**Abstract.** I will describe my former student’s Jonathan Zung work on finite type invariants of “doodles”, plane curves modulo the second Reidemeister move but not modulo the third. We use a definition of “finite type” different from Arnold’s and move along the lines of Goussarov’s “Interdependent Modifications”, and come to a conjectural combinatorial description of the set of all such invariants. We then describe how to construct many such invariants (though perhaps not all) using a certain class of 2-dimensional “configuration space integrals”. An unfinished project!

**Doodles.**

\[ \mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_0 = \mathbb{Q} \]

\[ \mathcal{K}_i \]

Easy to classify!

**Prior Art.** Arnold [Ar] first studied doodles within his study of plane curves and the “strangeness” $\mathcal{S}$ invariant. Vassilev [Va1], [Va2] defined finite type invariants in a different way, and Merkow [Me] proved that they separate doodles.

Goussarov: Finite Type.

**Def.** $V$ is of type $n$ if it vanishes on $\mathcal{K}_{n+1}$.

**Knots in 3D.**

2-Knots in 4D.

The reason I care!

**Goals.** Describe $\mathcal{A}_n := \mathcal{K}_n/\mathcal{K}_{n+1}$ using diagrams/relations. Get many or all finite type invariants of doodles using configuration space integrals. Do these come from a TQFT? See if $\mathcal{A}_n$ has a “Lie theoretic” (tensor/relations) meaning. See if/how Arnold’s $\mathcal{S}$ and the Merkow invariants integrate in.

**Important Example.**

**Summary Diagram.** MC: (Multi-Commutator) relations.

\[ \mathcal{K} \]

\[ \mathcal{K}/\mathcal{MC} \]

$\mathcal{MC}$: (Multi-Commutator) relations.

\[ \mathcal{D}/\mathcal{MC} = \mathcal{A} \]

\[ \mathcal{D}/\mathcal{FDR} \]

\[ \mathcal{F} \]

\[ \mathcal{R} \]

\[ \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{MC} \]
Finite Type Invariants of Doodles, 2

A Lower Bound on \((K_0/K_{n+1})^*\).

References. The root, of course, is [Ar]. Further references on doodles include [Kh, FT, Mc, Tu, Va1, Va2]. On Goussarov finite-type: [Go, BN].


“God created the knots, all else in topology is the work of mortals.”

-Leopold Kronecker (modified)

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Notes.

- Where does Arnold’s strangeness fit in?
- Perhaps I should put in the Merkov constructions?
- Nearby objects: “virtual doodles”, doodles with dots, planar graphs of various kinds, flat braids.

Jonathan’s Comment. It seems that the configuration space integrals we defined are more naturally invariants of virtual doodles. Virtual doodles are doodles with some ordinary crossings and some virtual crossings, with the relation that triple points having three virtual crossings are allowed. (Caution: virtual doodles are not Gauss diagrams modulo Reidemeister 2.)

The integrals we defined are invariants for virtual doodles, if we use the rule that the Gauss diagram skeleton is not allowed to use virtual crossings.

What kinds of chords do our integrals detect? They detect “semi-virtuals with outer rings”.

(Conjectured) Punchline: Relations on Feynman diagrams correspond with relations on chord diagrams. This is just a matter of carefully checking the analogues of the relations we already knew. What makes this work here and not in the original theory is that we have degree 2 chords, the semi-virtuals.

What would be nice is a clean formulation of finite type for virtual doodles yielding chords which are “semi-virtuals with outer rings”.