

Combinatorial Width Parameters for 3-Dimensional Manifolds

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On the Treewidth of Triangulated 3-Manifolds

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Extended abstract: SoCG 2018, Budapest, Hungary



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3-Manifold Triangulations with Small Treewidth

Proceedings of the 35th International Symposium on Computational Geometry (SoCG 2019), Portland, OR, USA, volume 129 of LIPIcs, pages 44:1–44:20. Schloss Dagstuhl,

Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, 2019

[doi:10.4230/LIPIcs.SoCG.2019.44](https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.SoCG.2019.44)



CG Week 2020 is online only because
of the COVID-19 pandemic 

<https://socg20.inf.ethz.ch>

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1. 3-Manifolds

Triangulations

Graphs

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Algorithms and computation

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Treewidth
(combinat.)

Heegaard genus
(topological)

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Theorem (Moise; 1952). Every 3-manifold has a **triangulation**.

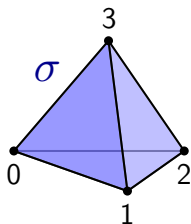
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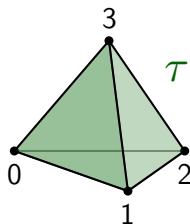
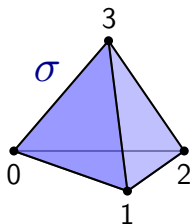


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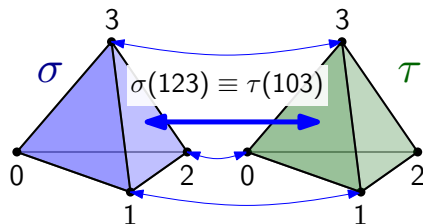


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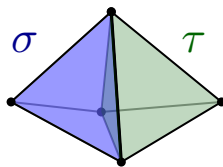
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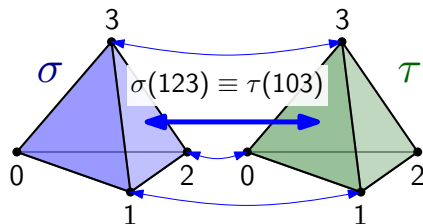


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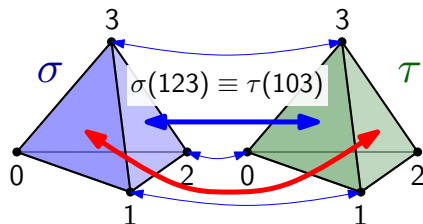
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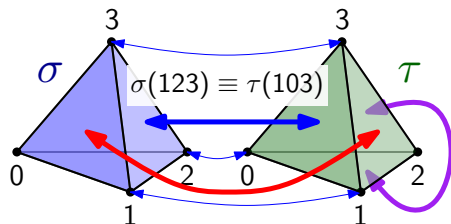
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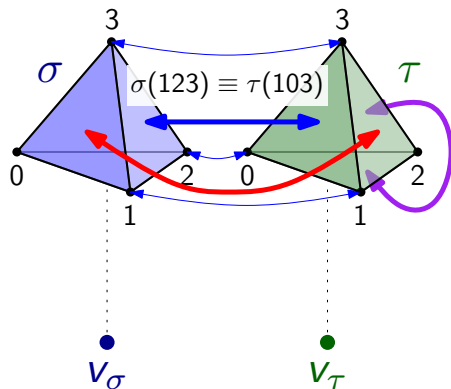
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$\Gamma(\mathcal{T})$ | **vertices:** tetrahedra of \mathcal{T}
edges: face gluings

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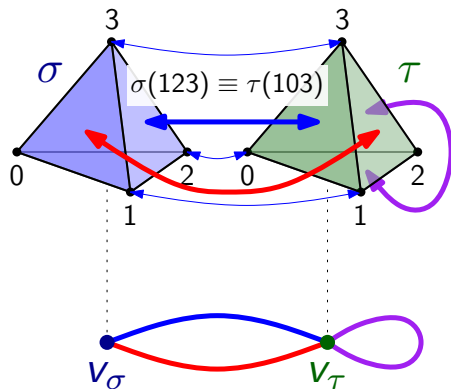
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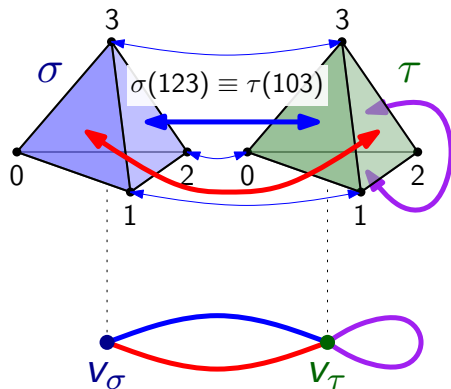
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We consider two 3-manifolds the same if they are **homeomorphic**.

