

# Handles

def:  $0 \leq k \leq n$

an  $n$ -dim'l  $k$ -handle is  $\mathbb{D}^k \times \mathbb{D}^{n-k}$  attached to the boundary of an  $n$ -manifold  $X$  along  $\partial \mathbb{D}^k \times \mathbb{D}^{n-k}$  by an embedding  $\psi: \partial \mathbb{D}^k \times \mathbb{D}^{n-k} \hookrightarrow \partial X$ . notation  $X \cup_{\psi} h$

(smoothing corners is canonical...)

note: homotopy equivalent to attaching a  $k$ -cell

terminology: core  $\mathbb{D}^k \times 0$ , cocore  $0 \times \mathbb{D}^{n-k}$ , attaching map  $\psi$ .

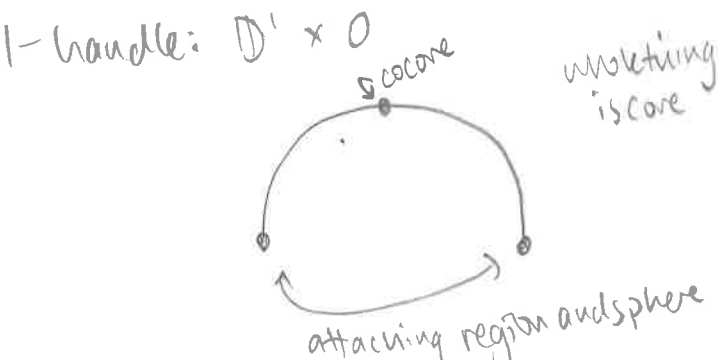
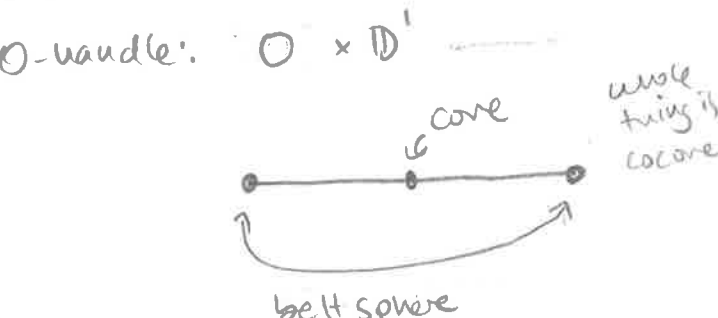
attaching region  $\partial \mathbb{D}^k \times \mathbb{D}^{n-k} \hookrightarrow \psi(\partial \mathbb{D}^k \times \mathbb{D}^{n-k})$

attaching sphere  $\partial \mathbb{D}^k \times 0 \hookrightarrow \psi(\partial \mathbb{D}^k \times 0)$  (descending)

belt sphere  $0 \times \partial \mathbb{D}^{n-k}$  (ascending)

index of the handle is  $k$  (compare: Morse index)

1-dim'l...



2-dim'l...



3-dim'l...  
0-handle:  $0 \times \mathbb{D}^3$

whole thing is cocore  
whole boundary is belt sphere

1-handle:  $\mathbb{D}^1 \times \mathbb{D}^2$

attaching region

2-handle:  $\mathbb{D}^2 \times \mathbb{D}^1$

attaching region

3-handle:  $\mathbb{D}^3 \times 0$

whole thing is core

whole boundary is attaching sphere and region

4-dim'l...  
0-handle:  $0 \times \mathbb{D}^4$

attaching region + sphere are empty  
belt sphere is all of  $S^3$

1-handle:  $\mathbb{D}^1 \times \mathbb{D}^3$

an  $S^2$  splitting these  $\mathbb{D}^3$ 's is the belt sphere

2-handle:  $\mathbb{D}^2 \times \mathbb{D}^2$

belt sphere

3-handle:  $\mathbb{D}^3 \times \mathbb{D}^1$

belt sphere is this  $\cup$

4-handle:  $\mathbb{D}^4 \times 0$

all of  $S^3$  is the attaching region + sphere  
the belt sphere is empty

note:

- the only handle we can attach to  $\emptyset$  is a 0-handle
- for the 4-dimensional handles I have only drawn the attaching region + spheres and belt spheres, as they sit in  $S^3 = 2$  (any 4-dim'l handle)

