

# Dehn surgery on knots : survey

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Differential Topology 22

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# デーン手術の地図を描く！

1904 : Poincaré described a remarkable 3–manifold which has a *trivial homology*, but whose *fundamental group is nontrivial*. This 3–manifold is now called the **Poincaré homology 3–sphere**, and it clarifies the difference between “homology” and “homotopy”.



## Poincaré conjecture

A closed 3–manifold with trivial fundamental group is homeomorphic to  $S^3$

1907 : Dehn tried to construct a homology 3–sphere which is not  $S^3$  by identifying boundaries of two knot exteriors suitably.

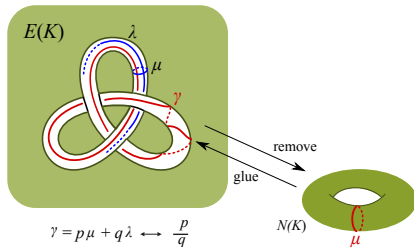
However, he was not able to show the resultant 3–manifold is not  $S^3$ .

1910 : Dehn introduced a new idea what we call “*Dehn surgery*”.



# Dehn surgery

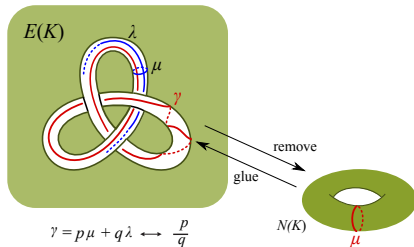
$K$ : a knot in the 3-sphere  $S^3$



$K(\frac{p}{q})$ : a 3-manifold obtained from  $S^3$  by  $\frac{p}{q}$ -Dehn surgery on  $K$

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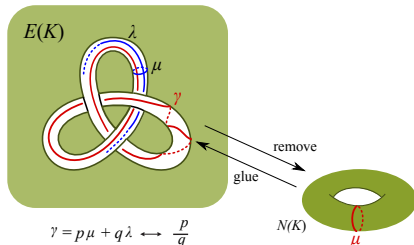


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*The result of Dehn surgery is uniquely determined by the image of the meridian of the glued solid torus (independent of the image of the longitude)!*

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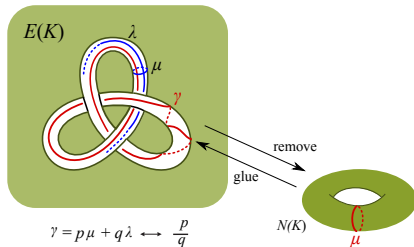
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The gluing solid torus is often called  $\frac{p}{q}$ -**Dehn filling**.

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*In the following, we consider nontrivial surgery  $\frac{p}{q} \neq \frac{1}{0}$*



# A little bit about group theory

$$G(K) = \pi_1(E(K))$$

$$\pi_1(K(p/q)) = G(K) / \langle\langle \mu^p \lambda^q \rangle\rangle$$

$$G(K) / \langle\langle \mu \rangle\rangle \cong \pi_1(K(1/0)) = \pi_1(S^3) = \{1\}$$

$$G(K) = \langle\langle \mu \rangle\rangle \xrightarrow{\varphi} \pi_1(K(p/q)) = \langle\langle \varphi(\mu) \rangle\rangle$$

weight 1

$$H_1(E(K)) = \mathbf{Z} = \langle \mu \rangle$$

$$H_1(K(p/q)) = \mathbf{Z} / p\mathbf{Z}$$

# Examples

## Lens space

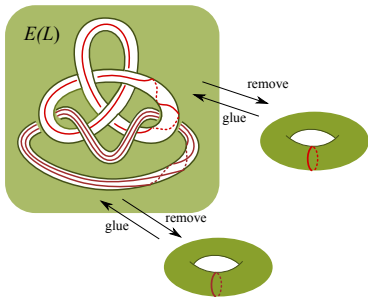
Let  $K$  be the trivial knot  $O$ . Then  $O(p/q)$  is a **lens space**  $L(p, q)$ .  
In particular,  $O(1/n)$  is the 3–sphere for any integer  $n$ .

## Homology 3–spheres

For any knot  $K$ ,  $K(1/n)$  is a **homology 3–sphere** for any integer  $n$ .

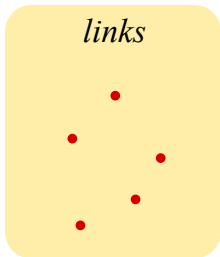
If  $K$  is a trefoil knot  $T_{3,2}$ , then  $T_{3,2}(1)$  is the **Poincaré homology 3–sphere**.

One may easily generalize Dehn surgery on “knots” to Dehn surgery on “links” .



**Theorem (Lickorish 1962, Wallace 1960)**

*Any orientable closed 3-manifold can be obtained from  $S^3$  by Dehn surgery on a “link”.*



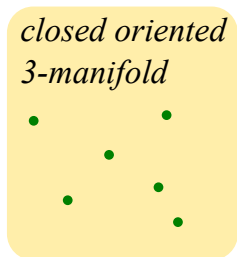
integral Dehn surgery

$\parallel$   
framed surgery

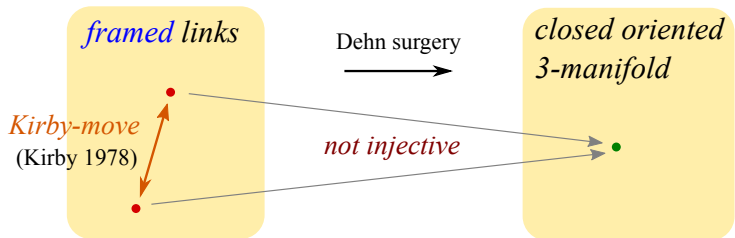
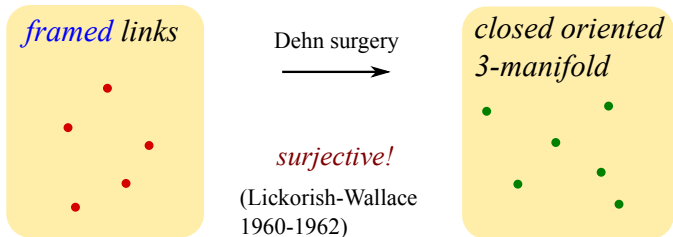