Context: Algorithmic Study of 3-Manifolds

Any 3-manifold has infinitely many combinatorially distinct triangulations

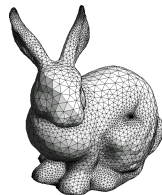
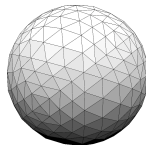
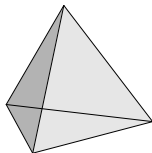
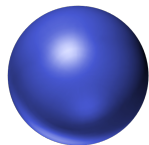


Image Credits: Wikimedia Commons (tetrahedron), Eeo Jun (triangulated sphere) and Daniel Rypl (Stanford bunny)

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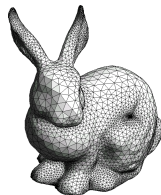
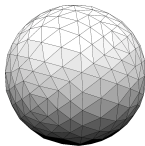
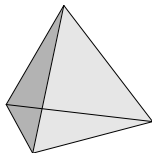
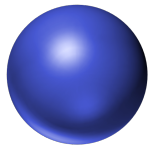


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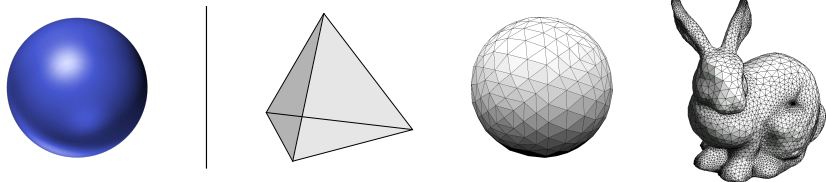


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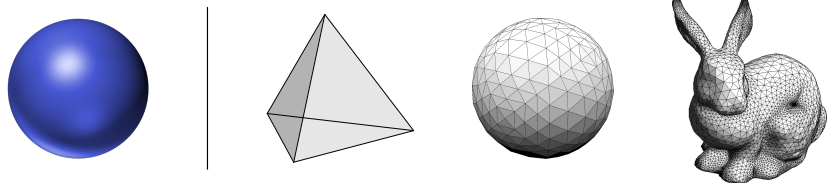


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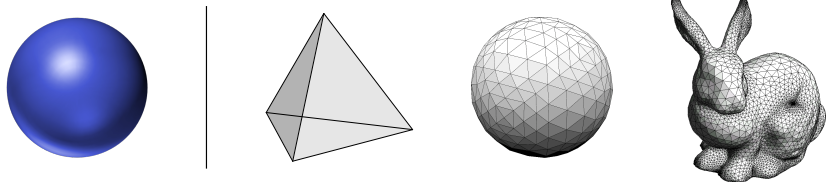


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Thus, in practice, the **HP** is approached via **computable invariants**.

Motivation: Fixed-Parameter Tractable Algorithms

\mathcal{T} : n -tetrahedron triangulation, $t = \text{tw}(\Gamma(\mathcal{T}))$ is the **treewidth** of $\Gamma(\mathcal{T})$.

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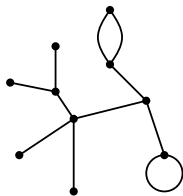
(This has been asked by several people, incl. at an Oberwolfach meeting in 2015.)

The Treewidth of a Graph

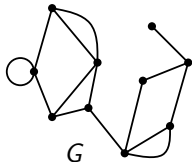
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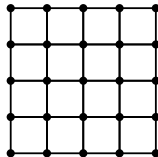
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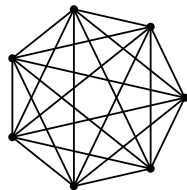
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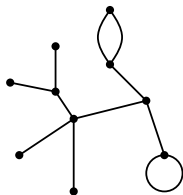
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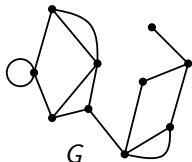
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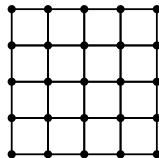
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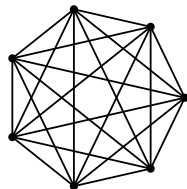
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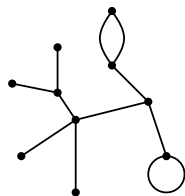


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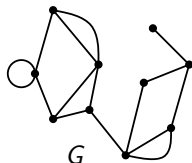
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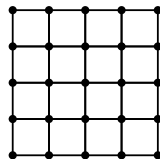
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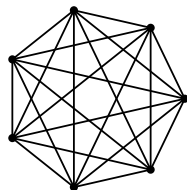
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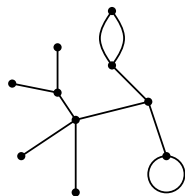


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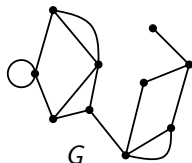
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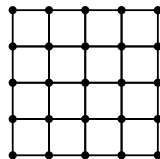
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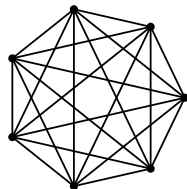
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- A **zoo of width parameters for graphs**: cutwidth, pathwidth, etc.

The Treewidth of a 3-Manifold

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This way, any non-negative graph parameter yields a *topological invariant* for 3-manifolds. We call these **combinatorial width parameters**.

Examples. *pathwidth* $\text{pw}(\mathcal{M})$, *cutwidth* $\text{cw}(\mathcal{M})$, *congestion* $\text{cng}(\mathcal{M})$, ...

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Motif. Understand the **quantitative relation** between treewidth & co. and classical topological invariants of 3-manifolds, e.g., *Heegaard genus*, *hyperbolic volume*, *Scharlemann–Thompson width*, etc.

The Heegaard Genus of a 3-Manifold

A **handlebody of genus g** is a solid body with g holes.