## Data of a Handle

- isotopy of  $\mathcal{V}$  doesn't change diffeo type of  $X \cup_{\mathcal{V}} h$ :
- use isotopy extension thm to ambient isotopy  $\Phi: \mathbb{I} \times \partial X \rightarrow \partial X$
  - identify  $\mathbb{I} \times \partial X$  with a collar neighborhood of  $\partial X$  in  $X$
  - get a diffeo of  $X \cup_{\mathcal{V}} h$  to  $X \cup_{\mathcal{V}'} h$  by the diffeo  $\text{id}_{\mathbb{I}} \times \Phi$  on this collar

$\mathcal{V}$  can be constructed from

- an embedding  $\mathcal{V}_0: \partial \mathbb{D}^n \times 0 \rightarrow \partial X$  with trivial normal bundle
- a trivialization  $f$  of the normal bundle, called a framing

because by the tubular nbhd thm,  $\mathcal{V}_0(\partial \mathbb{D}^n \times 0)$  has a neighborhood diffeo to its normal bundle

moreover,  $\mathcal{V}$  is determined up to isotopy of framed embeddings

## Framings

choose a framing  $f_0$ . every other diffeo at each point in  $\partial \mathbb{D}^n \times 0 \cong S^{n-1}$  by an element of  $GL(n-k)$ . compose w/ a self-diffeo of the second factor of  $\mathbb{D}^k \times \mathbb{D}^{n-k}$  to get this elmt = id at a basepoint  $p$

$\Rightarrow$  an elmt of  $\pi_{n-1}(O(n-k))$  for each framing

this is a bijection from isotopy classes of framings

it's only a torsor, not in general canonically identified with  $\pi_{n-1}(O(n-k))!$

# Handle Decomps

$X$  compact  $n$ -mfld w/  $\partial X = \partial_+ X \amalg \partial_- X$   
 $\uparrow \quad \uparrow$   
compact, maybe empty

orient  $\partial_{\pm} X$  so that  $\partial X = \partial_+ X \amalg \overline{\partial_- X}$

a handledecomp of  $X$  is an identification of  $X$  w/ a mfld obtained from  $I \times \partial_- X$  by attaching handles, with  $\partial_- X$  identified w/  $0 \times \partial_- X$

$X$  is a relative handlebody on  $\partial_- X$ , or if  $\partial_- X = \emptyset$  a handlebody

thm: every compact smooth pair  $(X, \partial_- X)$  admits a handledecomp (by identifying descending submanifolds of noncritical points of index  $k$  w/ cores of index  $k$  handles), using a proper Morse  $f: X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  w/  $f^{-1}(0) = \partial_- X$ ,  $f^{-1}(1) = \partial_+ X$

note:  $(X, \partial_- X)$  admits a handledecomp  $\Leftrightarrow X$  is smoothable

prop 4.2.7: Any handledecomp of a compact pair  $(X, \partial_- X)$  can be modified by isotoping attaching maps so the handles are attached in order of increasing index; handles of the same index can be attached in any order, including simultaneously

the dual handledecomp is obtained on  $(X, \overline{\partial_+ X})$  by gluing a collar  $I \times \overline{\partial_+ X}$  and removing the collar  $I \times \partial_- X$ , then reversing all the roles of a  $k$ -handle to that of an  $(n-k)$ -handle

one can cancel some handles of adjacent index: the point is that in some configurations their union is a ball attached to  $X$  by a ball (the attaching sphere of the  $(k-1)$ -handle in  $\partial X$  is filled by half the attaching sphere of the  $k$ -handle in  $\partial X$ , which is a  $(k-1)$ -ball)

prop 4.2.9: A  $(k-1)$ -handle  $h_{k-1}$  and a  $k$ -handle  $h_k$  (1-shen) can be cancelled provided the attaching sphere of  $h_k$  intersects the belt sphere of  $h_{k-1}$  transversely in a single point.

one can slide handles of the same index over one another by isotoping the attaching sphere of  $h_1$  through the belt sphere of  $h_2$ ; when they intersect at one point  $p$  with the sum of their tangent spaces  $\text{codim } 1$  in  $T_p \partial(X \cup h_2)$  there are precisely 2 directions to go: one is original, other is slid

Thm 4.2.12: Given any two relative handle decomp (ordered by increasing index) of a compact pair  $(X, \partial X)$  one can get from one to the other by a sequence of handle slides, creating/cancelling pairs, and isotopies.

