

On amphicheiral links

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The 8th East Asian School of Knots
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§1. Symmetries of links

Amphicheiral link

L : (oriented) link

L^* : (oriented) mirror image of L

- L : amphicheiral $\iff L \cong L^*$ as unoriented links

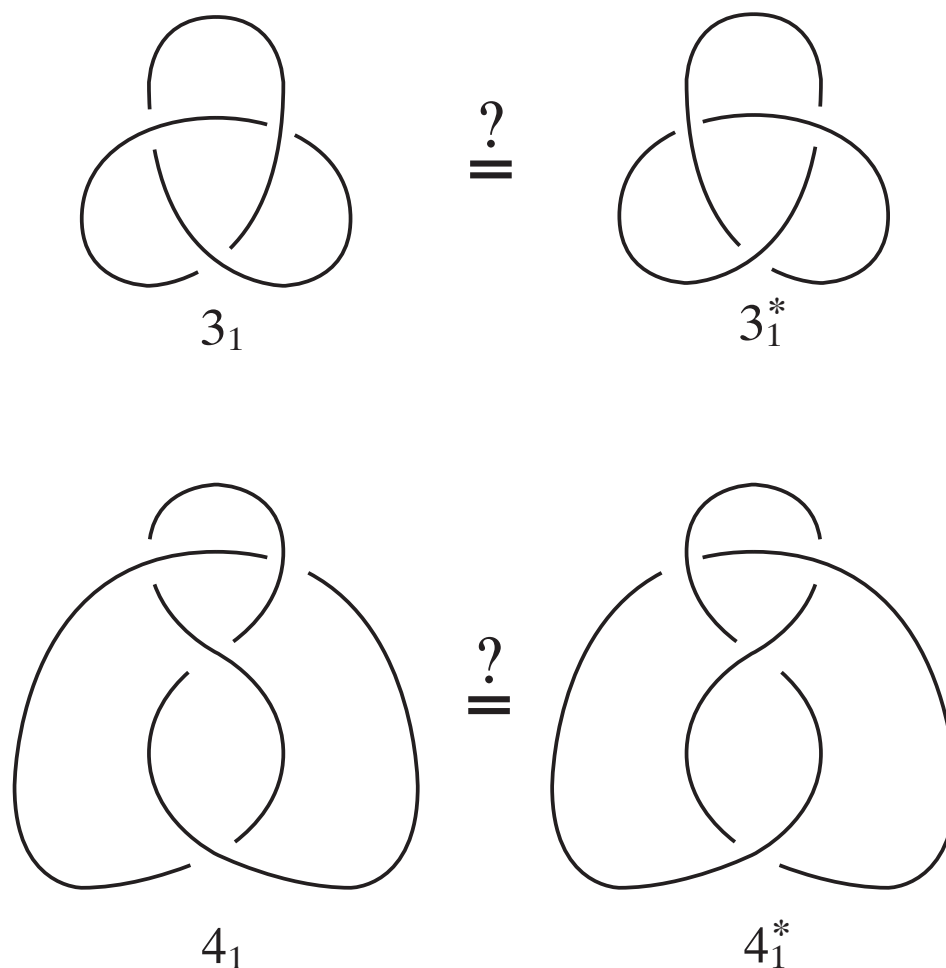


Figure 1: unoriented mirror image

◦ K : oriented knot

$K \sharp K^*$, $K \sharp (-K^*)$: amphicheiral knots

Invertible link

L : oriented link

$-L$: orientation-reversed link of L

- L : invertible $\iff L \cong -L$ as oriented links

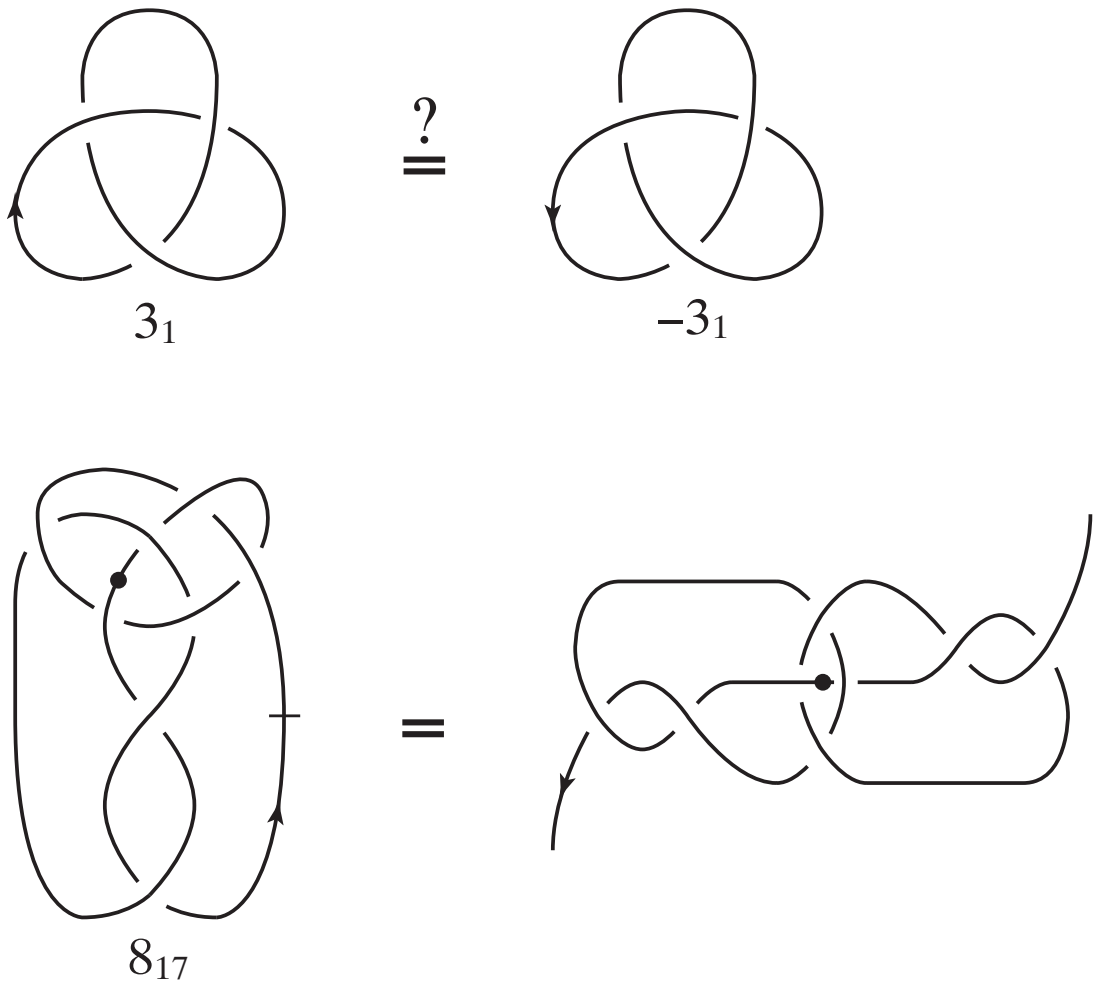


Figure 2: orientation-reversed link

Question Is 8_{17} invertible ?