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Assume \mathcal{M} is **connected**, **orientable** & **closed**: compact, no boundary.

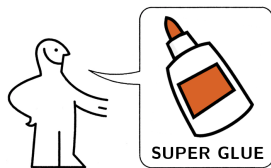
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A **handlebody of genus g** is a solid body with g holes.



Assume \mathcal{M} is **connected, orientable** & **closed**: compact, no boundary.

Theorem. Every such \mathcal{M} can be obtained as a **Heegaard splitting** i.e. two handlebodies of the same genus with their boundaries identified.



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The **Heegaard genus** $g(\mathcal{M})$ is the minimum genus of any Heegaard splitting of \mathcal{M} .

Results, I. 3-Manifolds with Large Treewidth

Theorem 1 (H–Spreer–Wagner, 2019). Let \mathcal{M} be closed, orientable, irreducible, non-Haken. Then its Heegaard genus and treewidth satisfy

$$g(\mathcal{M}) \leq 18 (\text{tw}(\mathcal{M}) + 1).$$

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Theorem (de Mesmay–Purcell–Schleimer–Sedgwick, 2019). For every natural number n , there exists a knot $K: \mathbb{S}^1 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ with $\text{tw}(K) \geq n$.

Here $\text{tw}(K)$ denotes the minimum treewidth of any *diagram* D of K .

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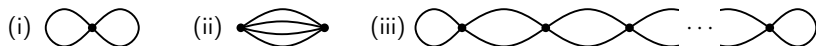
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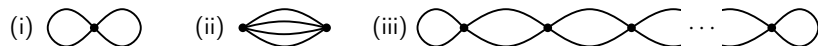
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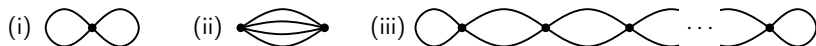


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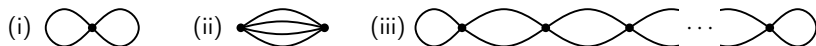
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Corollary Minimal triangulations are *not* always of minimum treewidth.

Results, III. Hyperbolic 3-Manifolds

\mathcal{M} is **hyperbolic** if it is a quotient of \mathbb{H}^3 by a discrete isometry group.

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Generalized Heegaard Splittings: A Case Study

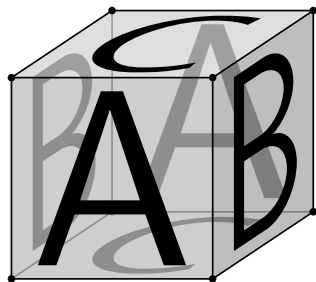
Scharlemann–Thompson, 1994; Scharlemann–Schultens–Saito, 2016

Generalized Heegaard Splittings: A Case Study

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3-dimensional torus

$$\mathbb{T}^3 = \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1$$

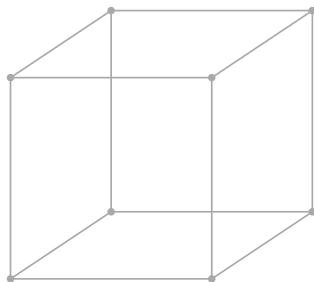
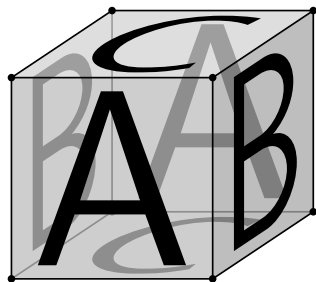


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3-dimensional torus \longrightarrow Handle decomposition

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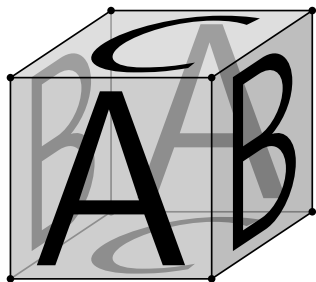


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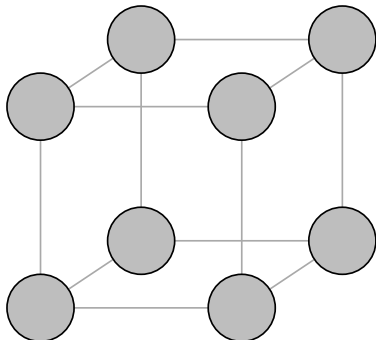
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$$g(\partial) : 0$$

Handle decomposition

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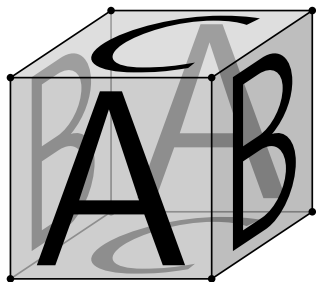


