

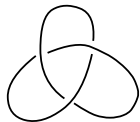
# Epimorphisms between knot groups and the images of meridians

Masaaki Suzuki

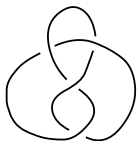
Akita University

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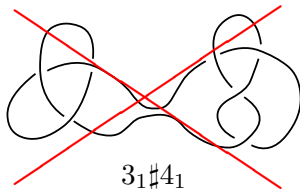
$K$  : a *prime* knot in  $S^3$



$3_1$



$4_1$



$3_1 \# 4_1$

$*$   $\in \partial(K \times D^2)$  : a base point

$G(K)$  : the knot group of  $K$  i.e.  $G(K) = \pi_1(S^3 - K, *)$

$\mu_K \in G(K)$  : meridian of  $K$

i.e.  $\mu_K = [\alpha_K]$  s.t.  $\alpha_K \sim * \times \partial D^2$ ,  $lk(K, \alpha_K) = 1$

## Definition.

$K, K'$  : two prime knots

$$K \geq K' \iff \exists \varphi: G(K) \twoheadrightarrow G(K')$$

$$K \geq_{\mu} K' \iff \begin{array}{ccc} \exists \varphi: G(K) & \twoheadrightarrow & G(K') \\ \mu_K & \mapsto & \mu_{K'} \end{array}$$

$$K \geq_{\mu} K' \implies K \geq K'$$

## Fact.

The relation “ $\geq$ ” is a partial order on the set of prime knots.

- $K \geq K$
- $K \geq K', K' \geq K \implies K = K'$
- $K \geq K', K' \geq K'' \implies K \geq K''$

The relation “ $\geq_{\mu}$ ” is also a partial order

## Theorem. (Kitano-S. Horie-Kitano-Matsumoto-S.)

The partial order " $\geq_\mu$ " on the set of prime knots with up to 11 crossings is given by

$8_5, 8_{10}, 8_{15}, 8_{18}, 8_{19}, 8_{20}, 8_{21}, 9_1, 9_6, 9_{16}, 9_{23}, 9_{24}, 9_{28}, 9_{40},$   
 $10_5, 10_9, 10_{32}, 10_{40}, 10_{61}, 10_{62}, 10_{63}, 10_{64}, 10_{65}, 10_{66}, 10_{76},$   
 $10_{77}, 10_{78}, 10_{82}, 10_{84}, 10_{85}, 10_{87}, 10_{98}, 10_{99}, 10_{103}, 10_{106},$   
 $10_{112}, 10_{114}, 10_{139}, 10_{140}, 10_{141}, 10_{142}, 10_{143}, 10_{144},$   
 $10_{159}, 10_{164},$   
 $11a_{43}, 11a_{44}, 11a_{46}, 11a_{47}, 11a_{57}, 11a_{58}, 11a_{71}, 11a_{72}, 11a_{73},$   
 $11a_{100}, 11a_{106}, 11a_{107}, 11a_{108}, 11a_{109}, 11a_{117}, 11a_{134}, 11a_{139},$   
 $11a_{157}, 11a_{165}, 11a_{171}, 11a_{175}, 11a_{176}, 11a_{194}, 11a_{196}, 11a_{203},$   
 $11a_{212}, 11a_{216}, 11a_{223}, 11a_{231}, 11a_{232}, 11a_{236}, 11a_{244}, 11a_{245},$   
 $11a_{261}, 11a_{263}, 11a_{264}, 11a_{286}, 11a_{305}, 11a_{306}, 11a_{318}, 11a_{332},$   
 $11a_{338}, 11a_{340}, 11a_{351}, 11a_{352}, 11a_{355}, 11n_{71}, 11n_{72}, 11n_{73},$   
 $11n_{74}, 11n_{75}, 11n_{76}, 11n_{77}, 11n_{78}, 11n_{81}, 11n_{85}, 11n_{86}, 11n_{87},$   
 $11n_{94}, 11n_{104}, 11n_{105}, 11n_{106}, 11n_{107}, 11n_{136}, 11n_{164}, 11n_{183},$   
 $11n_{184}, 11n_{185}$