◦ K : oriented knot

$K \sharp (-K)$: invertible knot

Link symmetric group

- G_r : r -th universal (+)-link symmetric group

$$1 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow G_r \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_r \rightarrow 1 : \text{split exact}$$

$$G_r \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^r \tilde{\times} \mathfrak{S}_r : \text{semi-product}$$

\mathfrak{S}_r : r -th symmetric group

$$\varepsilon_i, \eta_j \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = \{1, -1\} = \{+, -\}; \quad \sigma, \tau \in \mathfrak{S}_r$$

$$\mathbf{x} = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma), \quad \mathbf{y} = (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_r; \tau) \in G_r,$$

$$\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} := (\varepsilon_1 \eta_{\sigma^{-1}(1)}, \dots, \varepsilon_r \eta_{\sigma^{-1}(r)}; \sigma \circ \tau)$$

- $1 = +1 = +, \quad -1 = -$ in $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$,

ι : identity in \mathfrak{S}_r

- $(+, \dots, +; \iota)$: unit in G_r .

- Γ_r : r -th universal link symmetric group

$$\Gamma_r \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times G_r$$

- $\kappa, \varepsilon_i \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}; \quad \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_r$

$$\mathbf{x} = \kappa(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma) \in \Gamma_r$$

- Γ_r includes information of amphicheirality, invertibility and interchangeability for all r -component links.

- By using natural inclusions

$$(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^r \subset (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{r+1} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{S}_r \subset \mathfrak{S}_{r+1},$$

we can define $G_\infty = \varinjlim_r G_r$ and $\Gamma_\infty = \varinjlim_r \Gamma_r$.

- $L = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_r$
 - : r -component oriented ordered link in S^3
 - L : $\kappa(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma)$ -symmetric \iff
 - $\exists \varphi : S^3 \rightarrow S^3$: (κ) -homeomorphism
 - $\kappa = \begin{cases} + & (\varphi : \text{orientation-preserving}), \\ - & (\varphi : \text{orientation-reversing}). \end{cases}$
 - s.t. $\varphi(K_i) = \varepsilon_{\sigma(i)} K_{\sigma(i)}$ for $i = 1, \dots, r$
 - where $\varepsilon_i \in \{+, -\}$ and $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_r$.
- $\kappa(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma) \in \Gamma_r$
- $\kappa(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma)$ -symmetric
 - $= \begin{cases} (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma)\text{-invertible} & (\kappa = +), \\ (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma)\text{-amphicheiral} & (\kappa = -). \end{cases}$
- If $\sigma = \iota$, then we may abbreviate ι .

- $L = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_r$
 - : r -component oriented ordered link in S^3
 - $\Gamma(L) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_r \mid L : \mathbf{x}\text{-symmetric}\}$
 - : link symmetric group of L
 - $G(L) = \Gamma(L) \cap G_r$
 - : (+)-link symmetric group of L
- $\Gamma(L)$ is a subgroup of Γ_r
 - which is stable up to conjugations induced by changing orders and orientations.
- $\Gamma(L)$ is not always a normal subgroup of Γ_r .

Problem 1 For a link L , determine $\Gamma(L)$.

Problem 2 For a subgroup $H \subset \Gamma_r$, does there exist a link L realizing $H = \Gamma(L)$?

- L : invertible \iff
 - L : $\exists(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma)$ -invertible & $\exists i, \varepsilon_i = -$.
 - The original definition of “invertible” was only $(-, \dots, -; \sigma)$ -invertible.
- L : amphicheiral $\iff \Gamma(L) \setminus G(L) \neq \emptyset$.

- L : component-preservingly invertible \iff
 L : $\exists(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \iota)$ -invertible & $\exists i, \varepsilon_i = -$.
- L : component-preservingly amphicheiral \iff
 L : $\exists(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \iota)$ -amphicheiral.
- L : $(-)$ -invertible $\iff L$: $(-, \dots, -; \sigma)$ -invertible
by some orientation of L .
- L : (ε) -amphicheiral $\iff L$: $(\varepsilon, \dots, \varepsilon; \sigma)$ -amphicheiral
by some orientation of L .

ex.1 (1) $G_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, $\Gamma_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.

K : oriented knot

K : invertible $\iff G(K) = G_1 \iff (+, (-)) \in \Gamma(K)$.

K : $(+)$ -amphicheiral $\iff (-, (+)) \in \Gamma(K)$.

K : $(-)$ -amphicheiral $\iff (-, (-)) \in \Gamma(K)$.

Two properties generate the rest.

