

MGR coloring invariants of Seifert surfaces

Intelligence of low-dimensional topology

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① Handlebody-knots and spatial surfaces

② Main result 1

③ Main result 2

Introduction of §1

Handlebody-knot: handlebody embedded in S^3 .

- H_1, H_2 : handlebody-knots. $H_1 \cong H_2 \xLeftrightarrow{\text{def}} H_1$ is ambiently isotopic to H_2 .
- K : knot in $S^3 \Rightarrow N(K)$: handlebody-knot of genus 1.

Spatial surface: compact surface embedded in S^3 .

- F_1, F_2 : spatial surfaces. $F_1 \cong F_2 \xLeftrightarrow{\text{def}} F_1$ is ambiently isotopic to F_2 .
- Oriented spatial surface with non-empty boundary is a Seifert surface for its boundary.

$$\begin{aligned} \{\text{Knots}\} / \cong &\xrightarrow{\text{nbhd}} \{\text{Handlebody-knots}\} / \cong \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{boundary}} \{\text{Oriented spatial surfaces}\} / \cong. \end{aligned}$$

Handlebody-knots(1/2)

In this talk, graphs may have multiple edges and loops.

Spatial trivalent graph: finite trivalent graph embedded in S^3 .

Handlebody-knot: handlebody embedded in S^3 .

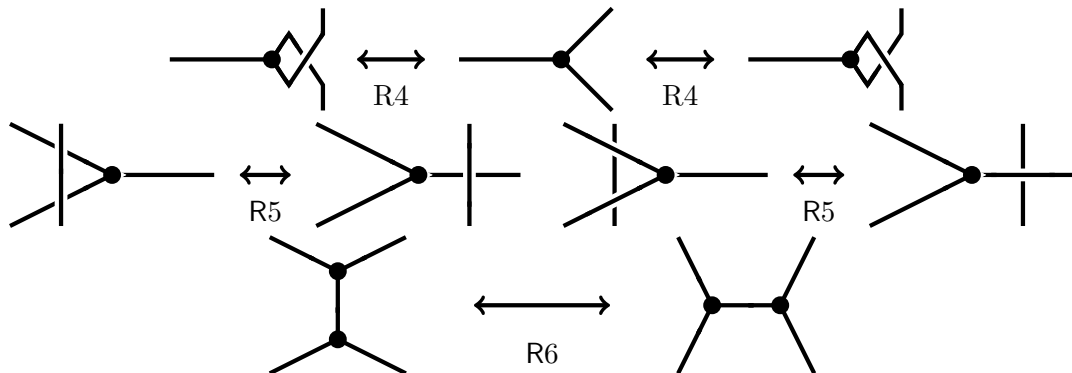
- H_1, H_2 : handlebody-knots. $H_1 \cong H_2 \overset{\text{def}}{\iff} H_1$ is ambiently isotopic to H_2 .
- G : spatial trivalent graph $\Rightarrow N(G)$: handlebody-knot.
- A diagram of a hdlbdy-knot H is a diagram of a spatial trivalent graph G s.t. $H \cong N(G)$.
- $H(D)$: handlebody-knot presented by a diagram D .

Handlebody-knots(2/2)

H_1, H_2 : handlebody-knots, D_i : diagram of H_i ($i = 1, 2$).

Theorem (Ishii 2008)

$H_1 \cong H_2 \iff D_1$ and D_2 are related by a finite seq. of R1–R6 moves and isotopies in S^2 .



Spatial surfaces(1/3)

Spatial surface: compact surface embedded in S^3 .

- F_1, F_2 : spatial surfaces. $F_1 \cong F_2 \overset{\text{def}}{\iff} F_1$ is ambiently isotopic to F_2 .

Remark

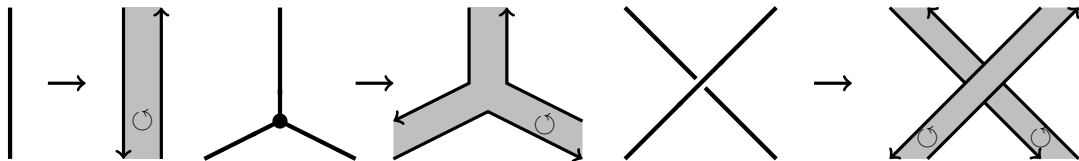
In this talk, we assume that

- spatial surfaces are connected and oriented,
- spatial surfaces are neither 2-disks nor closed surfaces.