*surjective!*

(Lickorish-Wallace)



# Lickorish-Wallace + Kirby

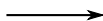


# Lickorish-Wallace + Kirby-Fenn-Rourke-Rolfsen

*links with  
rational slopes*



Dehn surgery



*closed oriented  
3-manifold*



*surjective!*

(Lickorish-Wallace  
1960-1962)

*links with  
rational slopes*

*Kirby-Rolfsen  
-move*  
(Fenn-Rourke 1979)  
(Rolfsen 1984)



Dehn surgery



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*not injective*

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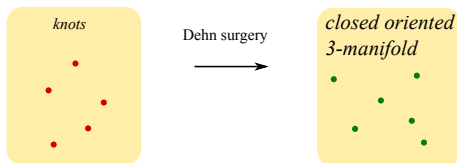


*not injective*

We will focus on Dehn surgery on *knots* in  $S^3$ .

# Problems in study of Dehn surgery

Given a knot  $K \subset S^3$  and  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ , we obtain a closed oriented 3-manifold  $K(r)$ .



More explicitly we may regard Dehn surgery as a map:

$$\mathcal{D} : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \times \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(K, r) = K(r)$$



## Exceptional surgery problem

$$\mathcal{D} : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \times \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(K, r) = K(r)$$

Consider a class

$$\mathcal{C}_* \subset \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

with “property \*”.

Describe  $K$  and/or  $r$  such that  $\mathcal{D}(K, r) \in \mathcal{C}_*$ .

In general, we take a “property \*” as an exceptional one which describe a kind of “degeneration” happens, so we call a problem of this type an **exceptional surgery problem**.

## Surjectivity (realization) problem

$$\mathcal{D} : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \times \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(K, r) = K(r)$$

Recall first that any 3-manifold obtained by a Dehn surgery on a knot in  $S^3$  has the fundamental group with **weight one**.

So we focus on

$$\mathcal{W}_1 = \{\text{closed, orientable 3-manifolds with weight one fundamental group}\}$$

and ask

Is  $\mathcal{D} : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \times \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_1$  **surjective**?

# Injectivity problem

$$\mathcal{D} : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \times \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(K, r) = K(r)$$

We may ask:

Is the map  $\mathcal{D} : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \times \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$  **injective**.

As we will discuss later, the injectivity problem may be divided into two more specific problems according as we fix a knot  $K$  or a surgery slope  $r$ .

## Property P conjecture

In the exceptional surgery problem, let us consider

$$\mathcal{C}_* = \{\text{simply connected, closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

*We imagine that there were some  
“trials to find counterexamples to the Poincare Conjecture”  
via Dehn surgery on knots.*

Later Bing and Martin propose:

### Property P conjecture (Bing-Martin 1960)

Let  $K$  be a nontrivial knot.

$$\pi_1(K(r)) = \{1\} \Leftrightarrow r = \infty$$

# $S^3$ -Surgery Theorem

Take  $\mathcal{C}_* = \{S^3\}$ , Gordon and Luecke prove:

Theorem (Gordon-Luecke 1989)

Let  $K$  be a nontrivial knot.

$$K(r) = S^3 \Leftrightarrow r = \infty$$

Corollary (Knot complement conjecture : Tietze 1908 – Gordon-Luecke 1989)

Let  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  be knots in  $S^3$ .

$$S^3 - K_1 \cong S^3 - K_2 \Leftrightarrow K_1 \cong K_2$$

*Proof* ( $\Leftarrow$ ) is obvious.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Assume that we have an orientation preserving homeomorphism  $S^3 - K_1 \rightarrow S^3 - K_2$ .

By concentricity theorem we have an orientation preserving homeomorphism  $E(K_1) \rightarrow E(K_2)$ .

- If  $K_1$  is trivial, then  $E(K_2) \cong E(K_1) \cong S^1 \times D^2$ , and hence  $K_2$  is also trivial.
- Assume  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are nontrivial. If  $h$  sends  $\mu_1$  to  $\mu_2$ , then extending  $h$  to an orientation preserving homeomorphism  $\bar{h}: S^3 \rightarrow S^3$  such that  $\bar{h}(K_1) = K_2$ .

Suppose for a contradiction that  $h(\mu_1) = \gamma_2 \neq \mu_2$ .

Then extend  $h$  to obtain  $S^3 \cong K_1(\mu_1) \rightarrow K_2(\gamma_2)$ .

Since  $\gamma_2 \neq \mu_2$ , Gordon-Luecke Theorem says  $K_2(\gamma_2) \not\cong S^3$ , a contradiction!

# Two branches of Gordon-Luecke's $S^3$ -Surgery Theorem

Reformulation of Gordon-Luecke theorem.

