

The arithmeticity of figure eight knot orbifolds


Hilden - Lozano - Montesinos (HLM) 1992

Thm 3 (HLM) Let $K = 4_1 = \textcircled{8}$ the figure-eight knot, K_n its n -fold cyclic branched cover, and $(K, n) = K_n / (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$ be its quotient orbifold (S^3 with $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ isotropy along K). Then (K, n) has an arithmetic orbifold fundamental group iff $n = 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, \infty$, as a subgroup of $PSL(2, \mathbb{C})$.

Bmk (K, ∞) denotes K as cusp in S^3 , which is $S^3 - K$ with complete hyp. metric.
Reid 1991: For K a hyperbolic knot, $\pi_1(S^3 - K)$ is arithmetic iff $K = 4_1$.

* Motivation

HLM in the 80's studied Thurston's question of links $L \subset S^3$ that are universal — those for which every closed ori 3-mfld is a branched cover over S^3 with L as the branch locus.

Thurston:  is hyp. orbifold (with group called $B(4, 4, 4)$)

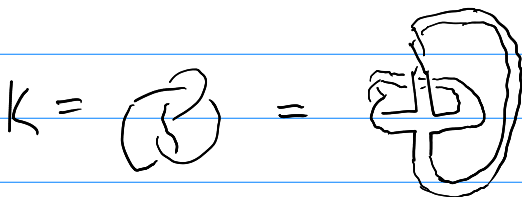
HLM: this is universal, ^{→ and actually factors through this orbifold} and so are all 2-bridge non-torus links (includes 4_1)

W. Neumann & Reid: $B(4, 4, 4)$ is arithmetic, so branched covers of this have arithmetic groups
 \Rightarrow every cpct ori 3-mfld is mfld cover of S^3 branched over Borromean rings

Question Which hyperbolic orbifolds are arithmetic?

HLM studied cyclic branched covers of Borr. rings & 4_1 .

* Branched covers of the figure-8 knot



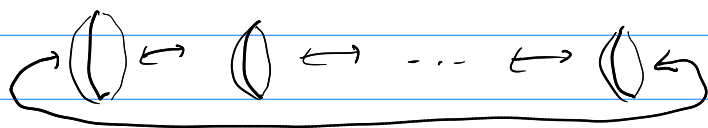
Murasugi sum of two Hopf links

$\Rightarrow K$ is fibred knot

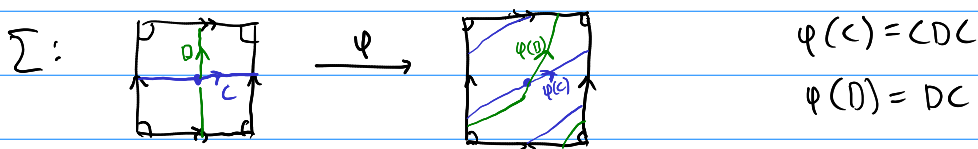
ie., S^3 has open book decomp. with binding K

\uparrow can see oriented genus-1 sfc bounding K . This Seifert sfc is a page.

Let $\Sigma \subset S^3$ be this genus-1 sfc w/ ∂ , $\varphi: \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma$ the monodromy from front to back. The n -fold cyclic branched cover K_n of K is from taking n copies of $S^3 - \Sigma \cong \Sigma \times I / (\partial \Sigma_s) \sim (\partial \Sigma_t)$ and gluing together using φ .



This has natural $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ action. Quotient is S^3 orbifold with K as branch locus w/ $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ isotropy gp., call it (K, n) .



Can use monodromy to compute $\pi_1(S^3 - K)$ as HNN extension ($S^3 - K$ as mapping torus)
 $\pi_1(S^3 - K) = \langle \mu, C, D \mid \mu C D C \mu^{-1} = C, \mu D C \mu^{-1} = D \rangle$

Also to compute $\pi_1(K_n)$. Let C_i, D_i be loops in i th copy.

