

A possible MO formulation of the \vee question

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Let $T=S^1\times S^1$ be an embedded 2-dimensional torus in S^4 , and let γ_1 and γ_2 be $S^1\times\{1\}$ and $\{1\}\times S^1$ - both can be regarded as curves in S^4 . Let Σ_1 and Σ_2 be two dimensional surface also embedded in S^4 and disjoint from T , such that the linking number of Σ_i with γ_i is 1, for $i=1,2$ (note that in S^4 there is a well-defined notion of a linking number between a curve and a surface disjoint from it, similar to the standard linking number between two disjoint curves in S^3).

Question. Do Σ_1 and Σ_2 necessarily intersect?

Example. Thinking of S^4 as a compactified $\{\mathbb{R}^4=\mathbb{R}^2\times\mathbb{R}^2\}$, let T be the unit circle in the first copy of \mathbb{R}^2 times the unit circle in the second copy of \mathbb{R}^2 , let $\Sigma_1=\{0\}\times\mathbb{R}^2$ and let $\Sigma_2=\mathbb{R}^2\times\{0\}$. All conditions are satisfied and Σ_1 and Σ_2 intersect twice, once at 0 and once at ∞ .

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From <http://mathoverflow.net/questions/ask>