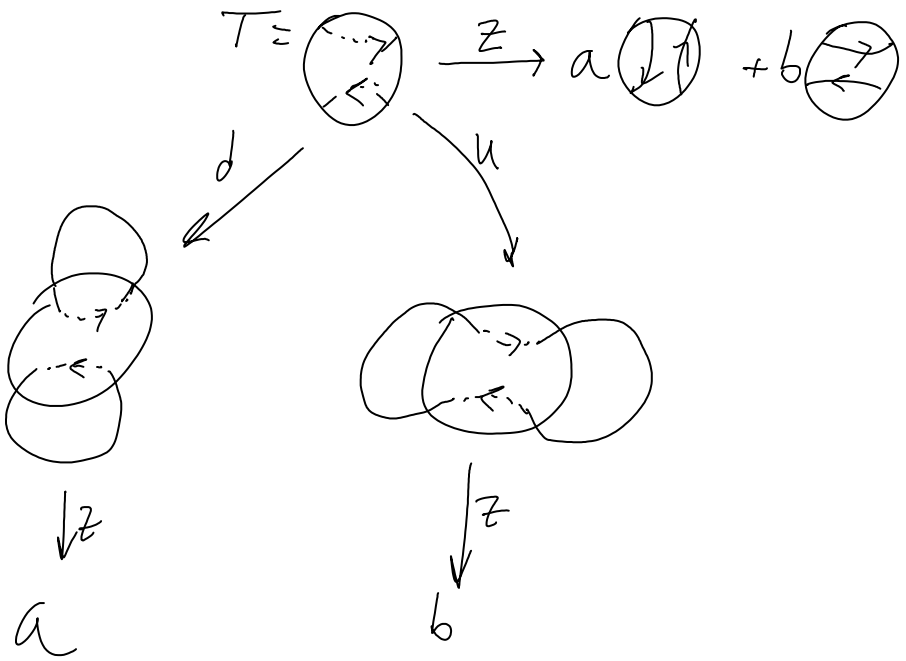
The Stupidest Alexander AKT

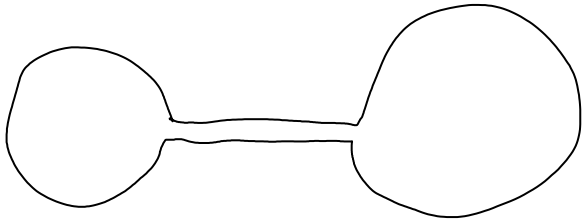
July-14-10
9:25 AM



Knowing that $Z_d T = 0$ gives no information at all about $Z_u D$.

$\Longrightarrow$ Not every (a,b) pair can be the Z of an honest tangle.

Perhaps what's wrong is that we've broken the "group-like" property.



The intuition: if nothing comes from the loops, all comes from the neck, which is traversed twice, once forwards & once backwards.

Is there any realization of the Alexander polynomial in which this intuition makes sense?