Then $\pi_1(K_n) = \langle \{C_i, D_i\} \mid C_i D_i C_i = C_{i-1}, D_i C_i = D_{i-1} \rangle$
 indices mod n

$= \langle \{C_i, D_i\} \mid C_i D_{i-1} = C_{i-1}, D_i C_i = D_{i-1} \rangle$

note: $\begin{matrix} D_n & C_n & D_{n-1} & C_{n-1} & \dots & D_1 & C_1 \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \dots & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ X_1 & X_2 & X_3 & X_4 & \dots & X_{2n-1} & X_{2n} \end{matrix}$

$= \langle X_1, \dots, X_{2n} \mid X_i X_{i+1} = X_{i+2} \rangle$
 indices mod $2n$

$= F(2, 2n)$, a Fibonacci group

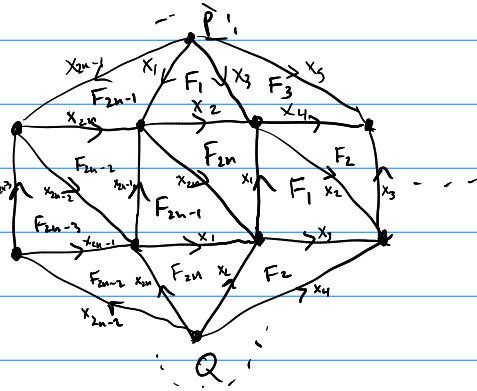
only finite examples

m	$F(2, m)$
1	1
2	1
3	Q_8
4	$\mathbb{Z}/5$
5	$\mathbb{Z}/11$
7	$\mathbb{Z}/29$

* $F(2, 2n)$

1998

Helling-Kim-Mennicke (HKM) present $F(2, 2n)$ as π_1 (closed ori 3-mfld) by face identification of a B^3 polyhedron. Let M_n be this polyhedron quotient: $(n \geq 1)$

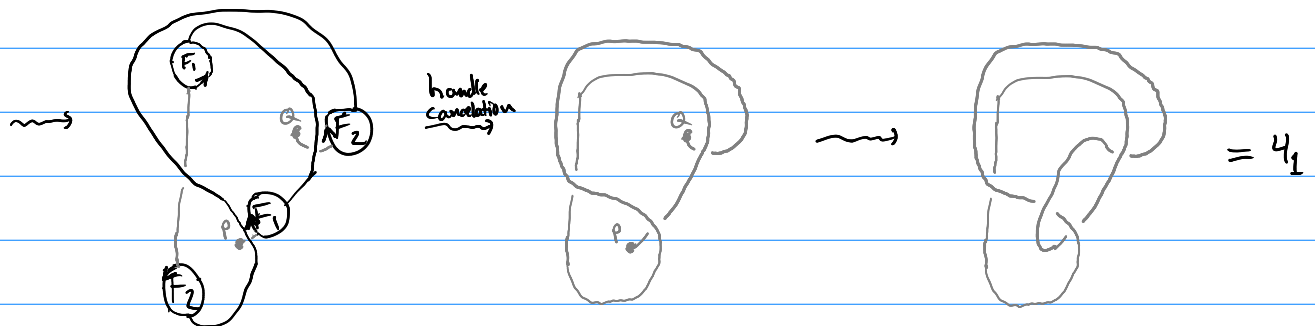
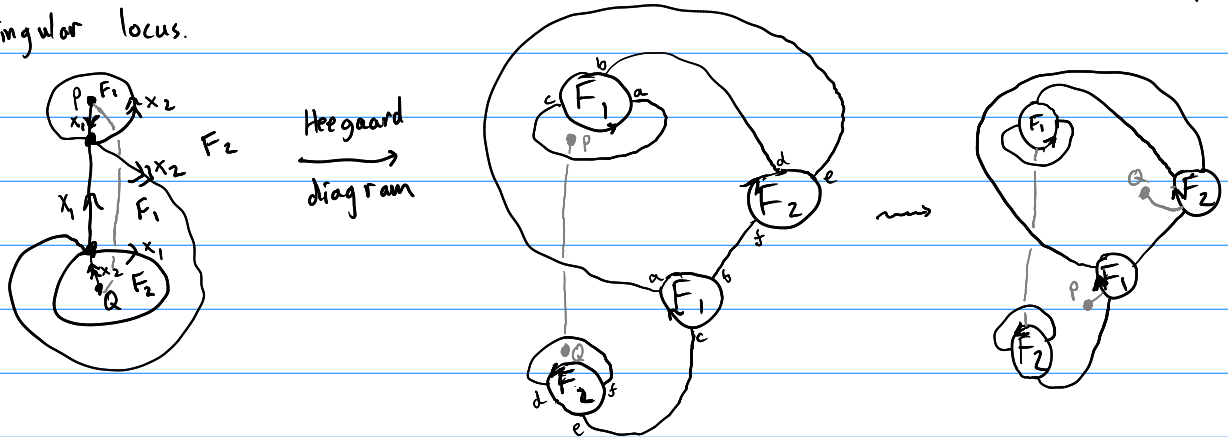


ex M_5 is from icosahedron

$\left. \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ vtx} \\ 2n \text{ edges} \\ 2n \text{ faces} \\ 1 \text{ solid} \end{array} \right\} \text{Euler char} = 0$