Since δ_{17} is $(-)$ -amphicheiral,

“ δ_{17} is invertible $\iff \delta_{17}$ is $(+)$ -amphicheiral”

(2) K : oriented knot

$K \sharp K$: 2-periodic

$K \sharp (-K)$: invertible

$K \sharp K^*$: $(+)$ -amphicheiral

$K \sharp (-K^*)$: $(-)$ -amphicheiral & slice

$$(3) \quad G_2 \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2 \tilde{\times} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \cong D_4, \quad \Gamma_2 \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times D_4.$$

$$a = (-, +; (1 \ 2)), \quad b = (+, +; (1 \ 2)) \in G_2$$

$$G_2 = \langle a, b \mid a^4 = b^2 = 1, \quad b^{-1}ab = a^{-1} \rangle \cong D_4.$$

- $\Psi_r : \Gamma_r \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = \{1, -1\}$; **surjective**

$$\Psi_r(\kappa(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma)) = \rho \cdot \prod_{i=1}^r \varepsilon_i \cdot \text{sgn}(\sigma)$$

$$\text{where } \rho = \begin{cases} 1 & (\kappa = 1), \\ (-1)^{r-1} & (\kappa = -1). \end{cases}$$

$$\Omega_r = \text{Ker}(\Psi_r) \subset \Gamma_r : \text{(no name; } \Omega\text{-subgroup)}$$

ex.2 (1) $\Omega_1 = \{(+, (+)), (-, (+))\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

(2) $a = (+, (-, +; (1 \ 2))), \quad b = (-, (+, +; (1 \ 2))) \in \Gamma_2$

$$\Omega_2 = \langle a, b \mid a^4 = b^2 = 1, \quad b^{-1}ab = a^{-1} \rangle \cong D_4.$$

(3) $a = (+, +, +; (1 \ 2 \ 3)), \quad b = (-, +, +; (1 \ 2)) \in G_3$

$$\Omega_3 \cap G_3 = \langle a, b \mid a^3 = b^4 = (ab)^2 = 1 \rangle \cong \mathfrak{S}_4.$$

$$\Omega_3 \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathfrak{S}_4.$$

- $\bar{\mu}_L(\dots)$: **Milnor's $\bar{\mu}$ -invariant**

- $\bar{\mu}_L(ij) = \text{lk}(K_i, K_j)$ ($i \neq j$)

Lemma 1 $r \geq 2$, $\bar{\mu}_L(12 \cdots r) \neq 0 \implies \Gamma(L) \subset \Omega_r \subset \Gamma_r$.

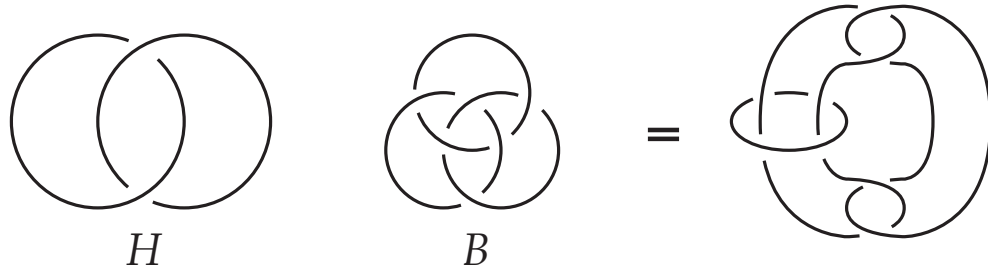


Figure 3: Hopf link and Borromean rings

ex.3 (1) $H = K_1 \cup K_2$: **Hopf link**

$$\Gamma(H) = \Omega_2.$$

(2) $B = K_1 \cup K_2 \cup K_3$: **Borromean rings**

$$\Gamma(B) = \Omega_3.$$

Milnor link

- $M_\lambda = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_\lambda$: λ -component Milnor link

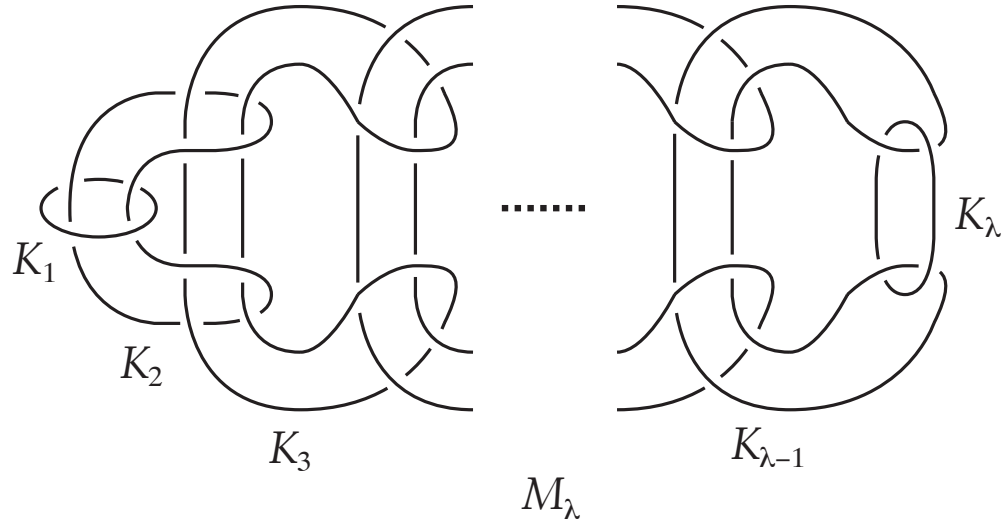


Figure 4: λ -component Milnor link M_λ

- $M_2 = H$ and $M_3 = B$.
- \forall proper sublink of M_λ : trivial link
i.e. M_λ : Brunnian link
In particular, algebraically split link.
- M_λ : component-preservingly amphicheiral
& component-preservingly invertible
- $\{K_1, K_2\}, \{K_{\lambda-1}, K_\lambda\}$: interchangeable
- The order $(K_1, K_2, \dots, K_\lambda)$ can be changed
into $(K_\lambda, \dots, K_2, K_1)$ by (ori.-pres.) homeo.

Chain link

• C : positive clasp tangle

C^* : negative clasp tangle

T_k : 2-string tangle with k half twists

$L = C^n T_k$: n -chain link

◦ $C^* = CT_1 = T_1 C$ and $C = C^* T_{-1} = T_{-1} C^*$.