"pf": Cf. treaty

prop 4.2.13: If  $X^n$  is compact, connected then  $(X, \partial X)$  admits a handle decomp w/ exactly one 0-handle if  $\partial X = \emptyset$  and none else. Similar statement for  $n$ -handles

pf: Only 1-handles can connect 0-handles if there are multiple, b/c  $S^0$  is the only disconnected sphere.

There's a way to get  $H_*$  from handle decomp.

# Heegaard Splittings (of closed $X$ )

$X^3$  has a handle decomp w/ a unique 0- and 3-handle

in general, orientable  $\Rightarrow$  framings of 1-handles determined b/c

$\pi_0(O(n-1)) = \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $X$  orientable  $\Leftrightarrow$  around any loop in  $X$ , orientation never reverses

$\Rightarrow X_i = 0\text{-handle} \cup_{i=1}^g 1\text{-handles}_i \cong \text{kg } S^1 \times \mathbb{D}^{n-1}$

in general, when  $n \neq 2$ ,  $\pi_{n-2}(O(1)) = 0$  and  $\pi_{n-1}(O(0)) = 0$ , so framings do not matter for  $(n-1)$ - and  $n$ -handles  $\Rightarrow$

requires: the 3-handle det'd only by gluing map, and  $\text{Diff}(S^2)$  is connected

3-dim'l handlebodies are specified by the attaching circles of the 2-handles in  $\partial X_i = \partial(\text{solid genus } g \text{ sfc})$

Heegaard splittings  $H \cup_{\psi} H$  for a d'f'd  $\psi: \partial H \rightarrow \partial H$  are equivalent up to diffeom

we can represent info of circles in  $\Sigma_g$  by a diagram in  $\mathbb{R}^2$   $\leftarrow$  MAIN IDEA

0-handle  $\mathbb{D}^3$  has  $\partial = S^2 = \mathbb{R}^2 \cup \infty$

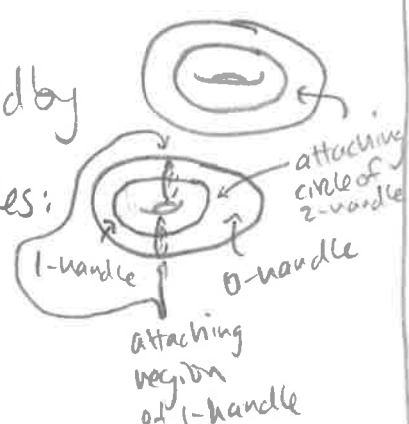
so draw the attaching regions of the 1-handles in  $\mathbb{R}^2$   
attaching circles of the 2-handles in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

to get  $X$ , we add an orientable handle  $\Leftrightarrow$  gluing by a reflection

examples:

$S^3$  can be rep'd by

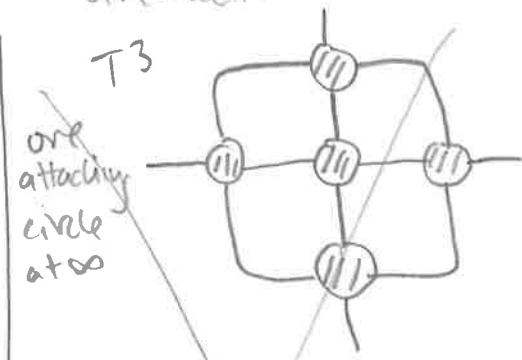
find the handles:



w/diagram:



$S^1 \times S^2$   
 $X_i = \text{solid torus} = S^1 \times 0\text{-handle of } S^2$   
the 2-handle is the 0-handle of  $S^1 \times$  the 2-handle of  $S^2$ , and the  $S^1$  is the same  $S^1$  as for  $X_i$ , so it links like:



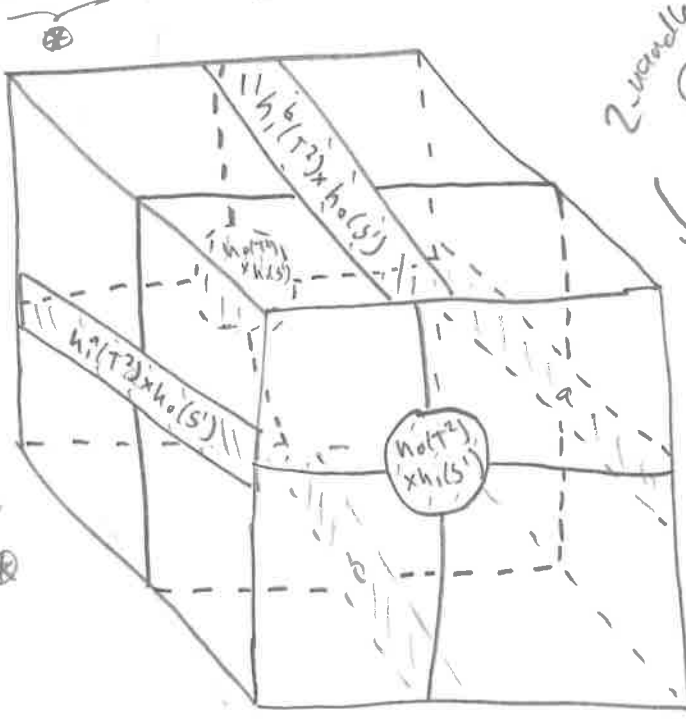
think: reps  $T^2$   
when you  $\times S^1$  the 0-handle of  $S^1$  replicates the handle decomp of  $T^2$  the 1-handle adds a 1-handle from  $T^2$ 's 0-handle, and connects it to all others by 2-handle =  $S^1 \times (S^1 \times T^2)$




# Heegaard Diagram of $T^3$

$$\begin{aligned}
 T^3 &= S^1 \times S^1 \times S^1 = (S^1 \times S^1) \times S^1 \\
 &= (h_0(T^2) \cup h_1^a(T^2) \cup h_1^b(T^2) \cup h_2(T^2)) \times (h_0(S^1) \cup h_1(S^1)) \\
 &= \underbrace{(h_0(T^2) \times h_0(S^1))}_{h_0(T^3)} \cup \underbrace{((h_1^a(T^2) \times h_0(S^1)) \cup (h_1^b(T^2) \times h_0(S^1)) \cup (h_0(T^2) \times h_1(S^1)))}_{= 1\text{-handles of } T^3} \\
 &\quad \cup \underbrace{((h_1^a(T^2) \times h_1(S^1)) \cup (h_1^b(T^2) \times h_1(S^1)) \cup (h_2(T^2) \times h_0(S^1)))}_{= 2\text{-handles of } T^3} \\
 &\quad \cup \underbrace{(h_2(T^2) \times h_1(S^1))}_{h_3(T^3)}
 \end{aligned}$$

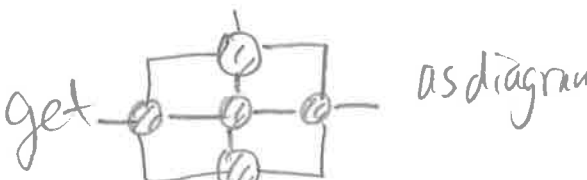
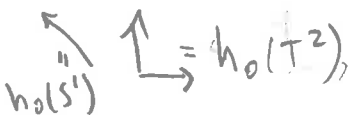
think of  $h_0(T^3)$  as a cube

$h_1^{a,b}(T^2) \times h_0(S^1)$  attach by the  $h_1(T^2)$  maps,  $\times h_0(S^1)$   
 $h_0(T^2) \times h_1(S^1)$  attaches by the  $h_1(S^1)$  maps,  $\times h_0(T^2)$   
 (BA we can shrink from entire front+back faces to discs)



2-handles  
 $h_1^{a,b}(T^2) \times h_1(S^1)$  attach by the product of the maps. the attaching regions are discs and two opp.  $\mathbb{P}^1$  sides attach as for  $T^2$ ,  $\square$  other two for  $S^1$   
 that's these:  $h_1^a(T^2) \times h_1(S^1)$  is   
 $h_1^b(T^2) \times h_1(S^1)$  is  \*  
 $h_2(T^2) \times h_0(S^1)$  replicates the 2-handle attachment of  $T^2$  so it's the one 