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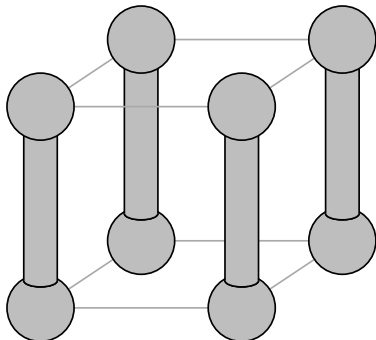
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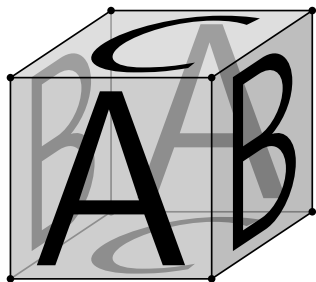
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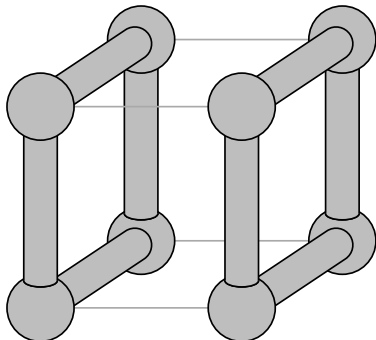
$$\mathbb{T}^3 = \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1$$



$$g(\partial) : 0 \quad 1 \quad 2$$

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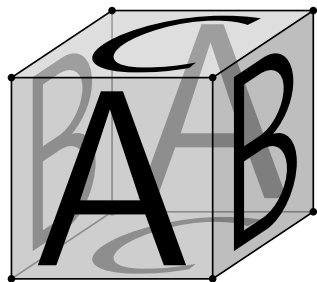


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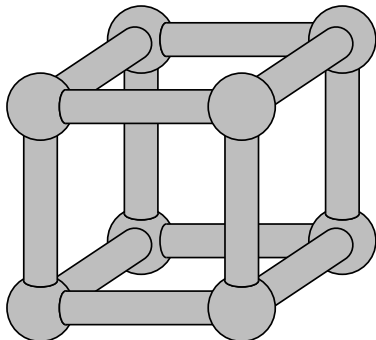
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3-dimensional torus \longrightarrow Handle decomposition

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$$g(\partial) = 3$$



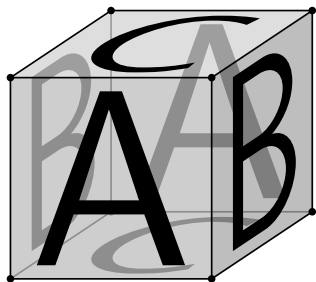
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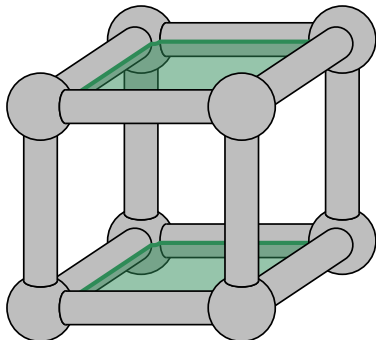
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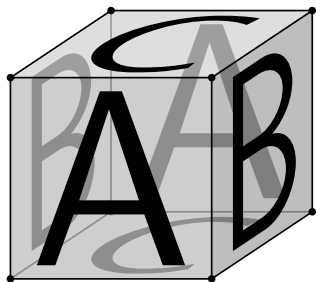
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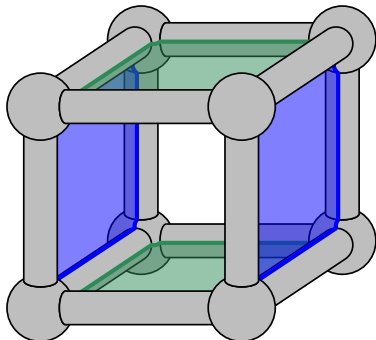
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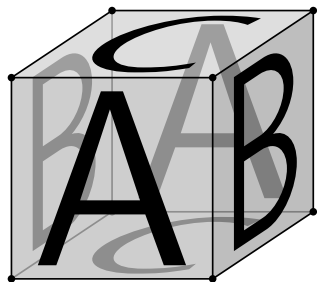


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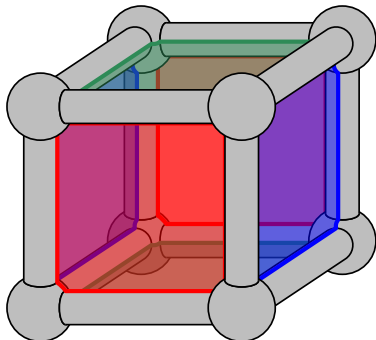
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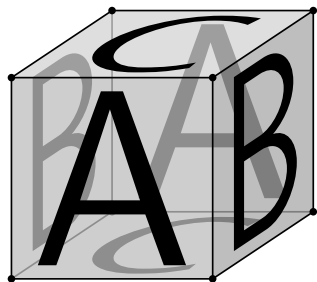
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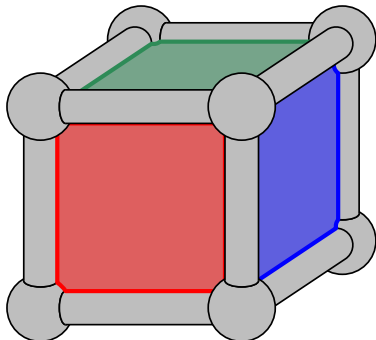
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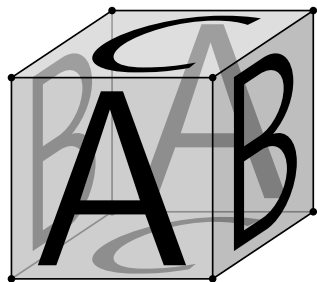