## Theorem (reformulation 1)

Let  $K$  be a nontrivial knot.

$$K(r) \cong K(\infty) \Leftrightarrow r = \infty$$

$\Rightarrow$  cosmetic surgery slopes (discuss later)

## Theorem (reformulation 2)

Let  $K$  be a knot and  $O$  a trivial knot.

$$K(1/n) \cong O(1/n) = S^3 \quad (n \neq 0) \Leftrightarrow K \cong O$$

$\Rightarrow$  characterizing slopes (discuss later)

# Cyclic Surgery Theorem

## Theorem (Culler-Gordon-Luecke-Shalen 1987)

Let  $K$  be a knot in  $S^3$  other than a torus knot.

Assume that both  $K(p_1/q_1)$  and  $K(p_2/q_2)$  have **cyclic** fundamental groups.

Then the **distance**  $\Delta(p_1/q_1, p_2/q_2) = |p_1q_2 - p_2q_1| \leq 1$ .

Hence, there are **at most three** such slopes.

Since  $K(1/0) = S^3$  has the trivial, and hence cyclic fundamental group, as a consequence of this theorem we have the following:

- If  $K$  is not a torus knot, then  $K(p/q)$  has a cyclic fundamental group only when  $|q| = 1$ , i.e. **cyclic surgery is integral**.

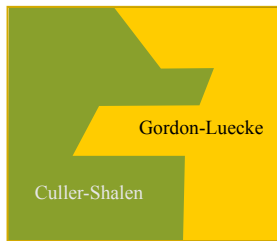
For torus knots the Property P conjecture is known to be true. Thus noting  $H_1(K(p/q)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{|p|}$ , the Cyclic Surgery Theorem implies that

- $\pi_1(K(r)) = 1 \Rightarrow r = \pm 1$ .



The proof of the Cyclic Surgery Theorem requires

“Culler-Shalen theory” + “Analysis of intersection graphs”  
(Culler-Shalen) (Gordon-Luecke)



Culler-Shalen theory (Varieties of group representations and splittings of 3-manifolds 1983)

⇒ Kabaya's talk

Analysis of intersection graphs

⇒ Litherland, Gordon-Litherland, Gordon-Luecke

# Property P Conjecture and essential lamination

Essential lamination is a generalization of

“incompressible surface” and “taut foliation”.

$\exists$  3-manifolds that contain essential laminations but do *not* contain incompressible surfaces. (Gabai)

## Gabai-Oertel 1989

If a compact orientable 3-manifold contains an essential lamination, then its universal cover is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Application to Dehn surgery.

- If  $K(r)$  has an essential lamination, then  $|\pi_1(K(r))| = \infty$   
(strong Property P).

This leads to study of persistent lamination of knot exteriors (1990's).  
(Brittenham, Delman, Roberts, Wu....)

$\Rightarrow$  Ito's talk

# Property P “Theorem”

## Theorem (Kronheimer-Mrowka 2004)

Let  $K$  be a nontrivial knot.

$$\pi_1(K(r)) = \{1\} \Leftrightarrow r = \infty.$$

## Theorem (reformulation)

Let  $K$  be a nontrivial knot and  $r \in \mathbb{Q} \cup \{\infty\}$  a slope.

$$\langle\langle r \rangle\rangle = G(K) = \langle\langle \infty \rangle\rangle \Leftrightarrow r = \infty$$

## Theorem (Ito-M-Teragaito 2021)

Let  $K$  be a nontrivial knot and  $r, r' \in \mathbb{Q} \cup \{\infty\}$  slopes.

$$\langle\langle r \rangle\rangle = \langle\langle r' \rangle\rangle \Leftrightarrow r = r'$$

*Classification of 3-manifolds with  $\partial M = \emptyset$  or *tori**

$$|\pi_1(M)| < \infty$$

$$|\pi_1(M)| = \infty$$

## Some terminologies

A 3–manifold  $M$  is

**reducible** if it contains a 2–sphere which does not bound a 3–ball in  $M$ ;  
otherwise it is **irreducible**.

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$$M = \underbrace{M_1 \# \dots \# M_n}_{\text{prime decomposition}}$$

$M_i$  : irreducible

or  
 $S^2 \times S^1$

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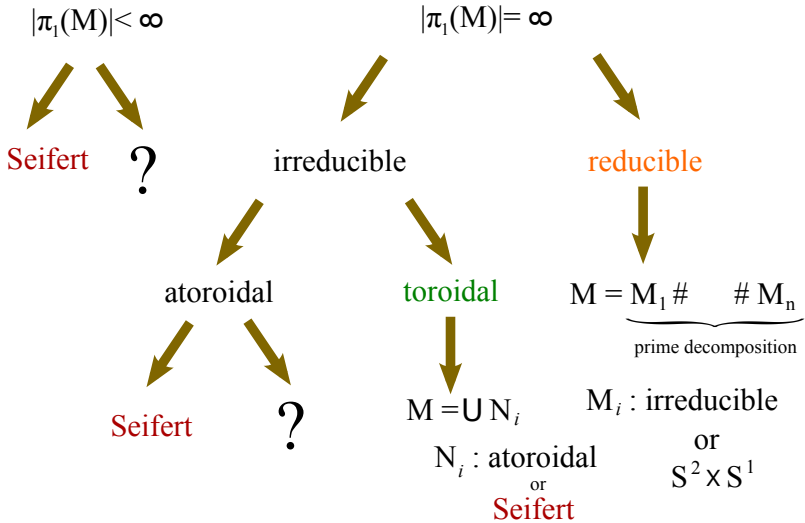
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**Seifert fibered** if it consists of pairwise disjoint circles (fibers) in which  
each fiber has a fibered solid torus neighborhood.