\* constraint of those faces due to shrinking as in  $\otimes$



# Kirby Diagrams

$$\partial_- X = \emptyset$$
$$X \text{ compact}$$


draw attaching regions of 1-handles  
identify boundaries via reflection in a plane

add 2-handles by circles, but now we have framings as  $\Pi_1(O(2)) = \mathbb{Z}!$

Note: if  $\partial_+ X = \emptyset$  then by dualizing the union of 3- and 4-handles is  $\mathbb{H} \times S^1 \times \mathbb{D}^3$   
any self-diffeo of  $\mathbb{H} \times S^1 \times S^2$  extends over  $\mathbb{H} \times S^1 \times \mathbb{D}^3$  (Laudenbach-Poenaru)  
so  $\exists!$   $X$  w/  $\partial_+ X = \emptyset$  which can be obtained by attaching 3- and 4-handles to  $X_2$   
• if  $\partial_+ X \neq \emptyset$  but is connected and  $X$  is simply connected then  $X$  det'd by  $X_2$  and # of 3-handles (Trace)

$\Rightarrow$  for lots of mflds we care about, the complexity is due to 2-handles

Framings of 2-handles: a co-orientation on  $K$  induced by an orientation of  $K$  and  $S^3 \Rightarrow$  to specify a framing we specify a vector field along  $K$   
 $\Rightarrow$  to specify a framing we specify a parallel copy  $K'$

to specify  $\pm$  we choose the std orientation on  $S^3$  as  $\partial \mathbb{D}^4$  and say "right-handed twists are positive" eg  = +3

can also represent by 

note: sign of a twist depends only on orientation of  $S^3$ , not of  $K$  (check by going from each direction)  
so framings are well-defined, indep of our orientation of  $K$

by parallel  
copies

the idea is this: if we have  $K$  and  $K'$  a parallel copy  $\leftrightarrow$  a vector field along  $K$ , a co-orientation on  $K$  + an orientation of  $S^3 \Rightarrow$  the other vector field in the framing up to isotopy. if we change the orientation of  $K$  the 2nd v.f. changes BUT remember we change words at a basepoint to get all framings to agree there. so we get back to the identity components of  $O(2)$ .



# More about 2-handle framings

def: a link diagram is a projection of  $L$  to  $\mathbb{R}^2$  to an immersion of  $\cup S^1$  which is 1-1 except at double points, together w/ crossing info if  $L$  is oriented then we can give signs to crossings the signs are indep of orientation



Linking #s: 3 ways given  $K_1, K_2$  components of an oriented link in  $S^3 \dots$

homology:  $H_2(S^3, S^3 - K_i; \mathbb{Z}) \cong H_2(\cup K_i, \partial \cup K_i; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$   
 $\langle ES \text{ on } H_* \Rightarrow H_1(S^3 - K_i; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \langle \text{meridian of } K_i \rangle$

$[K_2]$  rep's some multiple of the meridian in  $H_1(S^3 - K_i; \mathbb{Z})$   
 !!  
 linking #  $lk(K_1, K_2)$

prop 4.5.2:  $lk(K_1, K_2) =$  signed # of times  $K_2$  crosses under  $K_1$

cor 4.5.3:  $lk(K_1, K_2) = lk(K_2, K_1)$

prop 4.5.5: for  $F$  a Seifert sfc of  $K_1$ ,  $lk(K_1, K_2) = F \cdot K_2$   
 2 ways: algorithm (show) or " $H^1(S^3 - K_1; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \leftrightarrow [S^3 - K_1, S^1] \Rightarrow \varphi: S^3 - K_1 \rightarrow S^1$  induces  $H^1$  iso,  $F = \varphi^*(\text{regul})$ "

the 0-framing is the outward normal to any orientable Seifert sfc

the blackboard framing is det'd by a link diagram

prop 4.5.8:  $lk(K, K_b)$  where  $K_b$  is a pushoff by the blackboard framing is the wrth of  $K$ , that is, the signed # of self-crossings of  $K$

def 4.5.10: the linking matrix of a link  $L = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^m K_i$  is  $(a_{ij})$  where if  $i \neq j$ ,  
 $a_{ij} = lk(K_i, K_j)$  and  $a_{ii} = w(K_i)$

prop 4.5.11: for  $X$  a connected handlebody without 1- or 3- handles,  $Q_X$  with respect to the canonical ordered basis given by  $L$  is given by the linking matrix of  $L$

the canonical ordered basis is given by pushing Seifert sfc's into  $\mathbb{D}^4$ , then adding the cores of their 2-handles

check Qx!