Spatial surfaces(2/3)

D : diagram of a spatial trivalent graph.

The spatial surface $F(D)$ is obtained from the following.



We remark that full twists are presented by kinks in diagrams.



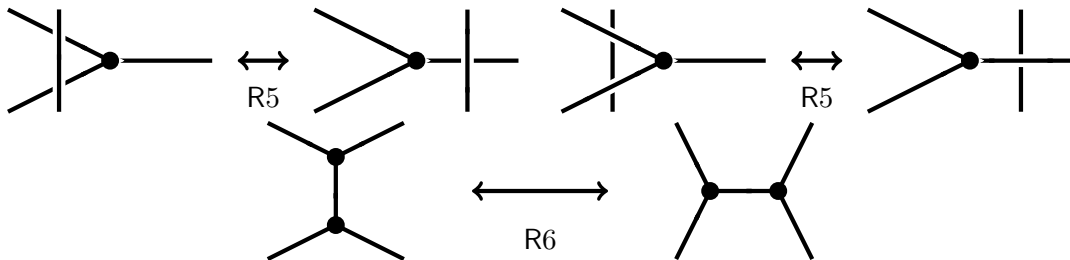
- $\forall F$: spatial surface, $\exists D$: diagram of a spatial trivalent graph s.t. $F \cong F(D)$.
- A diagram of a spatial surface F is a diagram D s.t. $F \cong F(D)$.

Spatial surfaces(3/3)

F_1, F_2 : spatial surfaces, D_i : diagram of F_i ($i = 1, 2$).

Theorem (Matsuzaki 2021)

$F_1 \cong F_2 \iff D_1$ and D_2 are related by a fin. seq. of R2, R3, R5, R6 moves and iso. in S^2 .



Remark

R1 and R4 moves change framings of spatial surfaces.

① Handlebody-knots and spatial surfaces

② Main result 1

③ Main result 2

Introduction of §2

The number of colorings by an algebraic system yields an invariant of “Object”
 $\Rightarrow$ the algebraic system needs to have “Universal structure.”

Object	Universal structure
Oriented knot	Quandle (Joyce 1982, Matveev 1982)
Knot	Symmetric quandle (Kamada 2007, Kamada-Oshiro 2010)
Handlebody-knot	Multiple conjugation quandle (Ishii 2015)
Spatial surface	?

- Multiple group rack (Ishii-Matsuzaki-Murao 2020), Heap rack (Saito-Zappala 2024).

Main result 1 (A. 2025)

? is a groupoid rack.

- $\{\text{Groupoid racks}\} \supset \{\text{Multiple group racks}\} \cup \{\text{Heap racks}\}.$

Racks and quandles

Definition (Joyce 1982, Matveev 1982, Fenn-Rourke 1992)

X : set, $\triangleleft : X \times X \rightarrow X$: binary operation on X .

$X = (X, \triangleleft)$: quandle $\xLeftrightarrow{\text{def}}$ (i)–(iii):

- (i) $\forall x \in X, x \triangleleft x = x$.
- (ii) $\forall y \in X$, the map $S_y : X \ni x \mapsto x \triangleleft y \in X$ is bijective.
- (iii) $\forall x, y, z \in X, (x \triangleleft y) \triangleleft z = (x \triangleleft z) \triangleleft (y \triangleleft z)$.

$X = (X, \triangleleft)$: rack $\xLeftrightarrow{\text{def}}$ (ii) and (iii).

Example

- $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. $R_n = (\mathbb{Z}_n, x \triangleleft y = 2y - x)$: dihedral quandle.
- $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. $C_n = (\mathbb{Z}_n, x \triangleleft y = x + 1)$: cyclic rack.
- $(X_1, \triangleleft_1), (X_2, \triangleleft_2)$: racks. $X_1 \times X_2$ is a rack w/ $(x_1, x_2) \triangleleft (y_1, y_2) = (x_1 \triangleleft_1 y_1, x_2 \triangleleft_2 y_2)$.