# Hyperbolization theorem

A 3-manifold  $M$  is

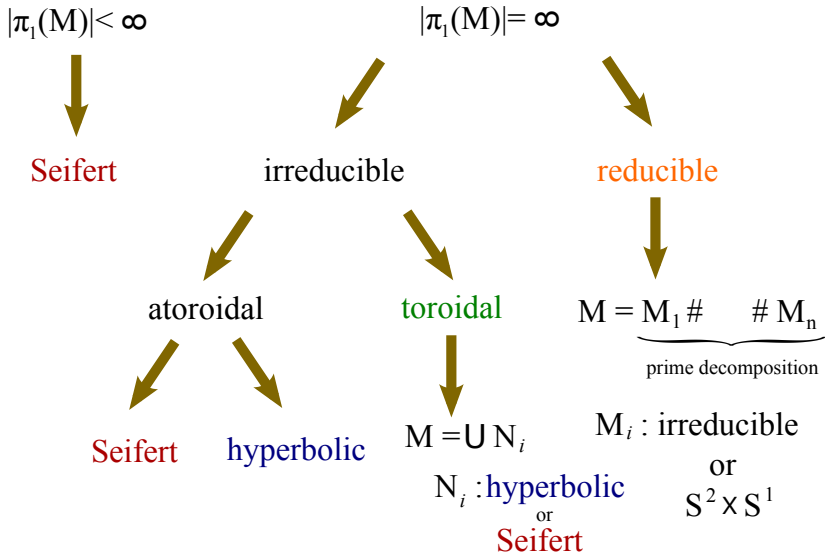
**hyperbolic** if it admits a complete hyperbolic metric of finite volume.

## Theorem (Thurston-Perelman)

*Let  $M$  be an irreducible 3-manifold with  $\partial M = \emptyset$  or tori.*

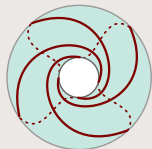
*If  $M$  is **atoroidal**, then it is either **Seifert fibered** or **hyperbolic**.*

# Classification of 3-manifolds



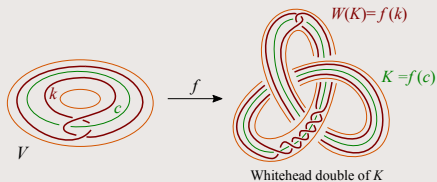
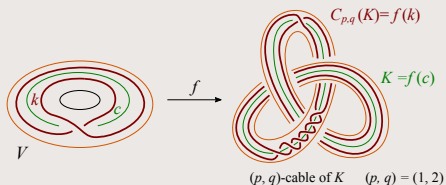
# Classification of knots

torus knots

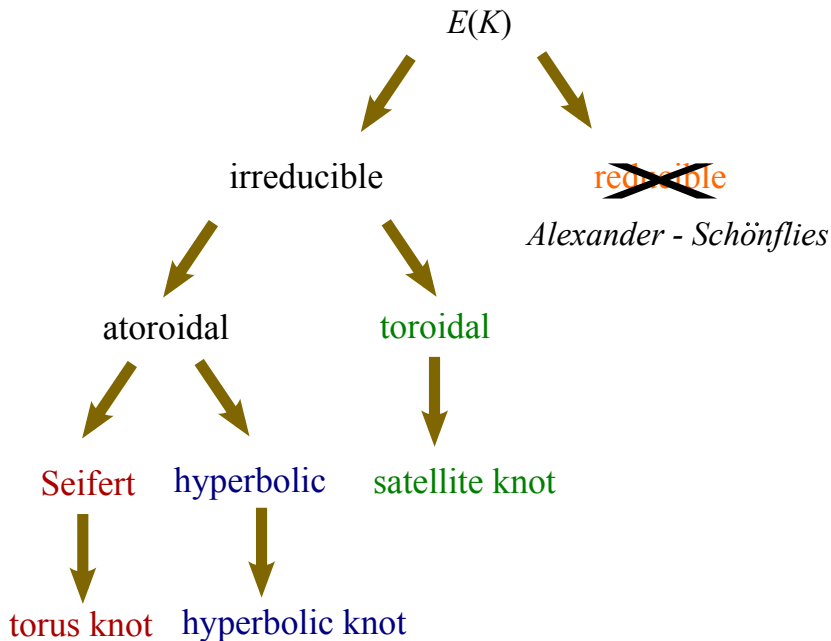


$T_{3,4}$

satellite knots



and others



# Thurston's hyperbolic Dehn surgery

Let  $K$  be a **hyperbolic** knot in  $S^3$ ,

i.e.  $S^3 - K$  admits a complete hyperbolic metric of finite volume.

$$\mathbb{Q} \cup \{\infty\} = \mathcal{H}_K \cup \mathcal{E}_K$$



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$\mathcal{H}_K = \{r \mid K(r) \text{ is hyperbolic}\}$ , the set of hyperbolic surgery slopes

$\mathcal{E}_K = \{r \mid K(r) \text{ is not hyperbolic}\}$ , the set of “exceptional” surgery slopes

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## Theorem (Thurston's hyperbolic Dehn surgery)

For any hyperbolic knot  $K$ ,  $|\mathcal{E}_K| < \infty$ .

$K$  : figure-eight knot



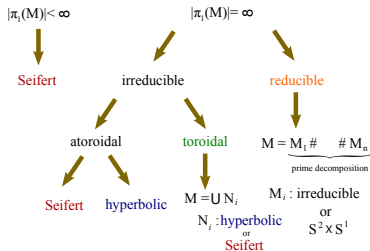
$$\mathcal{E}_K = \{-4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \infty\} \quad [\text{Thurston}]$$

# Two directions of studies of “exceptional” surgeries on hyperbolic knots

♠ Refine the hyperbolic Dehn surgery theory.

⇒ Ichihara’s talk

♠ Take a closer look at each exceptional surgery.



