

$\rightarrow ABCABC$

some 2xing
virt. knot. $\rightarrow ABAB$

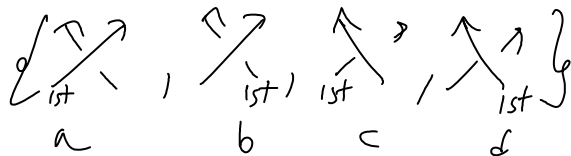
Gauss words: every letter appears twice.

Turaev's words: words in which each letter appears at least twice.

Gauss word: Each letter has multiplicity exactly 2

Étale word: Gauss word over A , with a "labeling" map $A \rightarrow \alpha$, where α is some fixed alphabet.
such a map is an " α -alphabet"

Example knots are Étale words over the alphabet



The trefoil: $ABCABC$
 $\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow$
 $a b a$

α -Morphism of α -alphabets: $A_1 \xrightarrow{f} A_2$
 $\downarrow \downarrow$
 α

Two α -words are "isomorphic" if \exists isomo. of their alphabets which carries one to the other.

There is a multiplication operation of α -words.

Desingularization: (map into Gauss words)

$ABABA \longrightarrow A_{12} A_{13} B A_{13} A_{12} B A_{13} A_{12}$

Reidemeister moves: (for knots)

$$R1: \quad xCAy \sim xy$$

$$R2 \quad xAB_1yAB_2z \sim xyz$$

$$xAB_1yBA_2z \sim xyz$$

$$R3 \quad xAB_1yAC_2zBC_1t \sim xBA_1yCA_2zCB_1t$$

Homotopy of nno-words. [nno-word := α -frass word]

Homotopy data: $\tau: \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$ an involution [when is an $R2$ allowed]

$\mathcal{S} \subset \alpha \times \alpha \times \alpha$ of "allowed $R3$'s".

Group theoretic invariant:

$$\pi = \langle (\mathbb{Z})_{\text{ref}} : z_\alpha z_{\tau(\alpha)} = 1 \rangle$$