Groupoid racks (1/3)

Definition (Ishii 2015, Ishii-Matsuzaki-Murao 2020)

$X = \bigsqcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} G_\lambda$: disjoint union of groups, $\triangleleft : X \times X \rightarrow X$: binary operation on X .

$X = (X, \triangleleft)$: multiple conjugation quandle (MCQ) $\xLeftrightarrow{\text{def}}$ (i)–(iv):

- (i) $\forall \lambda \in \Lambda, \forall a, b \in G_\lambda, a \triangleleft b = b^{-1}ab$.
- (ii) $\forall x \in X, \forall \lambda \in \Lambda, \forall a, b \in G_\lambda, x \triangleleft (ab) = (x \triangleleft a) \triangleleft b$ and $x \triangleleft e_\lambda = x$,
where e_λ is the identity element of G_λ .
- (iii) $\forall x, y, z \in X, (x \triangleleft y) \triangleleft z = (x \triangleleft z) \triangleleft (y \triangleleft z)$.
- (iv) $\forall x \in X, \forall \lambda \in \Lambda, \exists \mu \in \Lambda$ s.t. $\forall a, b \in G_\lambda, a \triangleleft x, b \triangleleft x \in G_\mu$ and $(ab) \triangleleft x = (a \triangleleft x)(b \triangleleft x)$.

$X = (X, \triangleleft)$: multiple group rack (MGR) $\xLeftrightarrow{\text{def}}$ (ii)–(iv).

Groupoid racks (2/3)

$\mathcal{C}$: groupoid $\xLeftrightarrow{\text{def}}$ category in which all morphisms are invertible.

Definition (A. 2025)

$\mathcal{C}$: groupoid, $X = \text{Mor}(\mathcal{C})$: the set of all morphisms, $\triangleleft : X \times X \rightarrow X$: binary operation on X .

$X = (X, \triangleleft)$: groupoid rack associated with $\mathcal{C} \xLeftrightarrow{\text{def}}$ (i)–(iii):

- (i) $\forall x, f, g \in X$ w/ $\text{cod}(f) = \text{dom}(g)$, $x \triangleleft (fg) = (x \triangleleft f) \triangleleft g$ and $x \triangleleft \text{id}_\lambda = x$,
where id_λ is the identity of $\lambda \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$.
- (ii) $\forall x, y, z \in X$, $(x \triangleleft y) \triangleleft z = (x \triangleleft z) \triangleleft (y \triangleleft z)$.
- (iii) $\forall x, f, g \in X$ w/ $\text{cod}(f) = \text{dom}(g)$, $\text{cod}(f \triangleleft x) = \text{dom}(g \triangleleft x)$ and $(fg) \triangleleft x = (f \triangleleft x)(g \triangleleft x)$.

Groupoid racks (3/3)

An MGR $X = \bigsqcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} G_\lambda$ can be regarded as the grp. rack ass. with the following grp. $\mathcal{C}$.

- $\text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}) = \Lambda$, $\text{Mor}(\lambda, \mu) = \begin{cases} G_\lambda & (\lambda = \mu), \\ \emptyset & (\lambda \neq \mu). \end{cases}$, Composition: $G_\lambda \times G_\lambda \rightarrow G_\lambda$; $(a, b) \mapsto ab$.
- The identity morphism of $\lambda \in \Lambda$ is identity element of the group G_λ .
- The inverse morphism of a morphism $x \in G_\lambda$ is $x^{-1} \in G_\lambda$.

Proposition

X : groupoid rack associated with a groupoid $\mathcal{C}$.

If $\mathcal{C}$ satisfies that $\forall \lambda, \mu \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ with $\lambda \neq \mu$, $\text{Mor}(\lambda, \mu) = \emptyset$, then X is an MGR.

Proposition

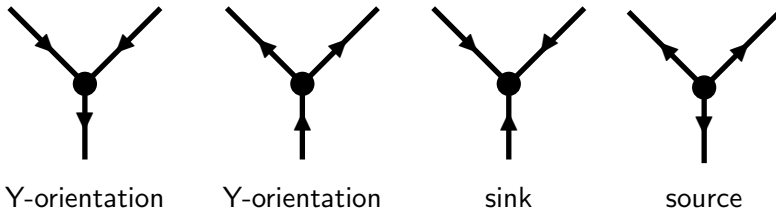
$(X, \triangleleft)$: grp. rack associated with a grp. $\mathcal{C}$. If $\mathcal{C}$ satisfies the following, then X is an MCQ.