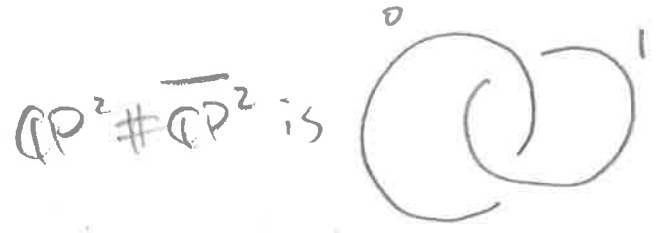
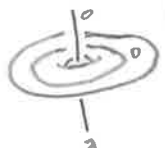
Examples

$S^2 \times S^2$  decompose as product of 2 handlebodies  $\leadsto$  two 0-framed links  
 how are they linked?  
 they're precisely  $S^1 \times 0$  and  $0 \times S^1$  in  $S^3$

Hopf link  
 + tri diagram  $\mathbb{B}$



alt, to see the splitting  $S^3 = \partial(D^2 \times D^1) = \partial D^2 \times D^2 \cup D^2 \times \partial D^2$



$I \times M^3$

$I\mathbb{B}$  is a 0-handle  
 so we can twist the Kirby diagram for  $M$ , then round the corners of the attaching regions of the 1-handles  
 + collapse the bands of the twisted 2-handles' attaching spheres in  $M^3$   
 to get the new spheres in the 4-d diagram



$S^1 \times M^3$

with the 0-handle of  $S^1$  gotten as for  $I \times M^3$   
 the 1-handle of  $S^1$  bumps all the handles of  $M^3$  up by one  
 get: - one more 1-handle from  $M$ 's 0-handle  
 - a bunch more 2-handles from  $M$ 's 1-handles


the 2-handles attach the new 1-handle to all the other 1-handles as in the  $T^3$  Heegaard diagram: think of the new 2-handles' attaching regions as the result of shrinking the new 1-handle from all of  $M^3$ 's 0-handle to just 2 balls at ends of the new 0-handle

# Dotted Circle Notation

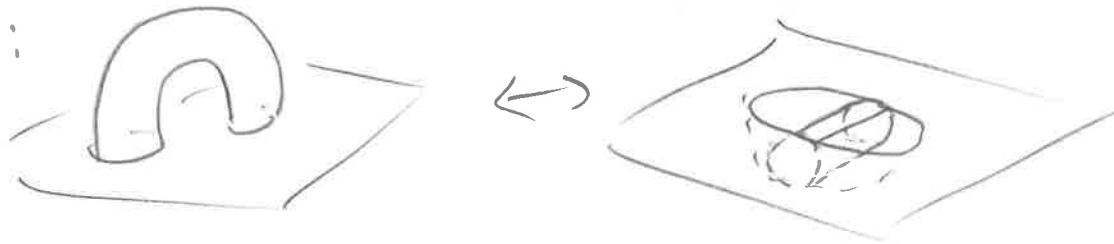
Question: how to deal w/ framings on 2-handles which pass over 1-handles?

answer: instead of drawing 1-handles' attaching regions we draw the belt sphere of the cancelling 2-handle and attach dot

It's an invariant b/c it's the cancelling 2-handle (will make more sense once Milnor talks about calculus next week)

how to get  $X$ ? the cocore of the cancelling 2-handle is a disk pushed into int  $D^4$  banded by the ; remove a tubular nbhd.

in 3D:



think of sliding all the other data off int  $\partial(0\text{-cell})$  then collapsing the 1-handle

w/ diagrams



imagine: squeeze together the 2 balls in the attaching region of a 1-handle you can tell how to attach any 2-handle curves running thru (the framings you get will depend on the path you chose to press the balls together along)

eg  $T^2 \times D^2$  gets from

(shaded region is the core of the 0-handle pushed into a 0-handle)



two sheets here