

These exercises are mainly taken from the forth week's lectures. Please do let me know if any of the problems are unclear or have typos.

**Exercise 4.1.** Check that  $8_2$  and  $8_{17}$  have isomorphic coloring groups.

**Exercise 4.2.** If you haven't already done so, check that the figure eight knot  $(4_1)$  is achiral.

**Exercise 4.3.** Suppose that  $P = P(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$  is a pretzel knot. Show that if one of the  $p_i$  is even then  $P$  is invertible. [Hard] Are all pretzel knots invertible?

**Exercise 4.4** (Harder). Verify the missing step in constructing codes: every crossing receives one odd and one even number.

**Exercise 4.5.** The knots  $6_1, 6_2, 6_3$ , have codes

$$[4, 8, 12, 10, 2, 6] \quad [4, 8, 10, 12, 2, 6] \quad [4, 8, 10, 2, 12, 6]$$

respectively. Draw these and check that they are isotopic to the standard diagrams.

**Exercise 4.6.** Compute the codes for the granny and reef knots, shown in Figure 19.

**Exercise 4.7.** Prove that there are at most  $2^n \cdot n!$  knots, up to isotopy, with  $n$  or fewer crossings. [Hard] Can you also give an exponential lower bound?

**Exercise 4.8.** Compute the Alexander polynomial for the trefoil knot by first computing the matrix of crossing equations. You should find that  $\Delta_T(t) = t - 1 + t^{-1}$ , up to multiplication by units in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$ .

**Exercise 4.9.** Show that  $w(R)$ , the winding number of the oriented shadow around the region  $R$ , is well defined. (Hint: this is very similar to the proof, given in class, that the parity  $e(R)$  is well-defined.) Show that if  $R, R'$  are adjacent then  $w(R) = w(R') \pm 1$ . Show that  $w(R) = e(R) \pmod{2}$  where  $e(R)$  is the parity of the region  $R$ .