- $\forall \lambda, \mu \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ with $\lambda \neq \mu$, $\text{Mor}(\lambda, \mu) = \emptyset$.
- $\forall \lambda \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$, $\forall a, b \in \text{Mor}(\lambda, \lambda)$, $a \triangleleft b = b^{-1}ab$.

Groupoid rack colorings (1/4)

D : diagram of a spatial trivalent graph.

Y-orientation of D : orientation of D without sinks and sources.



Remark (Ishii 2015, Lebed 2015)

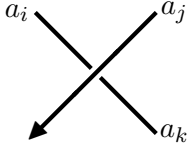
Every diagram admits a Y-orientation.

Y-oriented diagram: diagram with a Y-orientation.

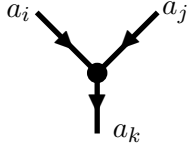
Groupoid rack colorings (2/4)

D : Y-oriented diagram, X : set, $\triangleleft : X \times X \rightarrow X$, $P \subset X \times X$, $\mu : P \rightarrow X$.

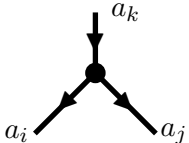
$C : \mathcal{A}(D) \rightarrow X$: X -coloring of $D \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} C$ satisfies the following conditions.



$$C(a_i) \triangleleft C(a_j) = C(a_k)$$



$$\mu(C(a_i), C(a_j)) = C(a_k)$$



$$\mu(C(a_i), C(a_j)) = C(a_k)$$

$\text{Col}_X(D)$: the set of all X -colorings of D .

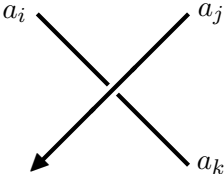
Main result 1 (A. 2025)

- $(X, \triangleleft)$: groupoid rack $\Rightarrow |\text{Col}_X(D)|$: invariant of the spatial surface $F(D)$.
- $|\text{Col}_X(D)|$ is an invariant of the spatial surface $F(D) \Rightarrow \bigcup_{(x,y) \in P} \{x, y\}$: groupoid rack.

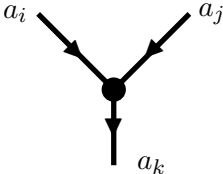
Groupoid rack colorings (3/4)

D : Y-oriented diagram, $\mathcal{A}(D)$: the set of all arcs of D , X : groupoid rack.

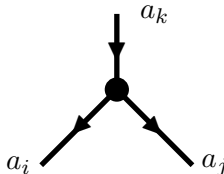
$C : \mathcal{A}(D) \rightarrow X$: X -coloring of $D \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} C$ satisfies the following conditions.



$$C(a_i) \triangleleft C(a_j) = C(a_k)$$



$$C(a_i)C(a_j) = C(a_k)$$



$$C(a_i)C(a_j) = C(a_k)$$

$\text{Col}_X(D)$: the set of all X -colorings of D .

Theorem (Ishii 2015)

- X : MCQ $\Rightarrow |\text{Col}_X(D)|$ is an invariant of the handlebody-knot $H(D)$.
- $|\text{Col}_X(D)|$ is an invariant of the handlebody-knot $H(D) \Rightarrow X$: MCQ.

Groupoid rack colorings (4/4)

Definition (Saito-Zappala 2024)

$R = (R, *)$: rack.

$R \times R$ is a rack with $(x, y) \triangleleft (z, w) = ((x *^{-1} z) * w, (y *^{-1} z) * w)$, where $x *^{-1} z := S_z^{-1}(x)$.

The heap rack $R \times R$ is the rack $(R \times R, \triangleleft)$ with the partial operation $(x, y)(y, z) = (x, z)$.

A heap rack X can be regarded as a groupoid rack.

D : Y-oriented diagram.

Theorem (Saito-Zappala 2024)

$|\text{Col}_X(D)|$ is an invariant of the spatial surface $F(D)$.