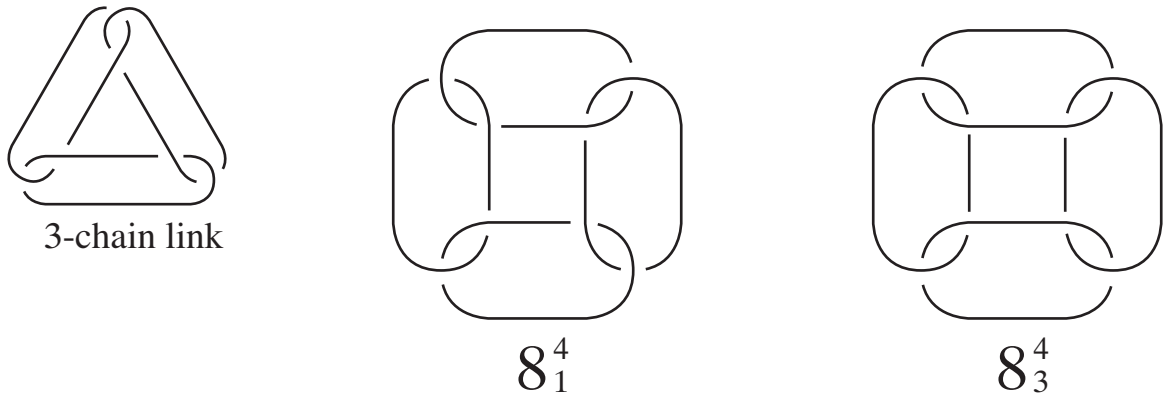
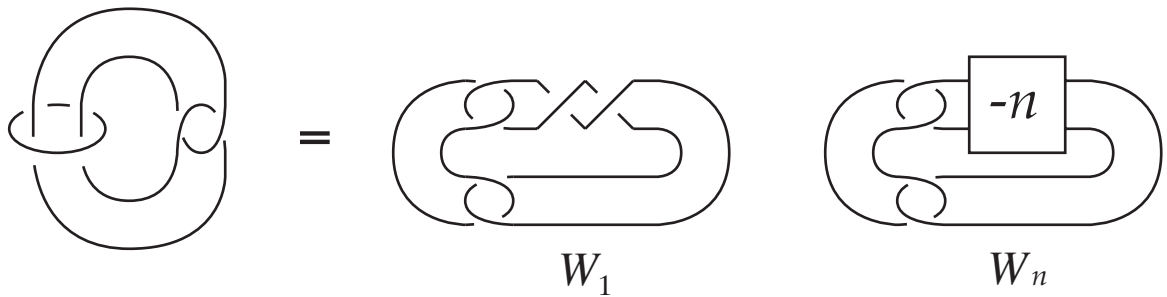
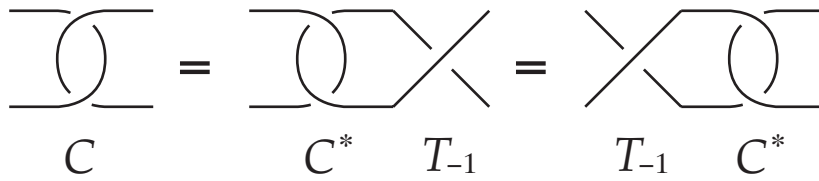


Figure 5: chain links

- $p = \frac{n}{2} - k$.
 $L = C^n T_k$: p -twisted n -chain link.
- $p = 0 \iff L$: untwisted chain link.
 $p \neq 0 \iff L$: twisted chain link.
- n : odd $\implies L$: twisted chain link.
- L : untwisted chain link $\iff L = (CC^*)^{\frac{n}{2}}$.
- An untwisted chain link is amphicheiral.

Question Can twisted chain links be amphicheiral ?

- $W_n = CC^* T_{-n} = C^2 T_{-n+1}$: n -twisted 2-chain link.
- $8_1^4 = C^4$: 2-twisted 4-chain link.
- $8_3^4 = (CC^*)^2$: untwisted 4-chain link.

§2. Conditions from Alexander polynomials

Alexander polynomial

$L = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_r$: (oriented) r -component link in S^3

$$\Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_r) \in \mathbb{Z}[t_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, t_r^{\pm 1}]$$

: r -variable Alexander polynomial of L

◦ $\Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_r)$ is determined up to multiplication of $\pm t_1^{m_1} \dots t_r^{m_r}$ ($m_i \in \mathbb{Z}$).

• $A \doteq B \iff A = \pm t_1^{m_1} \dots t_r^{m_r} B$ ($m_i \in \mathbb{Z}$).

◦ (duality) $\Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_r) \doteq \Delta_L(t_1^{-1}, \dots, t_r^{-1})$.

(Torres condition)

(i) $r = 1$; $|\Delta_L(1)| = 1$.

(ii) $r = 2$; $\Delta_L(t_1, 1) \doteq \frac{t_1^\ell - 1}{t_1 - 1} \cdot \Delta_{K_1}(t_1)$ where $\ell = \text{lk}(L)$.

$$|\Delta_L(1, 1)| = \ell.$$

$$\ell = 0 \implies \Delta_L(t_1, 1) = \Delta_L(1, t_2) = 0$$

$$\implies \Delta_L(t_1, t_2) \doteq (t_1 - 1)(t_2 - 1)f(t_1, t_2).$$

(iii) $r \geq 3$; $L' = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_{r-1}$, $\ell_i = \text{lk}(K_i, K_r)$

$$\Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_{r-1}, 1) \doteq \left(t_1^{\ell_1} \dots t_{r-1}^{\ell_{r-1}} - 1 \right) \cdot \Delta_{L'}(t_1, \dots, t_{r-1}).$$

◦ L : split link $\implies \Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_r) = 0$.

◦ L : algebraically split

$$\implies \Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_r) \doteq (t_1 - 1) \dots (t_r - 1)f(t_1, \dots, t_r).$$

- It looks that the Alexander polynomial of a knot does not distinguish amphicheirality.

ex.4 O_r : r -component trivial link, $O_1 = O$.

$$\Delta_O(t) \doteq 1$$

$$\Delta_{O_r}(t_1, \dots, t_r) = 0 \quad (r \geq 2)$$

$$\Delta_{3_1}(t) \doteq t^2 - t + 1$$

$$\Delta_{4_1}(t) \doteq t^2 - 3t + 1$$

$$\Delta_H(t_1, t_2) \doteq 1$$

$$\Delta_B(t_1, t_2, t_3) \doteq (t_1 - 1)(t_2 - 1)(t_3 - 1)$$

W_n : n -twisted Whitehead link, $W_1 = W$.

