

$$\sum_{f \in \text{Hom}(\pi_1(M), G)} [(M, \pi_1(M) \xrightarrow{f} G)] \in \mathbb{Z}[\Omega_n(G, c)],$$