① Handlebody-knots and spatial surfaces

② Main result 1

③ Main result 2

Introduction of §3

Main result 2

$\forall L$: oriented link, $\exists \{(F_n, F'_n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$: pairs of Seifert surfaces for L s.t.:

- (i) $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $N(F_n) \cong N(F'_n)$ as handlebody-knots.
- (ii) $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, Seifert matrices of F_n and F'_n are unimodular-congruent.
- (iii) $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $F_n \not\cong F'_n$ as spatial surfaces.

Outline of proof

(Step 1) Construct such a family $\{(F_n, F'_n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.

(Step 2) Check that $\forall m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $F_m \not\cong F_n$.

(Step 3) Verify the claims (i)–(iii).

(Step 1) Construct $\{(F_n, F'_n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ (1/3)

L : oriented link.

F : Seifert surface for L with $F \not\cong$ (2-disk).

D : diagram of F .

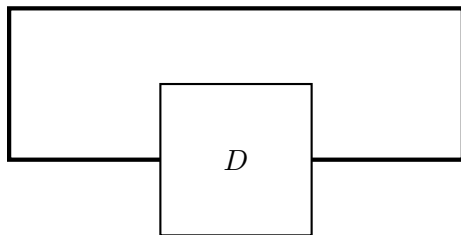
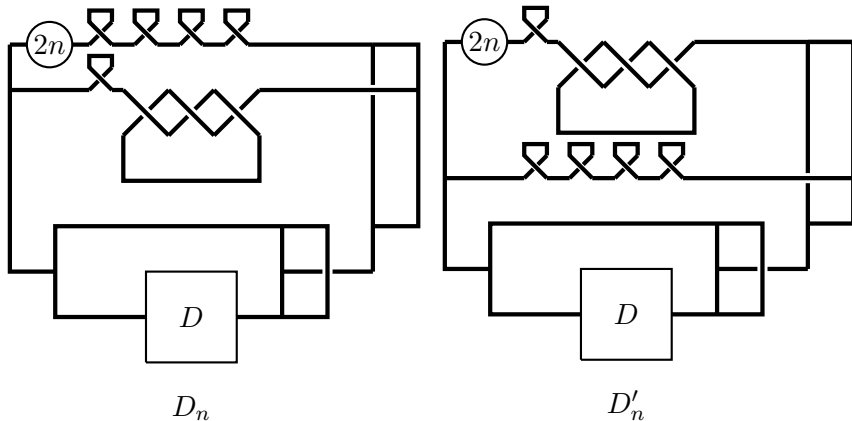


Figure: A diagram D of the Seifert surface F

(Step 1) Construct $\{(F_n, F'_n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ (2/3)

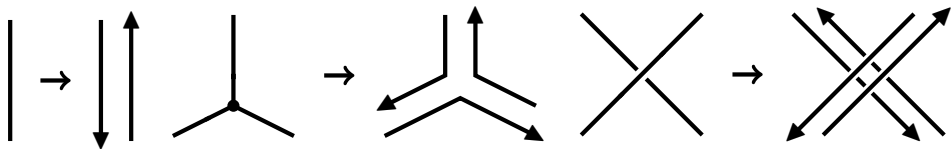
For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, take the following diagrams D_n and D'_n .



(n) : positive n kinks.

(Step 1) Construct $\{(F_n, F'_n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ (3/3)

- $\partial F(D_n) \cong \partial F(D'_n) \cong \partial F(D) \cong L$.



- For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, define $F_n := F(D_n)$ and $F'_n := F(D'_n)$.
- $\{(F_n, F'_n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$: pairs of Seifert surfaces for L .

(Step 2) Check that $\forall m, n \in \mathbb{N}, F_m \not\cong F_n$

V : Seifert matrix of the Seifert surface $F(D)$ for L .

For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, F_k has the Seifert matrix $V_k = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ -1 & 0 & 4 & 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 4+2k & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & V \end{pmatrix}$.

$s = \max \{i \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists \text{ non-zero } (i \times i)\text{-minor of } V\}$ (If $\nexists s$, we set $s = 0$).