Prop (Seifert-Threlfall 1934) Let K be a 3-D clsd ori pseudomfld from identifying ∂ faces of a simply conn. polyhedron. K is a mfld if $\chi(K) = 0$.

$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ acts on M_n by $F_i \rightsquigarrow F_{i+2}$. Quotient is M_1 with interior path PQ the singular locus.



So (K, n) is $M_n / (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$ (HLM & J. Howie)

Thm (HKM) $M_1 \cong S^3$, $M_2 \cong L(S, 2)$, M_3 is Euclidean, $M_{n \geq 4}$ is hyperbolic.
 They show for $n \geq 4$ by tessellating \mathbb{H}^3 with polyhedron.

Hence there are discrete representations $\omega: \pi_1(S^3 - K) \rightarrow \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ for $n \geq 4$ such that (K, n) is $\mathbb{H}^3 / \omega_n(\pi_1(S^3 - K))$ $\subset \text{Isom}^+ \mathbb{H}^3$

* $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ reps of knot groups

Let $K \subset S^3$ be knot and $\omega: \pi_1(S^3 - K) \rightarrow \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$. Pullback:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \rightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} & \rightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{q'} & \pi_1(S^3 - K) \rightarrow 1 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow \omega & & \downarrow \omega \\ 1 & \rightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} & \rightarrow & \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{q} & \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

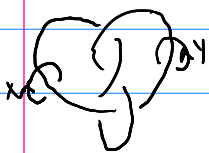
G is $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ central extn of $\pi_1(S^3 - K)$.

Classified by $H^2(\pi_1(S^3 - K); \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \cong H^2(S^3 - K; \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \cong \tilde{H}_0(K; \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = 0$

\uparrow Sphere thm $\rightarrow K(n, 1)$
 \uparrow Alexander duality

Hence q' has a section s , and $\omega \circ s: \pi_1(S^3 - K) \rightarrow \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ is a lift.
 $(G \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \pi_1(S^3 - K))$

* $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ reps of "Listing's knot" (U_2) (Whittemore 1973)



Wirtinger: $\pi_1(S^3 - K) = \langle x, y \mid x^{-1}yxy^{-1}xyx^{-1}y^{-1}xy^{-1} \rangle =: G$

$\omega: G \rightarrow \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ nonabelian iff

for $A = \omega(x)$, $B = \omega(y)$,

$$\alpha = \text{tr } A = \text{tr } B$$

$$\beta = \text{tr } AB = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \alpha^2 \pm \sqrt{(\alpha^2 - 1)(\alpha^2 - 5)})$$

And up to conj: $(\alpha \neq \pm 2)$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & \\ & \lambda^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} \mu & 1 \\ \mu(\alpha - \mu) & \alpha - \mu \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha \pm \sqrt{\alpha^2 - 4})$$

$$\mu = \frac{\lambda\beta - \alpha}{\lambda^2 - 1}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \alpha = \pm 2: \\ A = \pm \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ e^{i\alpha/3} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}$$

* Hyp. str of (K, n)

Consider $\omega_n: G \rightarrow \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ from before, lifted to $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$

A, B are elliptics of order n : $A^n = B^n = -I$ in some lift

Conjugating: $A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & \\ & \lambda^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$ with $\lambda^n = -1$.

Can assume $\lambda = e^{\pi i/n}$ after some field automorphism.

$\alpha = \text{tr } A = 2 \cos(\pi/n) \in (\sqrt{2}, 2)$ for all $n \geq 4$

Thus $\beta \notin \mathbb{R}$.

Thm (Reid's criterion, 1987)

For $\Gamma \leq \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ of finite covol, let $\Gamma^{(2)} = \langle \{g^2 : g \in \Gamma\} \rangle$.