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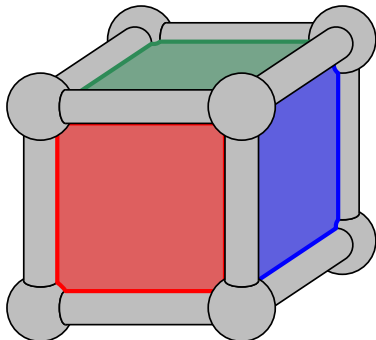
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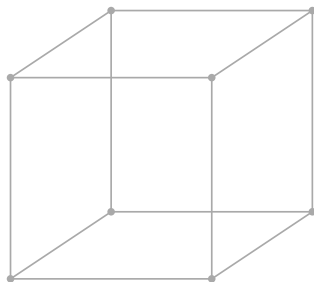
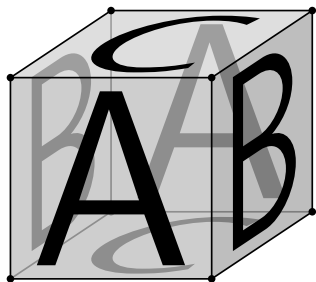


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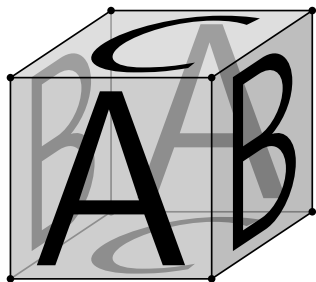
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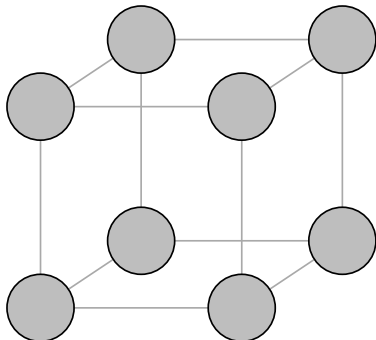
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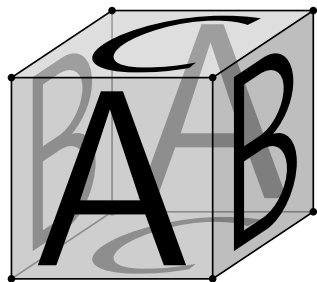
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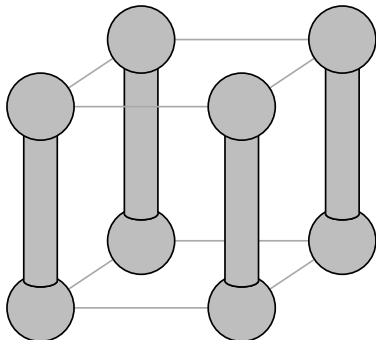
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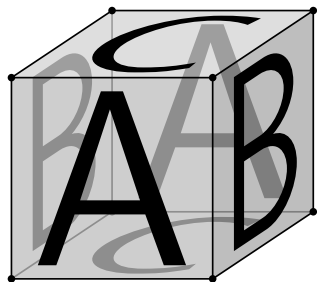
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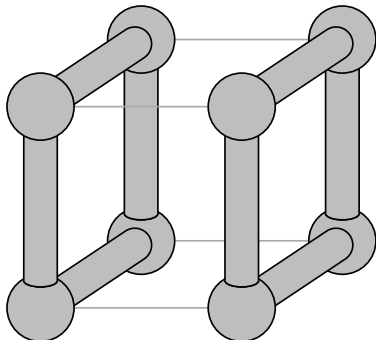
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$$g(\partial) = 2$$

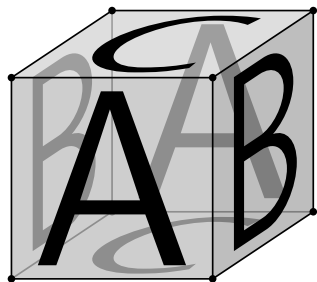


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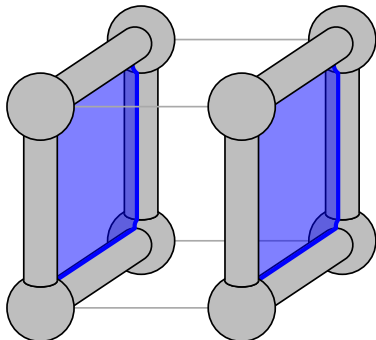
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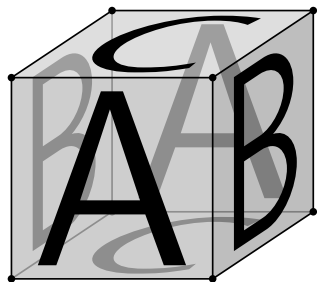


$$g(\partial) : \begin{array}{cccccccc} 0 & 1 & 2 & \mathbf{3} & 2 & 1 & 0 & \rightsquigarrow \text{Heegaard splitting of genus 3} \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & \frac{1}{1} & & & & \end{array}$$

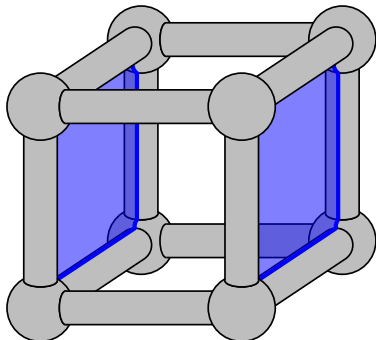
Generalized Heegaard Splittings: A Case Study