$$\Delta_{W_n}(t_1, t_2) \doteq n(t_1 - 1)(t_2 - 1)$$

$$\Delta_W(t_1, t_2) \doteq (t_1 - 1)(t_2 - 1)$$

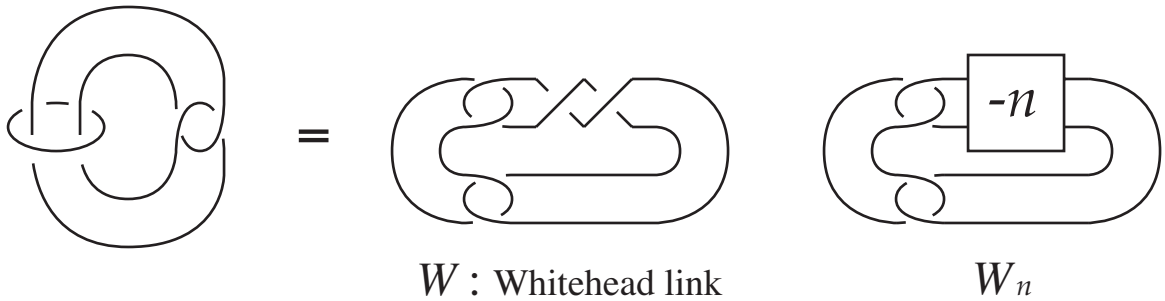


Figure 6: n -twisted Whitehead link W_n

$$\Delta_{8_{17}}(t) \doteq t^6 - 4t^5 + 8t^4 - 11t^3 + 8t^2 - 4t + 1$$

Lemma 1 $L = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_r$

: $(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r; \sigma)$ -amphicheiral/invertible link

$$\Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_r) \doteq \Delta_L \left(t_{\sigma(1)}^{\varepsilon_{\sigma(1)}}, \dots, t_{\sigma(r)}^{\varepsilon_{\sigma(r)}} \right).$$

- Useless for component-preservingly (ε) -amphicheiral/invertible links
- A component-preservingly (ε) -amphicheiral link is algebraically split.

Theorem 2 [Hartley-Kawauchi]

(1) K : $(-)$ -amphicheiral knot

$$\implies \exists f(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t] \text{ s.t. } f(t^{-1}) \doteq f(-t) \ \& \ |f(1)| = 1 \ \&$$

$$\Delta_K(t^2) \doteq f(t)f(t^{-1}) \doteq f(t)f(-t).$$

(2) K : $(+)$ -amphicheiral knot

$$\implies \exists r_j(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t] : \text{type } X,$$

$$\exists \alpha_j : \text{odd } (j = 1, \dots, m) \text{ s.t.}$$

$$\Delta_K(t) \doteq \prod_{j=1}^m r_j(t^{\alpha_j}).$$

In particular, if K : hyperbolic, we can take $m = \alpha_1 = 1$.

• $r(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$: **type X** \iff

$\exists n \geq 0$ & $\lambda \geq 3$: **odd** & $g_i(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$ ($i = 0, 1, \dots, n$)

s.t. $g_i(t) \doteq g_i(t^{-1})$ & $|g_i(1)| = 1$ &

for $i > 0$, $g_i(t) \doteq g_0(t)^{2^i} p_\lambda(t)^{2^{i-1}} \pmod{2}$ **where**

$$p_\lambda(t) = \frac{t^\lambda - 1}{t - 1} \quad \& \quad r(t) \doteq \begin{cases} g_0(t)^2 & (n = 0), \\ g_0(t)^2 g_1(t) \cdots g_n(t) & (n \geq 1). \end{cases}$$

Corollary 3 K : $(-)$ -**amphicheiral knot**

$|\Delta_K(-1)| = p_1^{r_1} \cdots p_m^{r_m}$: **prime factorization**

$p_i \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \implies r_i$: **even.**

ex.5 (1) $|\Delta_{3_1}(-1)| = 3 \implies 3_1$: **non-amphicheiral.**

(2) $\Delta_{4_1}(t^2) \doteq (t^2 + t - 1)(t^2 - t - 1)$

$$f(t) = t^2 + t - 1$$

$$m = \alpha_1 = 1, \quad n = 1, \quad \lambda = 3, \quad g_0(t) = 1.$$

4_1 : (\pm) -**amphicheiral.**

(3) $\Delta_{8_{17}}(t^2) \doteq (t^6 - 2t^4 + t^3 + 2t^2 - 1)(t^6 - 2t^4 - t^3 + 2t^2 - 1).$

$$f(t) = t^6 - 2t^4 + t^3 + 2t^2 - 1$$

8_{17} : $(-)$ -**amphicheiral & hyperbolic**

$$\implies m = \alpha_1 = 1 \quad \& \quad \Delta_{8_{17}}(t) \equiv (t^2 + t + 1)^3 \pmod{2}$$

$$\implies n = 2, \quad \lambda = 3, \quad g_0(t) = 1 \quad \& \quad (t^2 - t + 1) \nmid \Delta_{8_{17}}(t)$$