Γ is arithmetic if

(i) Trace field $k^{(2)} = \mathbb{Q}(\text{tr}(g) : g \in \Gamma^{(2)})$ is a finite ext'n of \mathbb{Q} with exactly one \mathbb{C} -place.

(ii) $\forall g \in \Gamma^{(2)}$, $\text{tr}(g)$ is alg. integer

(iii) $\forall \text{emb } \sigma: k^{(2)} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\sigma(\{\text{tr}(g) \mid g \in \Gamma^{(2)}\})$ is bounded.

$\Gamma^{(2)}$ is derived from a quaternion algebra

Let $\Gamma_n \leq \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ be $\omega_n(G)$

$k_n = \text{tr field of } \Gamma_n$, $k_n^{(2)} = \text{tr field of } \Gamma_n^{(2)}$

Lemma (HLM2 5.1 & 5.3) gives $k_n = \mathbb{Q}(\text{tr } A, \text{tr } B, \text{tr } AB) = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha, \beta)$

"On Borromean Orbits"

$k_n^{(2)} = \mathbb{Q}(\text{tr}(A^2), \text{tr}(B^2), \text{tr}(AB^2)) = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha^2, \beta)$

$= \mathbb{Q}(\cos^2(\pi/n), \Theta_n)$

where $\Theta_n = (4 \cos^2(\pi/n) - 1)(4 \cos^2(\pi/n) - 5)$

Prop 1 $K_n^{(2)}$ has exactly one \mathbb{C} -place iff $n=4,5,6,8,12, \infty$

Pf sketch $\mathbb{Q}(\cos \frac{2\pi j}{n}) \hookrightarrow K_n^{(2)}$. Auts of k^1 extend to auts of $K_n^{(2)}$
 $\begin{matrix} \text{"} \\ k^1 \end{matrix}$ $\cos \frac{2\pi j}{n} \mapsto \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} \quad (i,j)=1$

$$\text{then } \Theta_n \mapsto \sqrt{(4 \cos^2 \frac{2\pi j}{n} - 1)(4 \cos^2 \frac{2\pi i}{n} - 1)} = \Theta_n'$$

If $j \in (1, n/3)$ then $\Theta_n' \notin \mathbb{R}$

If $n > 4$ and $n \neq 4,5,6,8,12$, \exists such $j \Rightarrow \geq 1$ place

Now cases, ex $n=5$ $K_5^{(2)} = \mathbb{Q}(\Theta_5)$ $\Theta_5 = \sqrt{\frac{-1-3\sqrt{5}}{2}} \cos \frac{\pi}{5} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{4}$
 two \mathbb{R} -places, one \mathbb{C} -place

Prop 2 $\forall g \in \Gamma_n$, $\text{tr}(g)$ is an alg. integer

Pf α, β generate ring of traces, $\alpha = 2 \cos \frac{\pi}{n}$ and $\beta^2 - (1+\alpha^2)\beta + 2\alpha^2 - 1 = 0$.

Cor 2.1 (K, n) is arithmetic for $n=4,6, \infty$

Pf $K_n^{(2)}$ has no \mathbb{R} -places, so (iii) holds.

Cor 3.1 (of Lemma 1) Let $\Gamma \leq \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ with $\gamma_0 = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & \\ & \lambda^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda^2 \neq 1$, $\gamma_1 = \begin{bmatrix} a & 1 \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ $c \neq 0$,
 $k = \text{tr field of } \Gamma$, $[k:\mathbb{Q}] < \infty$, $\lambda \notin k$. If $\varphi: k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $\varphi(\alpha)^2 < 4$, TFAE:

(a) $\varphi(c) < 0$

(b) $A(\Gamma) \otimes_{\varphi(k)} \mathbb{R}$ is the quaternions $(A(\Gamma) := k[\Gamma] \leq M(2, \mathbb{C}))$

(c) $\varphi(\{\text{tr } g : g \in \Gamma\})$ is bounded

For $n=5,8,12$, $\gamma_0 = A^2 = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda^2 & \\ & \lambda^{-2} \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda^2 = e^{2\pi i/n}$

$$\gamma_1 = \begin{bmatrix} * & 1 \\ c & * \end{bmatrix} \quad c = \alpha^2 (\mu(\alpha - \mu) - 1) \in K_n^{(2)}$$

They laboriously show $\varphi(c) < 0$ for every $K_n^{(2)} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

This completes proof of thm 3.