Scharlemann–Thompson, 1994; Scharlemann–Schultens–Saito, 2016

3-dimensional torus \longrightarrow Handle decomposition
 $\mathbb{T}^3 = \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1$



$$g(\partial) = 2$$



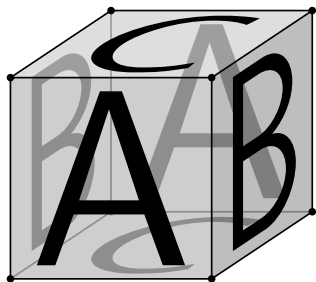
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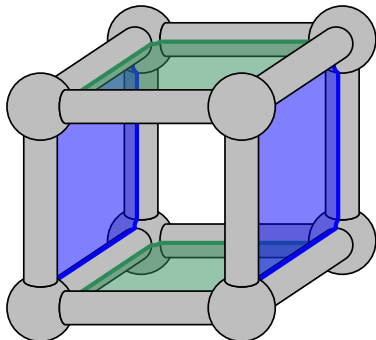
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3-dimensional torus

$$\mathbb{T}^3 = \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1$$



Handle decomposition



$$g(\partial) = 1$$

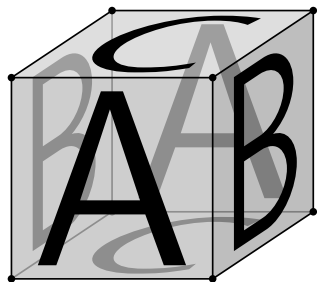
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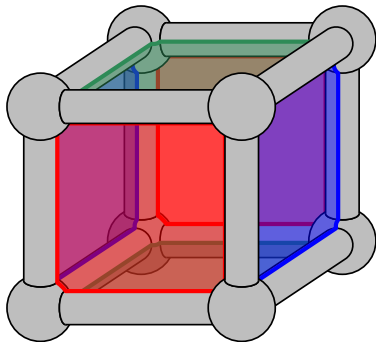
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3-dimensional torus \longrightarrow Handle decomposition

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$$g(\partial) = 0$$

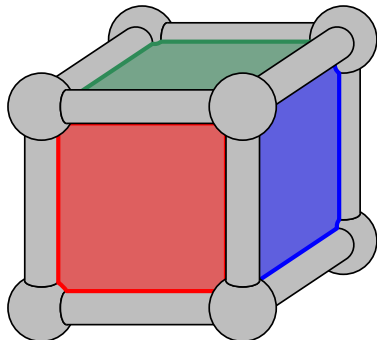
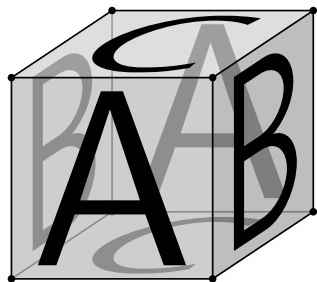


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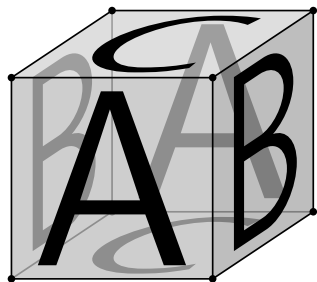
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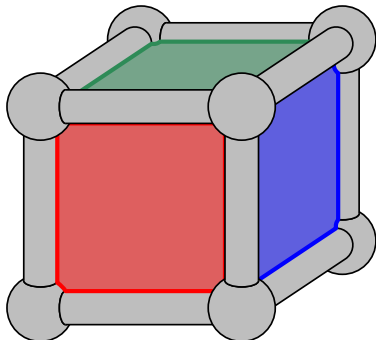
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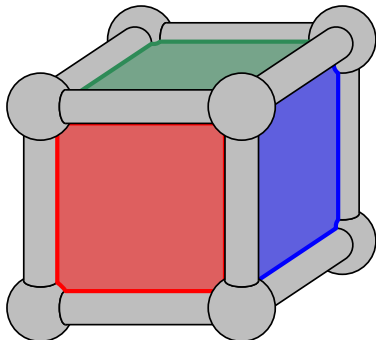
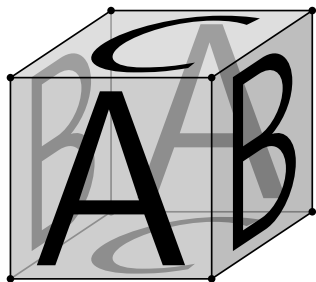


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Gen. Heegaard splitting of *lexicographically minimal width*: **thin position**

Proof of Theorem 1

Theorem 1 (H–Spreer–Wagner, 2019). Let \mathcal{M} be closed, orientable, irreducible, non-Haken. Then we have $g(\mathcal{M}) \leq 18 (\text{tw}(\mathcal{M}) + 1)$.

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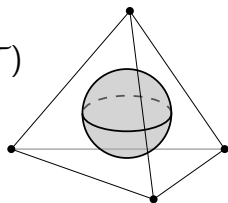
Strategy Triangulation \mathcal{T} of $\mathcal{M} \rightsquigarrow$ Heegaard splitting with small genus.