\implies **non-(+)-amphicheiral & non-invertible.**

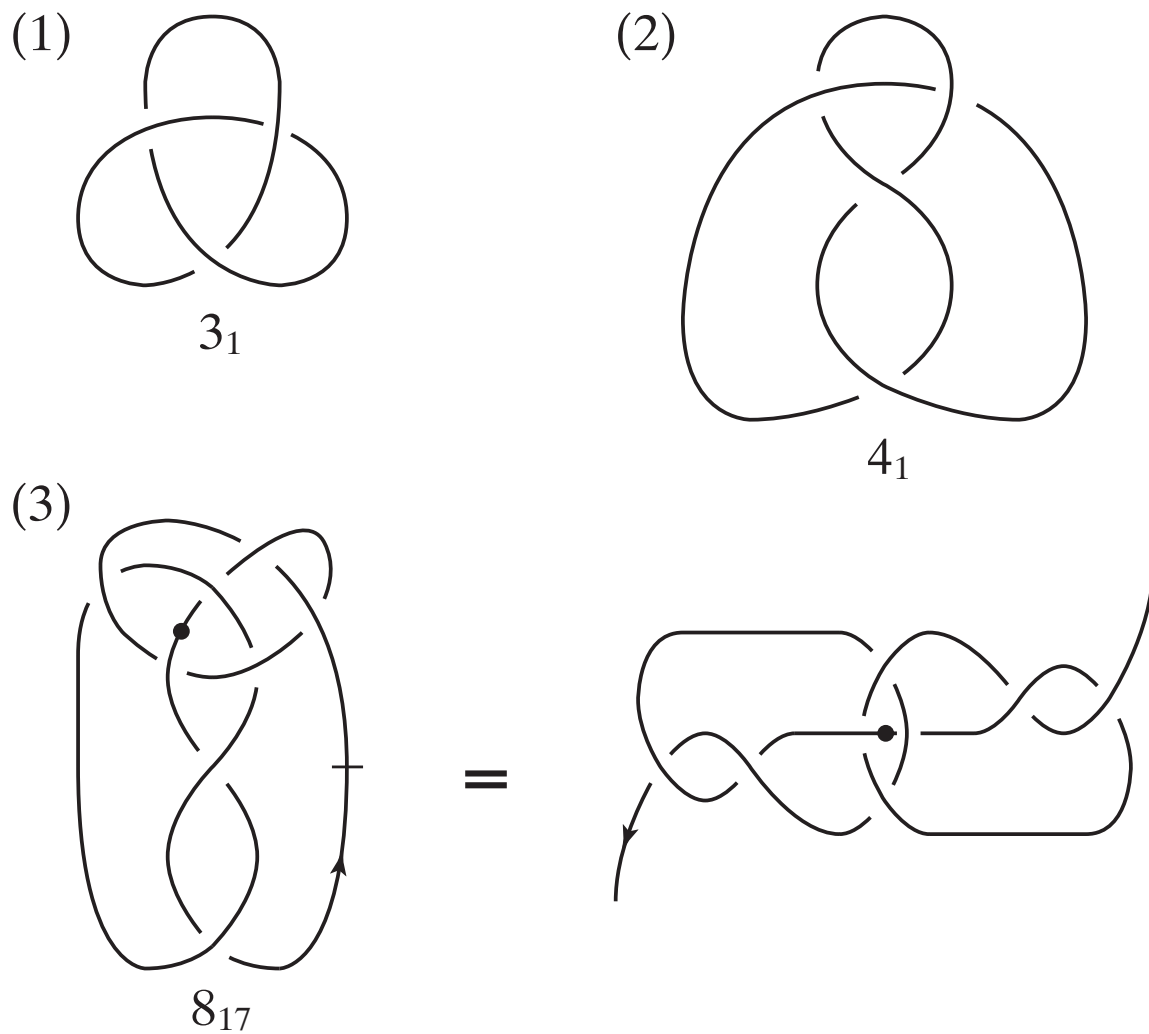


Figure 7: Examples

Conditions from linking numbers

Lemma 4 $L = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_r$, $\ell_i = \text{lk}(K_i, K_{i+1})$ ($K_{r+1} = K_1$)

(1) r : odd & $\forall \ell_i \neq 0$

$\implies L$: not component-preservingly amphicheiral.

(2) $r = 3$ & $\forall \ell_i \neq 0$

$\implies L$: non-amphicheiral.

Theorem 5 $L = K_1 \cup K_2$ with $\ell = \text{lk}(L)$.

(1) [Hartley]

L : component-preservingly amphicheiral

$\implies \ell = 0$ or odd.

(2) L : $(\varepsilon, -\varepsilon; (1\ 2))$ -amphicheiral $\implies \ell \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$.

◦ linking graph

Main Theorems

Conjecture

L : r -component algebraically split
component-preservingly amphicheiral link
with r : even $\implies \Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_r) = 0$.

Lemma 6 L : r -component algebraically split
component-preservingly (ε) -amphicheiral link
with r : even $\implies \Delta_L(t^{\eta_1}, \dots, t^{\eta_r}) = 0$ with $\eta_i \in \{\pm\}$.

Lemma 7 L : 2-component algebraically split
component-preservingly amphicheiral link
 $\implies (t_1 - 1)^2(t_2 - 1)^2 | \Delta_L(t_1, t_2)$.

Lemma 8 L : 2-component algebraically split
 (ε) -amphicheiral link
 $\implies (t_1 - 1)^2(t_2 - 1)^2(t_1 t_2 - 1)(t_1 - t_2) | \Delta_L(t_1, t_2)$.

Main Theorem 1 [K-Kawauchi]

$$L = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_r$$

: r -component amphicheiral link

$$\ell_{ij} = \text{lk}(K_i, K_j)$$

$$r + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq r} \ell_{ij} : \text{even} \implies \Delta_L(-1, \dots, -1) = 0.$$

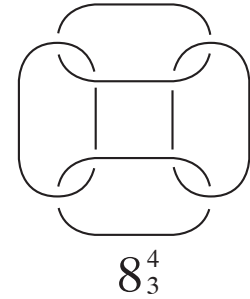
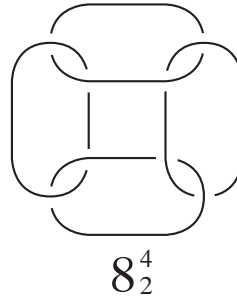
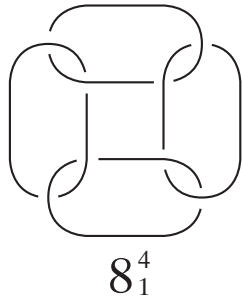


Figure 8: Chain links

- $\Delta_{8_1^4}(-1, -1, -1, -1) = \pm 16$
- $\Delta_{8_2^4}(-1, -1, -1, -1) = \pm 16$
- $\Delta_{8_3^4}(-1, -1, -1, -1) = 0.$

Main Theorem 2 [K-Kawauchi]

L : r -component component-preservingly

(ε) -amphicheiral with r : even

$$\implies \Delta_L(t_1, \dots, t_r) = 0.$$

- **A partial affirmative answer for the conjecture.**
We want to remove “ (ε) -”.

§3. Conditions from Jones polynomials

$L = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_r$: oriented r -component link in S^3

$V_L(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm 1/2}]$: Jones polynomial of L

Lemma 9 L : amphicheiral

\implies Coefficients of $V_L(t)$ are symmetric.

ex.6 (1) $V_{3_1}(t) = -t^4 + t^3 + t \implies 3_1$: non-amphicheiral.

(2) $V_{4_1}(t) = t^2 - t + 1 - t^{-1} + t^{-2}$.

(3) Coefficients of $V_{W_n}(t)$ ($n \neq 0$) are not symmetric.

(4) $V_B(t) = -t^3 + 3t^2 - 2t + 4 - 2t^{-1} + 3t^{-2} - t^{-3}$.