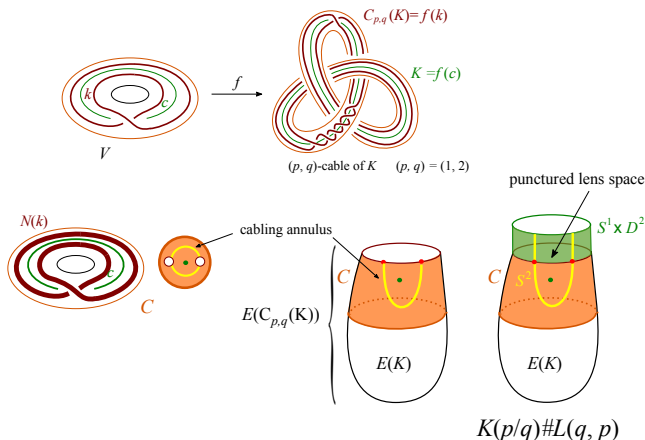
- Reducible surgery
- Seifert surgery
- Toroidal surgery,

and put some restrictions.

# Open problems

## Cabling Conjecture (González-Acuña-Short 1986)

If  $K(r)$  is reducible, then  $K$  is a  $(p, q)$ -cable of a knot and  $r = pq$



### Conjecture (Gordon et al.)

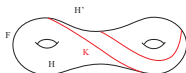
If  $K(r)$  is a Seifert fiber space,  
then  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ , or  $K$  is a torus knot or a cable of a torus knot.

### Conjecture (Gordon-Wu 2008)

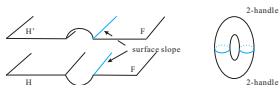
A hyperbolic knot  $K$  has at most three toroidal surgeries.

# {Lens space surgeries} $\subset$ {Seifert fibered surgery}

Let  $K$  be a knot contained in a genus 2 Heegaard surface  $F$  which splits  $S^3$  into two genus 2 handlebodies  $H$  and  $H'$ , i.e.  $S^3 = H \cup_F H'$ .



Performing Dehn surgery on  $K$  along the **surface slope**  $m$ ,

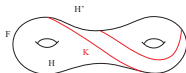


we obtain a 3-manifold

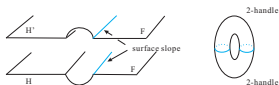
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Performing Dehn surgery on  $K$  along the **surface slope**  $m$ ,



we obtain a 3-manifold

$$K(m) = H[K] \cup H'[K] = (S^1 \times D^2) \cup (S^1 \times D^2),$$

which is a **lens spaces**.

This construction is called **Berge's primitive/primitive construction**.

Berge introduced “Berge’s lens space surgeries”  
= 12 classes of primitive/primitive knots (positions)

### Berge’s Conjecture

Every lens space surgery is a Berge’s lens space surgery.

- (i) Every lens space surgery arises from **primitive/primitive** construction,
- (ii) all primitive/primitive knots belong to Berge’s list. (Greene 2010)

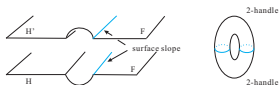
⇒ Teragaito’s talk & Tange’s talk & Yamada’s talk



Then by performing Dehn surgery on  $K$  along the surface slope  $m$ , we obtain a 3-manifold

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# What comes next?

Reducible surgeries, toroidal surgeries and Seifert surgeries are “exceptional” with respect to *Thurston’ hyperbolic Dehn surgery*.

L-space surgeries, generalization of lens space surgeries, are “exceptional” with respect to in *Heegaard Floer homology theory*.

$M$  : rational homology 3-sphere

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$\widehat{HF}(M)$  : Heegaard Floer homology with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$

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## Example

Lens spaces ( $\neq S^2 \times S^1$ ), more generally, 3-manifolds with  $S^3$ -geometry are  $L$ -spaces.

A knot  $K$  is called an  $L$ -space knot if it admits a nontrivial,  $L$ -space surgery.



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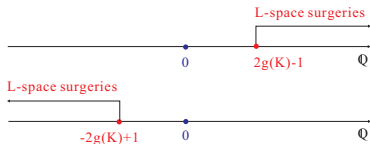
- $K$ : a nontrivial  $L$ -space knot

# $L$ -space knots

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(Ozsváth-Szabó 2011)



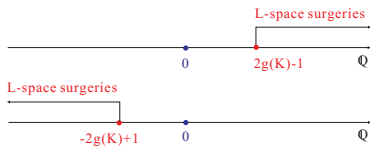
*Knot Floer homology, surgery formula*  $\Rightarrow$  Sato's talk

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*Knot Floer homology, surgery formula*  $\Rightarrow$  Sato's talk

- If  $K$  is hyperbolic  $L$ -space knot, it produces infinitely many hyperbolic  $L$ -spaces by Dehn surgery. (Thurston's hyperbolic Dehn surgery theorem)

## Constraints for $L$ -space knots

- For any  $L$ -space knot  $K$ , the non-zero coefficients of the Alexander polynomial of  $K$  are  $\pm 1$  and alternate in sign. (Ozsváth-Szabó 2005)

⇒ Teragaito's talk

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- An  $L$ -space knot is a fibered knot, i.e. its exterior is a surface bundle over  $S^1$ . (Ni 2007)

### Corollary (Ni)

A knot with lens space surgery, more generally finite surgery is fibered.