Proof of Theorem 1

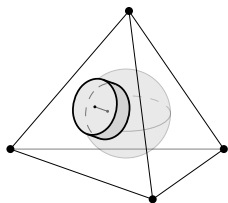
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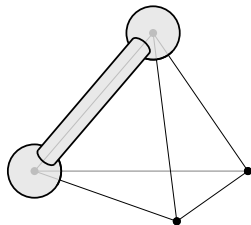
$\text{chd}(\mathcal{T})$



0-handle



1-handle



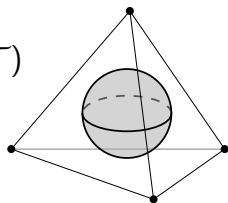
2- and 3-handles

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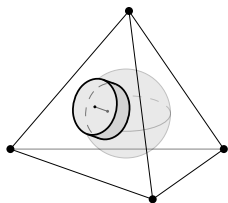
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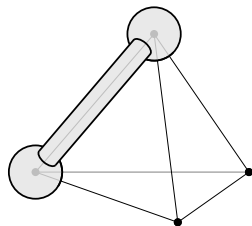
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1-handle



2- and 3-handles

$$\mathcal{H}_1 = \{0\text{-handles}\} \cup \{1\text{-handles}\}$$

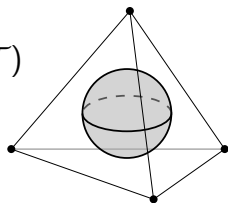
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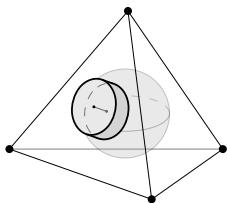
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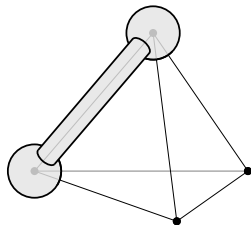
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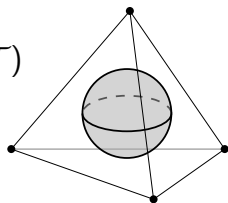
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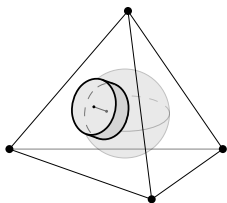
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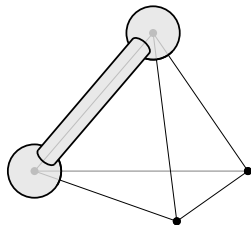
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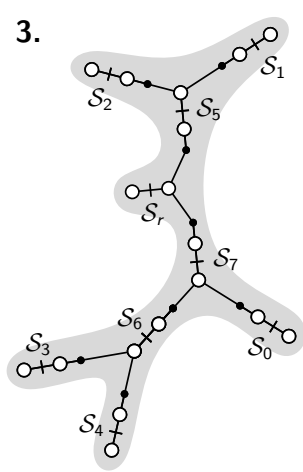
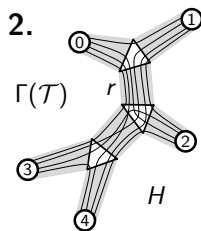
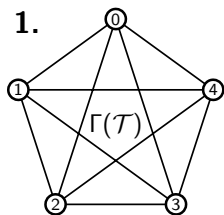
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Problem If \mathcal{T} has n tetrahedra, then $g(\mathcal{S}) = n + 1 \Rightarrow$ Too large!

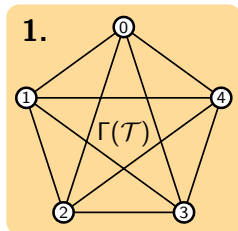
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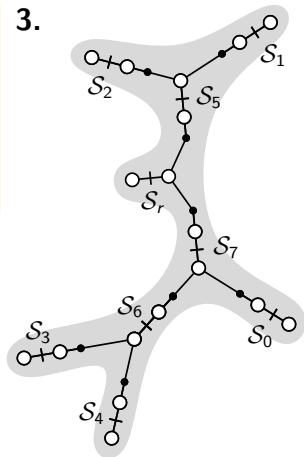


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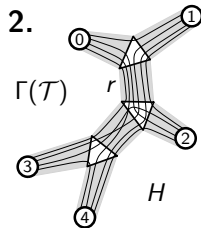
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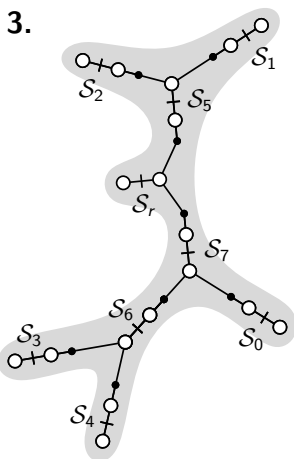
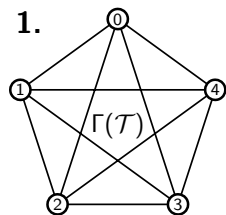


