Is there anything interesting to say about representations of knot groups into braid graps?

Any such representation would correspond to a "non-standard cabling operation", in which the knot is replaced by the representation applied to its longtitude.

Is there a relationship between the w of β-calculus & contact geometry?

I need a framework for the "sum of columns" condition in beta-calculus:
- Why is it there?
- Is it really there, even when vertices are present?
- Can it be exploited systematically?