- L-space knot is **prime (1-string prime)**. (Krcarovich 2015)

*(It should be compare with: Connected sum of L-spaces is an L-space!)*

- An L-space knot has **no** essential **Conway sphere**, i.e. 2-string prime.  
(Lidman-Moore-Zibrowius 2020)

[Hanselman-Rasmussen-Watson;  
Bordered Floer homology for manifolds with torus boundary via immersed curves] (Ito's talk)

enables us to prove:

- Any satellite L-space knot has an  
**L-space knot companion** and **L-space pattern knot** (Hom 2016)  
and  
**braided pattern**. (Baker-M 2019)

# Surjectivity (realization) problem of Dehn surgery

Is  $\mathcal{D} : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \rightarrow \{\text{closed 3-manifolds with weight one } \pi_1\}$  surjective?

Boyer-Lines (1990) found (first) examples of **weight one** 3-manifolds which cannot be obtained by Dehn surgery on knots.

These 3-manifolds are **Seifert fiber spaces**.

Auckly (1993) gave an example of a **hyperbolic homology 3-sphere**  $M$  which is *not* obtained by Dehn surgery on a knot, but it is *not* known that  $\pi_1(M)$  has **weight one**.

Hoffman and Walsh (2015) give infinite family of **hyperbolic** 3-manifolds with **weight one** fundamental group none of which cannot be obtained by surgery on a knot in  $S^3$ .

Hom, Karakurt and Lidman (2016) have given an infinite family of **Seifert homology 3-spheres** each of which has **weight one**, but not obtained by Dehn surgery on a knot in  $S^3$ .

$$\mathcal{D} : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \times \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(K, r) = K(r)$$

Then fixing a knot  $K \subset S^3$  or a surgery slope  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ , we may consider two kinds of injectivity of  $\mathcal{D}$ .



- Fix a knot  $K$  in  $S^3$ . Then is the map

$$\mathcal{D}_K : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

injective?

In other words, if  $K(r) = K(r')$ , then  $r = r'$ ?

- Fix a rational number  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Then is the map

$$\mathcal{D}_r : \{\text{knots in } S^3\} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

injective?

In other words, if  $K(r) = K'(r)$ , then  $K = K'$ ?

# Injectivity of the map $\mathcal{D}_K$

Is the map

$$\mathcal{D}_K : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_K(r) = K(r)$$

injective?

## Cosmetic surgery slope

For a given knot  $K$  we say that  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  is a **cosmetic surgery slope** for  $K$  if  $\exists r' \neq r$  s.t.  $K(r') \cong K(r)$ .

Since  $H_1(K(p/q)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$  ( $p \geq 0$ ), if  $K(p/q) \cong K(p'/q')$ , then  $p = p'$ .

Let  $O$  be the trivial knot in  $S^3$ .

Then  $O(1/n) \cong S^3$  for any integer  $n$ , and thus  $\mathcal{D}_O$  is not injective.

$1/n$  is a cosmetic surgery slope for “trivial knot”.

(Actually there is an orientation preserving homeomorphism of  $E(O) = S^1 \times D^2$  sending  $1/n$  to  $1/0$ .)

## Theorem (Gordon-Luecke: reformulation 1)

Let  $K$  be a nontrivial knot.

$\infty$  is **not** a cosmetic surgery slope for  $K$ , i.e.  $K(r) \cong K(\infty) \Leftrightarrow r = \infty$ .

## Cosmetic surgery conjecture

Any nontrivial knot in  $S^3$  does not have a cosmetic surgery slope, i.e.

$$\mathcal{D}_K : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_K(r) = K(r)$$

is **injective**.

If  $M = K(r_1) \cong K(r_2)$ , then some nontrivial surgery on  $K_{r_1}^* \subset M = K(r_1)$  converts  $M = K(r_1)$  into  $M = K(r_2) = K(r_1)$ . This is the original meaning of “cosmetic” surgery.

$\mathcal{D}_K : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{\text{unoriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$  is **not** injective.

Indeed, Mathieu observed  $T_{3,2}(9) \cong -T_{3,2}(9/2)$ , where  $-M$  denotes  $M$  with the opposite orientation.

### Theorem (Ni-Wu 2015)

Assume that  $K$  is nontrivial and  $K(p/q) \cong K(p/q')$  for distinct slopes  $p/q, p/q' \in \mathbb{Q} \cup \{\infty\}$ .

Then  $q = -q'$  and  $q^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ .

### Theorem (Hanselman 2019)

Assume that  $K(r) \cong K(r')$  for distinct slopes  $r, r' \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Then

- 1  $\{r, r'\} = \{\pm 2\}$  or  $\{\pm 1/q\}$
- 2 If  $\{r, r'\} = \{\pm 1/q\}$ , then there are at most finitely many  $q$ ; the number of  $q$  is depending on  $q$  and decidable.

$\Rightarrow$  Ito's talk

# Injectivity of the map $\mathcal{D}_r$

Is the map

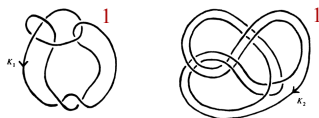
$$\mathcal{D}_r : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_r(K) = K(r)$$

injective?

## Example

Lickorish provided the first example of distinct knots  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  which satisfy  $K_1(1) \cong K_2(1)$ , answering Kirby's question (1976).



## Characterizing slope

A slope  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  is a **characterizing slope** for a knot  $K$  if whenever  $K'(r) \cong K(r)$ , then  $K'$  is isotopic to  $K$ .

## Theorem (Gordon-Luecke: reformulation 2)

Let  $K$  be a knot and  $O$  a trivial knot.

$$K(1/n) \cong O(1/n) \ (n \neq 0) \Leftrightarrow K \cong O$$

This means that

$1/n \ (n \neq 0)$  is a **characterizing slope** for the **trivial knot**.

