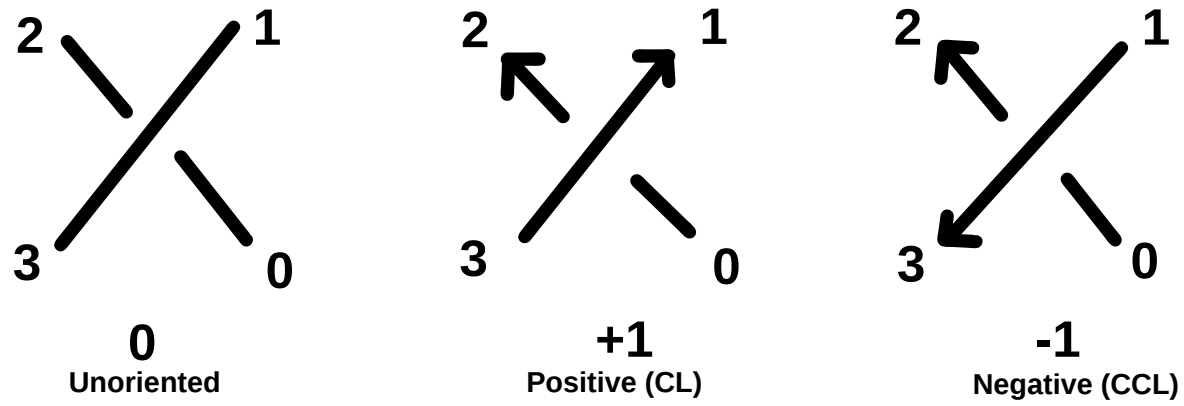
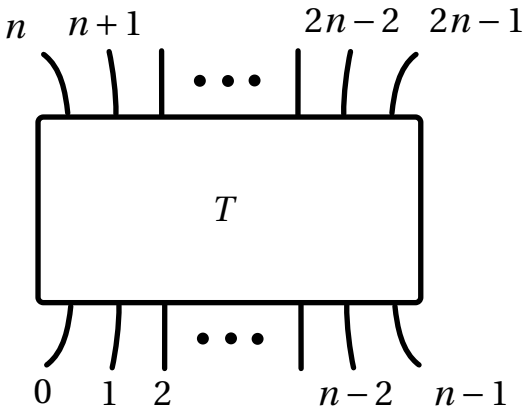
1 Conventions for crossings

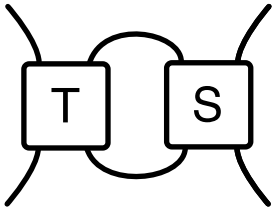


2 Conventions for tangles

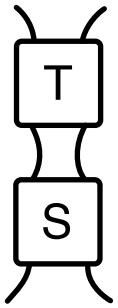
A tangle T is a rectangular piece of a projection with $2n$ incoming strands, where these strands are numbered as shown.



Conventions for operations and rational tangles follow
http://homepages.math.uic.edu/~kauffman/VegasAMS.pdf
and are shown on the next page.

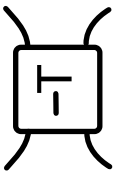


$T + S$

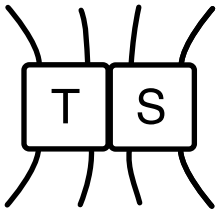


$T * S$

$-T$

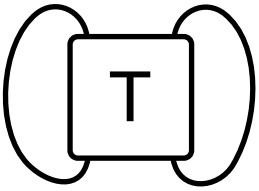


$\frac{1}{T}$



$T \mid S$

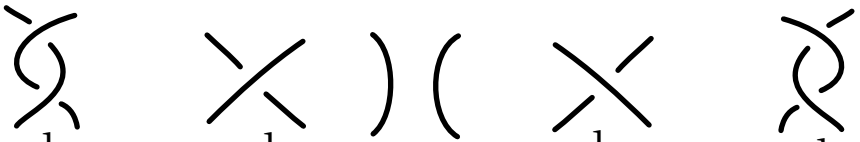
Numerator closure



Denominator closure

Basic rational tangles

-2 -1 0 1 2



$-\frac{1}{2}$ $-\frac{1}{1}$ ∞ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{2}$