§4. Prime amphicheiral links with up to 11 crossings

Table 1/3 [K-Kawauchi]

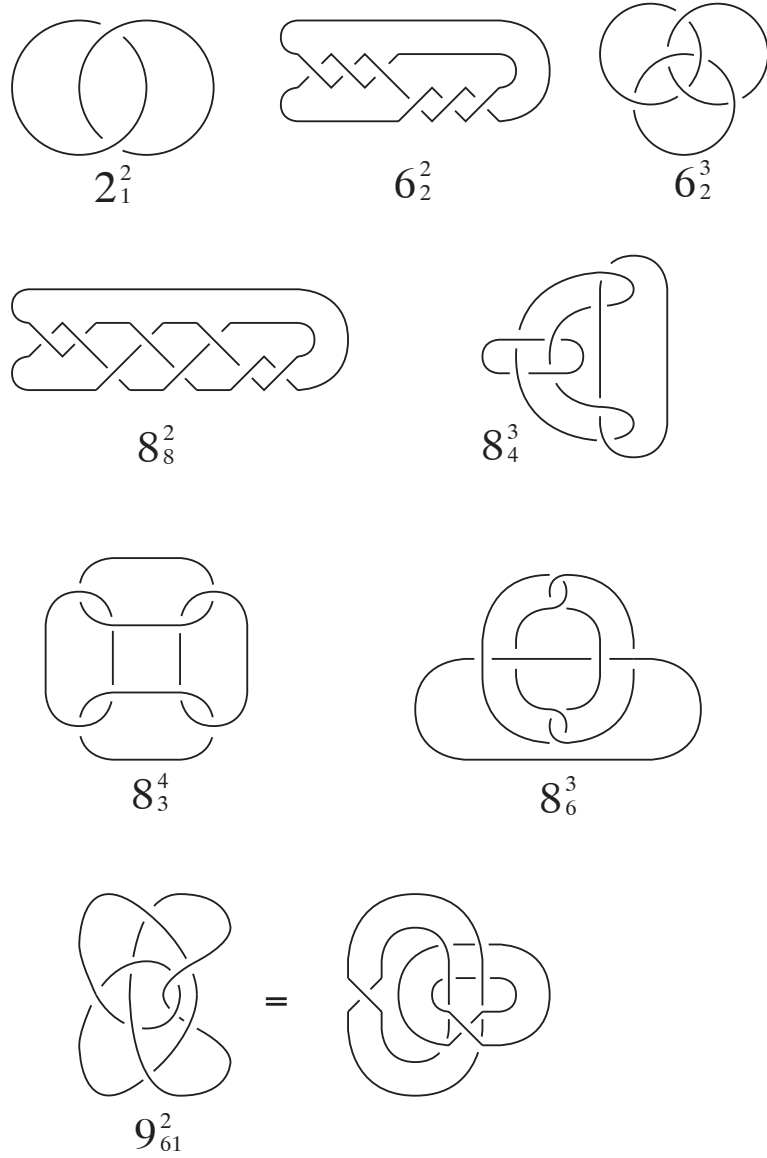


Figure 9: Prime amphicheiral link with up to 11 crossings I

Table 2/3 [K]

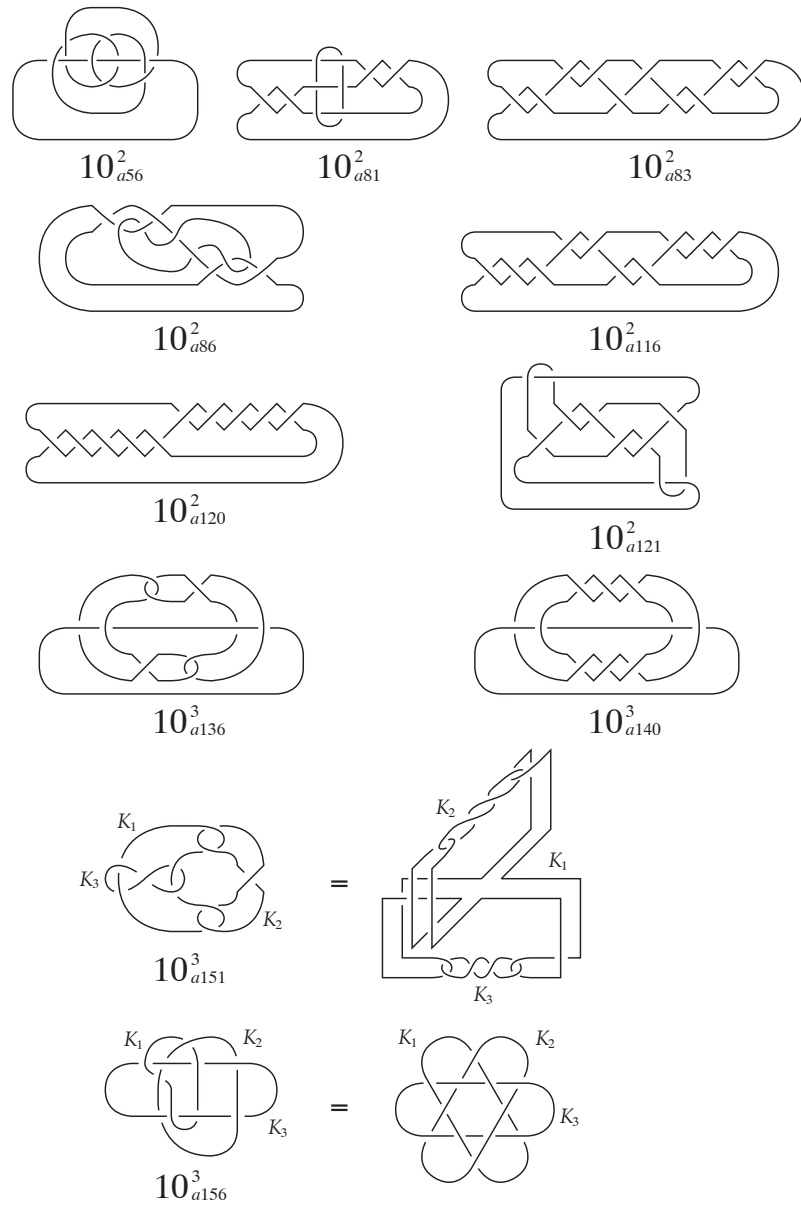


Figure 10: Prime amphicheiral link with up to 11 crossings II

Table 3/3 [K]