- Gordon had conjectured that

every  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  is a **characterizing slope** for the **trivial knot**.

about ten years before he proved knot complement conjecture with Luecke.

## Theorem (Kronheimer-Mrowka-Ozsváth-Szabó 2007)

For the trivial knot every  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  is a characterizing slope.

This answers Gordon's conjecture affirmatively.

Apply this theorem to prove “projective space conjecture”.

## Theorem (projective space conjecture)

If  $K(r)$  is the projective space  $\mathbb{R}P^3$ , then  $K$  is the trivial knot.

*Proof.* Assume that  $K(m/n) \cong \mathbb{R}P^3$ . Then  $m = 2$  for homological reason. If  $K$  is a nontrivial torus knot  $T_{p,q}$ , then we must have  $|pqn - 2| = 1$ , which is impossible because  $|pq| \geq 6$ .

So  $K$  is not a torus knot, and Cyclic Surgery Theorem shows that  $|n| = 1$ .  $K(2) \cong \mathbb{R}P^3 \cong O(2)$  implies  $K \cong O$  by the above theorem.  $\square$

## Theorem (Kronheimer-Mrowka-Ozsváth-Szabó 2007)

For the *trivial knot* every  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  is a characterizing slope.

This theorem is generalized to

## Theorem (Ozsváth-Szabó 2019)

Let  $K$  be a *trefoil knot* or the *figure-eight knot*.  
Then every  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  is a characterizing slope for  $K$ .



## Theorem (Ni-Zhang 2014)

Let  $K$  be a *torus knot*  $T_{p,q}$  ( $p > q \geq 2$ ).

If  $r > 30(p^2 - 1)(q^2 - 1)/67$ , then  $r$  is a characterizing slope for  $K$ .

**Question (Ni-Zhang 2014)** Let  $K$  be a *hyperbolic* knot.

Then is  $p/q$  a characterizing slope for  $K$  if  $|p| + |q|$  is sufficiently large?

On the other hand,

- For *given integer*  $m$ ,

$\exists$  hyperbolic knots  $K, K'$  s.t.  $K(m) \cong K'(m)$ .

(Kawauchi)

## Theorem (Baker-M 2018)

- 1 *There exists a hyperbolic knot for which every integer is a non-characterizing slope.*
- 2 *For a given nontrivial knot  $k$ , there exists a satellite knot with companion knot  $k$  for which every integer is a non-characterizing slope.*

This is based on Gompf-Miyazaki's "surgery dual" (1995).

# Existence of characterizing slopes

## Theorem (Lackenby 2019, McCoy 2019)

- 1 Every hyperbolic knot has a characterizing slope. (Lackenby)
- 2 Any torus knot  $T_{r,s}$  with  $r, s > 1$  has only finitely many non-characterizing slopes which are not negative integers. (McCoy)
- 3 Any hyperbolic knot can have only finitely many non-characterizing slopes with  $q \geq 3$  (McCoy)

## Conjecture (Universal characterizing slope)

There exist a **universal characterizing slope**  $r$ , i.e., the map

$$\mathcal{D}_r : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \{\text{oriented closed 3-manifolds}\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_r(K) = K(r)$$

**injective**. In other words,  $r$  is a **characterizing slope for all knots**.

Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  be a non-characterizing slope for a knot  $K$ .

Then by definition, there is a knot  $K'$  which is not isotopic to  $K$  and  $K'(m) \cong K(m)$ .

It is interesting to ask if there are **infinitely knots**  $K_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ) such that

$$K_1(m) \cong K_2(m) \cong \dots \cong K_n(m) \cong \dots$$

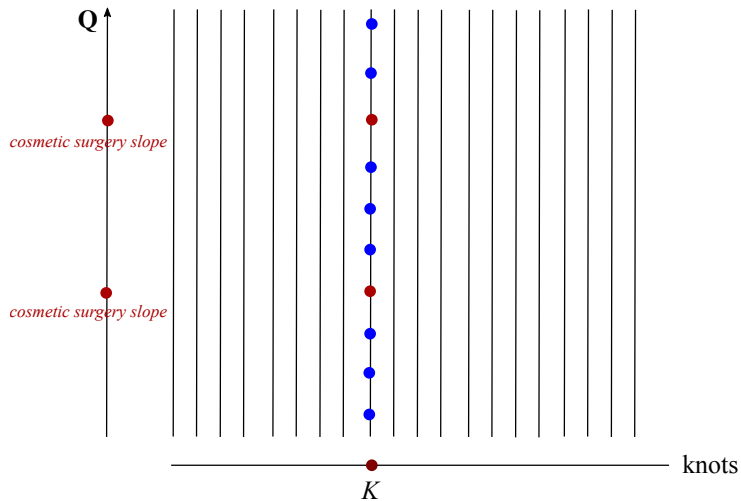
(Kirby)

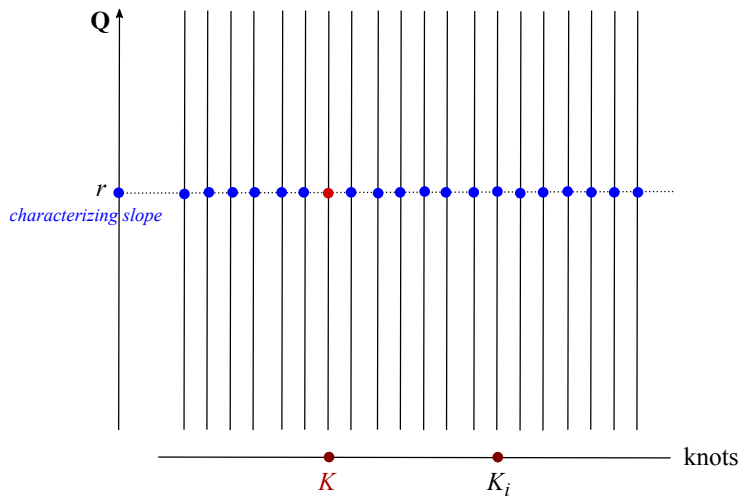
Osoinach answered this question in the positive when  $m = 0$ .