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Proof of Theorem 1

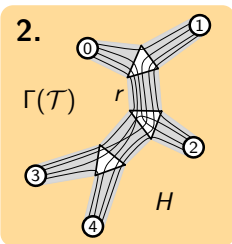
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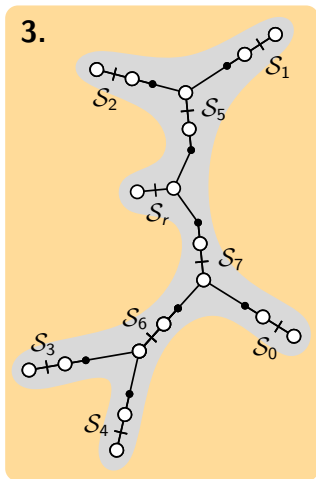
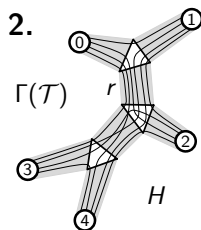
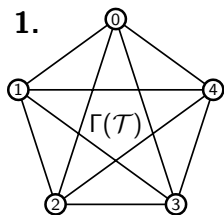
\Downarrow [Bienstock 1990]

2. Low-congestion layout



Proof of Theorem 1

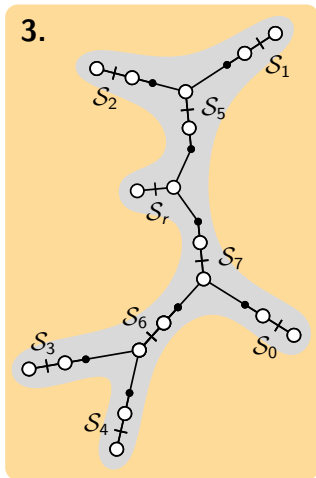
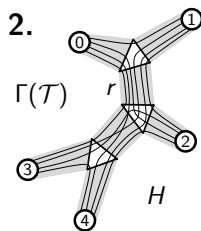
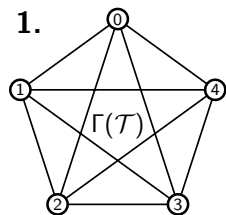
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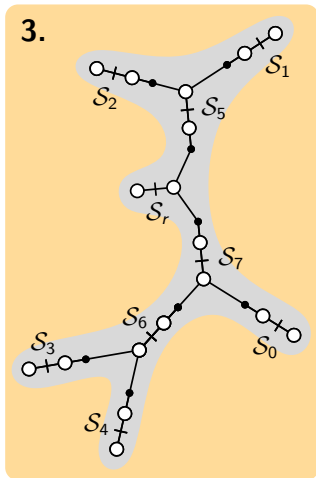
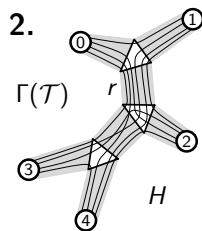
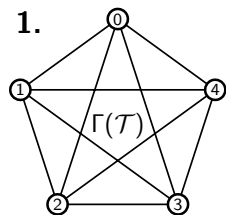
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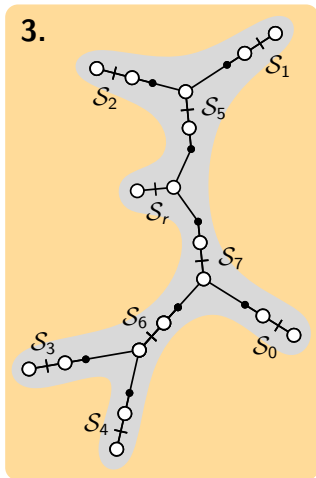
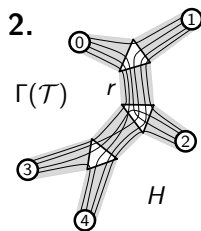
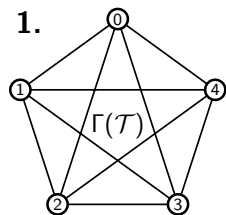
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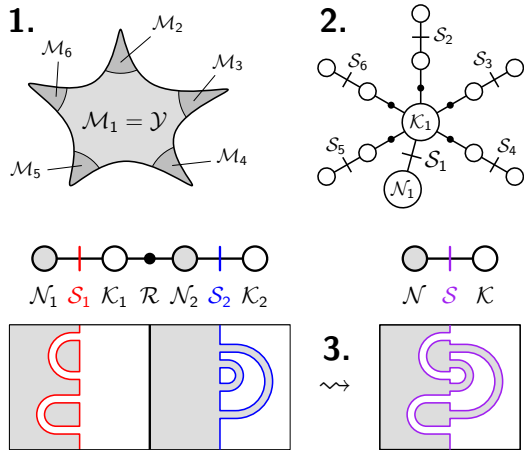
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Proof of Theorem 5

Theorem 5 (H, 2020+). There exists a universal constant $C' > 0$, such that, for every closed hyperbolic 3-manifold $\text{pw}(\mathcal{M}) \leq C' \cdot \text{vol}(\mathcal{M})$.

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0. Hyperbolic 3-manifold \mathcal{M}

\Downarrow [Kazhdan–Margulis 1968]

1. Thick-thin decomposition

\Downarrow [Jørgensen–Thurston 1979]

\Downarrow [Kobayashi–Rieck 2011]

2. Gen. Heegaard splitting

\Downarrow [Schultens 1993]

\Downarrow [Bachman et al. 2017]

3. Heegaard splitting

\Downarrow **Theorem 2**

4. Triangulation \mathcal{T} □

Thank you for your attention!