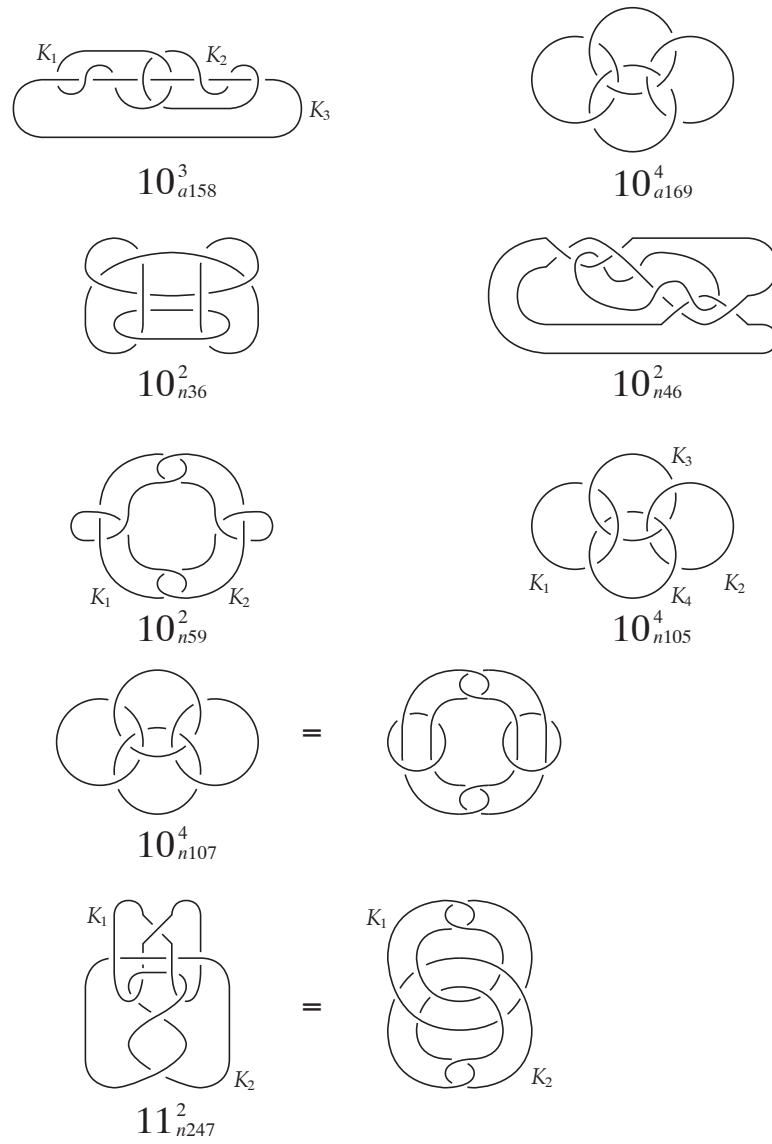


Figure 11: Prime amphicheiral link with up to 11 crossings III

§5. Component-preservingly amphicheiral links
with odd crossings

[Kobatake]

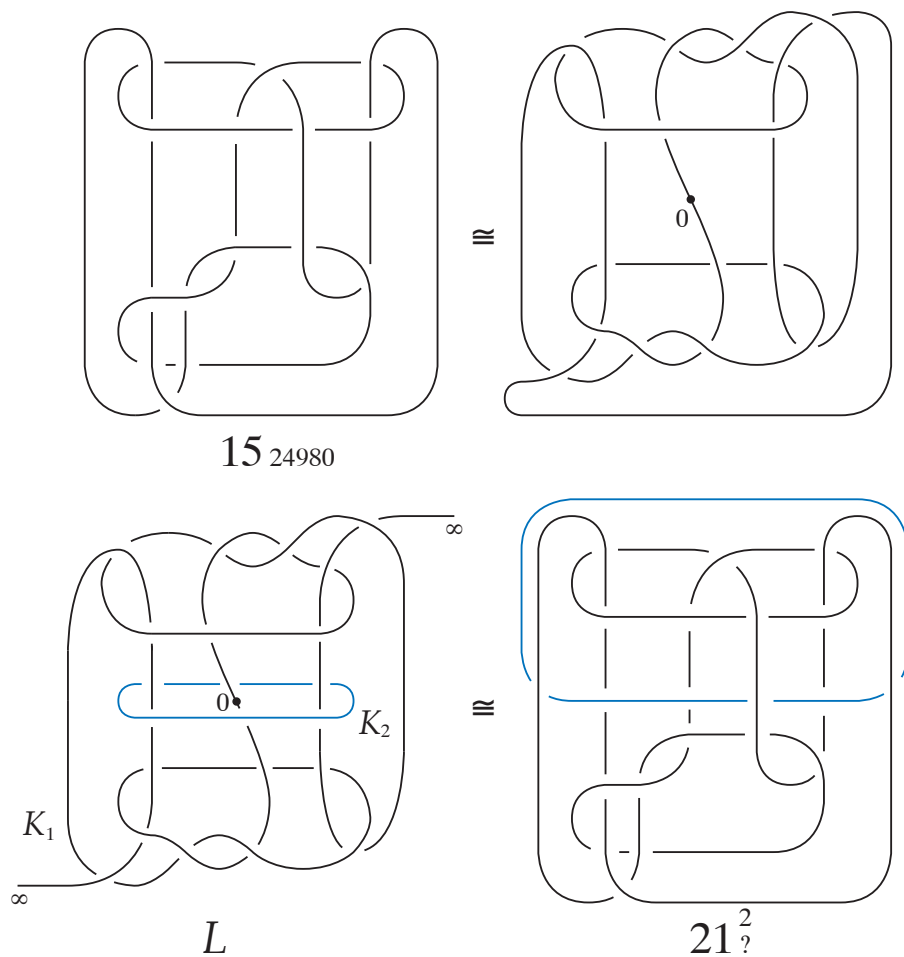


Figure 12: Component-preservingly amphicheiral link with odd crossings

§6. Construction of amphicheiral links

- generalized Murasugi sum
tangle decomposition [Kobatake]

Conjecture

Every amphicheiral link has Kobatake's tangle decomposition.

- “True” for links with up to 11 crossings and for knots with up to 12 crossings. [Kobatake]