$E_{k,3+s} := \gcd \{(3+s) \times (3+s)\text{-minors of } V_k\}$.

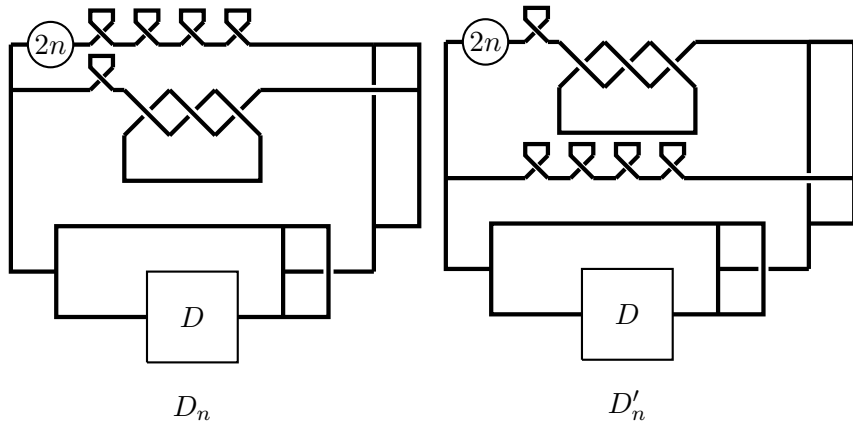
Definition and Proposition

F_1, F_2 : spatial surfaces, V_i : Seifert matrix of F_i ($i = 1, 2$).

- (i) $F_1 \cong F_2 \Rightarrow V_1$ and V_2 are unimodular-congruent, i.e., $\exists P$: unimodular s.t. $V_1 = P^T V_2 P$.
- (ii) $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\gcd \{k \times k\text{-minors of } V_i\}$ is an invariant of F_i .

For any $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $E_{m,3+s} \neq E_{n,3+s}$. By the above Prop., $F_m \not\cong F_n$.

(Step 3) (i) $N(F_n) \cong N(F'_n)$



- $N(F_n) \cong H(D_n)$ and $N(F'_n) \cong H(D'_n)$.

(Step 3) (ii) Seifert matrices of F_n and F'_n are unimodular-congruent

V : Seifert matrix of the spatial surface $F(D)$.

- $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, F_n and F'_n have the same Seifert matrix
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ -1 & 0 & 4 & 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 4 + 2n & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & V \end{pmatrix}.$$

(Step 3) (iii) $F_n \not\cong F'_n$ (1/5)

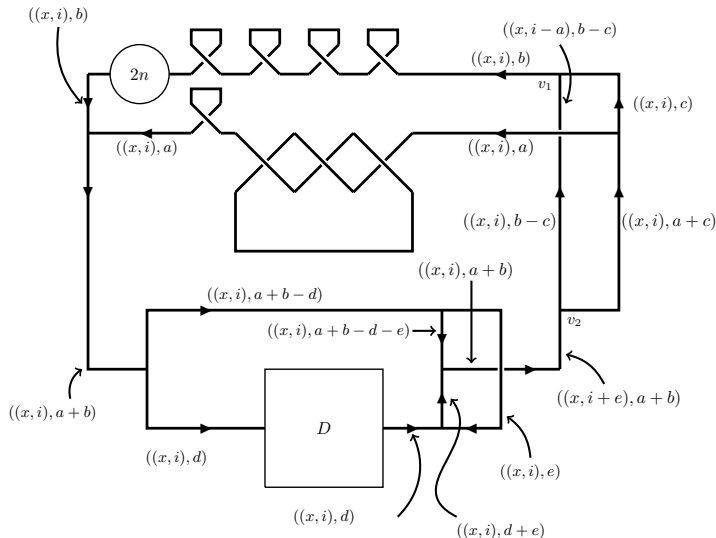
Example (MGR)

$X = (R_3 \times C_2) \times \mathbb{Z}_2 = \bigsqcup_{(x,i) \in R_3 \times C_2} \{(x,i)\} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ is an MGR with

$$((x,i),a) \triangleleft ((y,j),b) = \begin{cases} ((x,i),a) & \text{if } b = 0, \\ ((2y-x, i+1), a) & \text{if } b = 1 \end{cases}, \quad ((x,i),a)((x,i),b) = ((x,i),a+b).$$

This construction is motivated by (Ishii 2015, Ishii-Matsuzaki-Murao 2020).

