

This would make an excellent graduate project !

6.1. Order 1. The only possible term at order 1 has the form  $\Theta_1 \text{Tr}(\text{ad } \Xi)$  with

$$(6.2) \quad \Theta_1 = \int_{C_{2,0}} \theta_{12} \eta_{12}.$$

Observe that this term does not appear if  $\mathfrak{g}$  is unimodular. It is also possible to prove (considering the involution  $(x_1, x_2) \mapsto (x_2, x_1)$  of  $C_{2,0}$ ) that  $\Theta_1$  vanishes if  $m$  is odd. The graphical representation of  $\Theta_1$  is displayed in fig. 7. (From now on we omit in diagrams the black and white strip representing  $\Xi$ . In fig. 7 it would be attached to vertex 1.)



FIGURE 7. Order 1.

In even dimensions,  $\Theta_1$  furnishes a function on  $\text{Imb}_\sigma$  which is a generalization of the self-linking number for ordinary knots. *This function is not an invariant.* It can be easily proved that, in computing the differential of  $\Theta_1$ , the only boundary contribution corresponds to the collapse of the two points. One obtains then

$$d\Theta_1 = -p_{1*}(\Phi^* w_{m-1} \wedge p_3^* w_{m-3}),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi: \text{Imb}_\sigma \times \mathbb{R}^{m-2} \times S^{m-3} &\rightarrow S^{m-1} \\ (f, x, v) &\mapsto \frac{df(x)v}{\|df(x)v\|} \end{aligned}$$

and  $p_i$  denotes the projection to the  $i$ th factor.<sup>16</sup>

$$\gamma: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^7 \quad \text{"long"}$$

Get "gr" (the Gauss map of  $\gamma$ ) —

$$g\gamma: \underbrace{\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1}_{\partial \bar{C}_2 = \text{Tunit } \mathbb{R}^2} \longrightarrow S^3 \times S^1 \quad (d\gamma, P_2)$$

A 2-parameter family of <sup>"great"</sup> circles in  $S^3$

$$\pi_3(g\gamma_2(\mathbb{R}^2)) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & * \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & * \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & * & * & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & a \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & a \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g\gamma_1 \mathbb{R}^3 \sim S^2$$