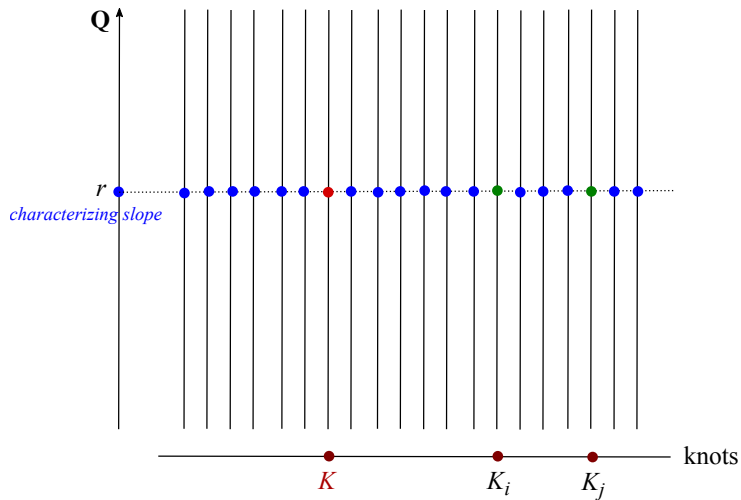
Some extensions were given by Teragaito, Kouno.

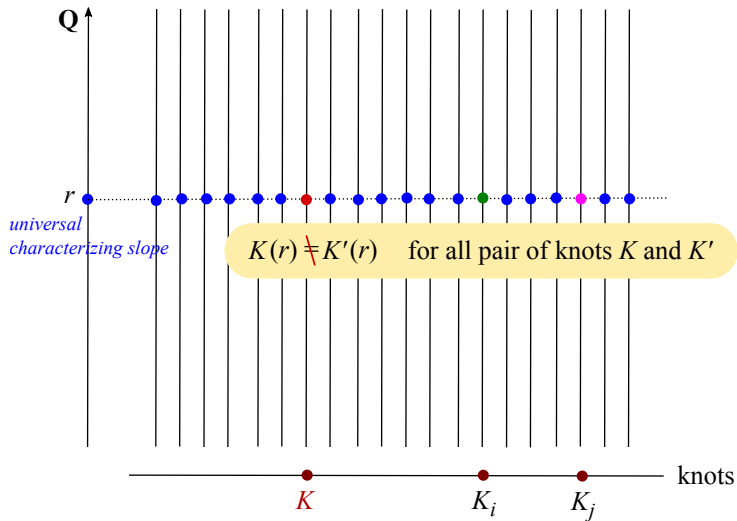
**Theorem ( Abe, Jong, Luecke and Osoinach 2015)**

For every integer  $n$ , there exist infinitely many knots  $K_1, K_2 \dots$  such that  $K_1(n) \cong K_2(n) \cong \dots$ .











## Left orderable

A nontrivial group  $G$  is said to be **left-orderable** if there exists a strict total ordering  $<$  that is invariant under multiplication from the left, i.e. if  $g < h$ , then  $fg < fh$  for any  $f, g, h \in G$ .

- A left-orderable group has no torsion.

Let  $G$  be an left-orderable group and  $g$  a nontrivial element. Assume that  $1 < g$ . Then  $1 < g = g \cdot 1 < g \cdot g = g^2 < g^3 < \dots < g^n$  for any  $n \geq 2$ .

So if  $K(r)$  is a lens space,  $\pi_1(K(r))$  is not left-orderable.

## L-space conjecture (Boyer, Gordon and Watson 2013)

$M$ : irreducible, rational homology 3-sphere

$M$  is an L-space

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\pi_1(M)$  is **not** left-orderable.

A 3-manifold with geometric structure other than hyperbolic structure satisfies the L-space conjecture.

Furthermore, many hyperbolic 3-manifolds are known to satisfy the conjecture. (Boyer, Gordon and Watson 2013)

For any knot  $K \subset S^3$ , since  $G(K) = \pi_1(E(K))$  admits an epimorphism onto the infinite cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}$  via its abelianization,  $G(K)$  is left-orderable. (Howie-Short 1985, Boyer-Rolfsen-Wiest 2005)

However, the fundamental group of  $K(r)$  may **not** be left-orderable.

$$S_L(K) = \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid K(r) \text{ is an L-space}\}$$

$$S_{LO}(K) = \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid \pi_1(K(r)) \text{ is left-orderable}\}$$

## Conjecture

Let  $K$  be a knot in  $S^3$ . Assume that  $K$  is not a cable of a nontrivial knot. Then  $S_L(K) \cup S_{LO}(K) = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $S_L(K) \cap S_{LO}(K) = \emptyset$ .

## Torus knot

For  $(p, q)$ -torus knot  $T_{p,q}$  ( $p > q \geq 2$ ),  
 $\mathcal{S}_{LO}(T_{p,q}) = (-\infty, pq - p - q) \cap \mathbb{Q}$ , and  
 $\mathcal{S}_L(T_{p,q}) = [pq - p - q, \infty) \cap \mathbb{Q}$ .

- There exist infinitely many hyperbolic knots  $K$  such that  
 $\mathcal{S}_{LO}(K) = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{S}_L(K) = \emptyset$ . (M-Teragaito 2014)