(Step 3) (iii) $F_n \not\cong F'_n$ (2/5): X -coloring of D_n



Coloring conditions
at vertices v_1 and v_2 .

$$\begin{cases} i - a = i \pmod{2}, \\ i + e = i \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

Thus,

$$a = 0, e = 0.$$

(Step 3) (iii) $F_n \not\cong F'_n$ (3/5)

$$\text{Col}_X(D; ((x, i), d)) := \text{Col}_X \left(\begin{array}{c} \longrightarrow \boxed{D} \longrightarrow \\ ((x, i), d) \quad ((x, i), d) \end{array} \right).$$

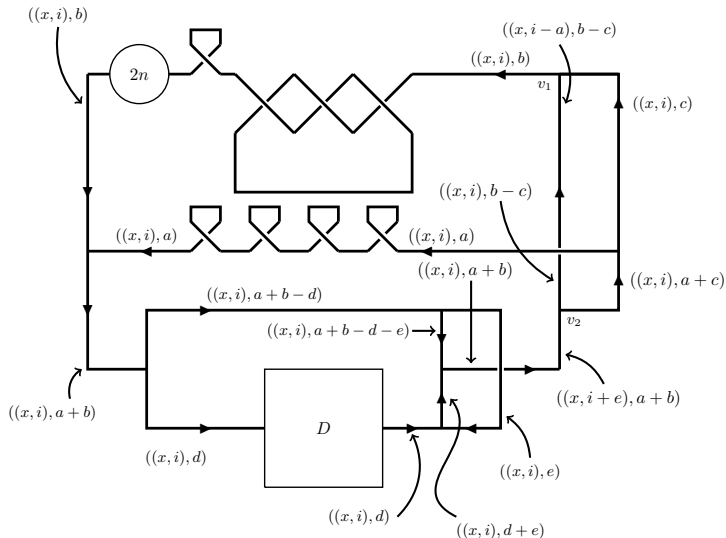
Then,

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{Col}_X(D_n)| &= \bigsqcup_{((x, i), (b, c, d)) \in (R_3 \times C_2) \times \mathbb{Z}_2^3} |\text{Col}_X(D; ((x, i), d))| \\ &= 4 \left(\bigsqcup_{((x, i), d) \in X} |\text{Col}_X(D; ((x, i), d))| \right). \end{aligned}$$

Remark

$|\text{Col}_X(D_n)| > 0$ because $|\text{Col}_X(D; ((x, i), 0))| > 0$ for any $(x, i) \in R_3 \times C_2$.

(Step 3) (iii) $F_n \not\cong F'_n$ (4/5): X -coloring of D'_n



Coloring conditions
at vertices v_1 and v_2 .

$$\begin{cases} i - a = i \pmod{2}, \\ i + e = i \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

Thus,

$$a = 0, e = 0.$$

(Step 3) (iii) $F_n \not\cong F'_n$ (5/5)

Remark

For any $(x, i) \in R_3 \times C_2$,

$$\bigsqcup_{b \in C_2} \left| \text{Col}_X(\rightarrow \boxed{3_1} \rightarrow \bigcirc 1 \rightarrow; (x, i), b) \right| = \left| \text{Col}_X(\bigcirc 4; (x, i), 0) \right| + 3 \left| \text{Col}_X(\bigcirc 4; (x, i), 1) \right| = 4.$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{Col}_X(D'_n)| &= \bigsqcup_{((x, i), (b, c, d)) \in (R_3 \times C_2) \times \mathbb{Z}_2^3} \left(|\text{Col}_X(D, ((x, i), d))| \cdot \left| \text{Col}_X(\rightarrow \boxed{3_1} \rightarrow \bigcirc 1 \rightarrow, ((x, i), b)) \right| \right) \\ &\stackrel{\text{Rem.}}{=} 8 \left(\bigsqcup_{((x, i), d) \in X} |\text{Col}_X(D, ((x, i), d))| \right) > |\text{Col}_X(D_n)|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $F_n \not\cong F'_n$.

Thank you for your attention!!