$\geq_\mu 3_1$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 8_{18}, 9_{37}, 9_{40}, \\ 10_{58}, 10_{59}, 10_{60}, 10_{122}, 10_{136}, 10_{137}, 10_{138}, \\ 11a_5, 11a_6, 11a_{51}, 11a_{132}, 11a_{239}, 11a_{297}, 11a_{348}, 11a_{349}, \\ 11n_{100}, 11n_{148}, 11n_{157}, 11n_{165} \end{array} \right\} \geq_{\mu} 4_1$$

$$11n_{78}, 11n_{148} \geq_{\mu} 5_1$$

$$10_{74}, 10_{120}, 10_{122}, 11n_{71}, 11n_{185} \geq_{\mu} 5_2$$

$$11a_{352} \geq_{\mu} 6_1$$

$$11a_{351} \geq_{\mu} 6_2$$

$$11a_{47}, 11a_{239} \geq_{\mu} 6_3$$

## To determine the partial order $\geq_\mu$ on the set of prime knots

For each pair of two prime knots  $K, K'$ ,  
determine whether there exists an epimorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \varphi : G(K) & \twoheadrightarrow & G(K') \\ \mu_K & \mapsto & \mu_{K'} \end{array}$$

which preserves meridians.

The number of prime knots with up to 11 crossings is **801**.

Then the number of cases to consider is  ${}_{801}P_2 = \mathbf{640,800}$ .

the **existence** of an epimorphism which preserves meridians

We can construct such an epimorphism explicitly

Example.  $8_{18} \geq_{\mu} 3_1$  ?



$$G(8_{18}) = \left\langle \begin{array}{l|l} x_1, x_2, x_3, & x_4 x_1 \bar{x}_4 \bar{x}_2, x_5 x_3 \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_2, x_6 x_3 \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_4, \\ x_4, x_5, x_6, & x_7 x_5 \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_4, x_8 x_5 \bar{x}_8 \bar{x}_6, x_1 x_7 \bar{x}_1 \bar{x}_6, \\ x_7, x_8 & x_2 x_7 \bar{x}_2 \bar{x}_8 \end{array} \right\rangle$$
$$G(3_1) = \langle y_1, y_2, y_3 \mid y_3 y_1 \bar{y}_3 \bar{y}_2, y_1 y_2 \bar{y}_1 \bar{y}_3 \rangle$$

**Example.**  $8_{18} \geq_{\mu} 3_1$  ?

$$G(8_{18}) = \left\langle \begin{array}{l|l} x_1, x_2, x_3, & x_4 x_1 \bar{x}_4 \bar{x}_2, x_5 x_3 \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_2, x_6 x_3 \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_4, \\ x_4, x_5, x_6, & x_7 x_5 \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_4, x_8 x_5 \bar{x}_8 \bar{x}_6, x_1 x_7 \bar{x}_1 \bar{x}_6, \\ x_7, x_8 & x_2 x_7 \bar{x}_2 \bar{x}_8 \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$G(3_1) = \langle y_1, y_2, y_3 \mid y_3 y_1 \bar{y}_3 \bar{y}_2, y_1 y_2 \bar{y}_1 \bar{y}_3 \rangle$$

$$\varphi : G(8_{18}) \longrightarrow G(3_1)$$

$$\begin{array}{llll} \varphi(x_1) = y_1, & \varphi(x_2) = y_2, & \varphi(x_3) = y_1, & \varphi(x_4) = y_3, \\ \varphi(x_5) = y_3, & \varphi(x_6) = y_1 y_3 \bar{y}_1, & \varphi(x_7) = y_3, & \varphi(x_8) = y_1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \varphi : G(8_{18}) & \twoheadrightarrow & G(3_1) \\ \varphi(\mu_{8_{11}}) & \mapsto & \mu_{3_1} \end{array}$$

$$8_{18} \geq_{\mu} 3_1$$



the **non-existence** of an epimorphism which preserves meridians

(1) By the (classical) Alexander polynomial

$K$  : a knot

$\Delta_K$  : the Alexander polynomial of  $K$

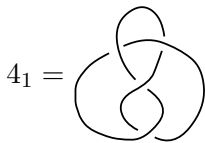
**Fact.**

$K, K'$  : two knots

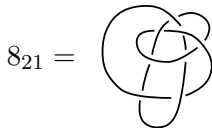
If  $\Delta_K$  can not be divided by  $\Delta_{K'}$ ,

$\implies$  there exists no epimorphism  $G(K) \twoheadrightarrow G(K')$ .

Example.  $4_1 \geq_{\mu} 8_{21}$  ?



,



$$\Delta_{4_1} = t^2 - 3t + 1,$$

$$\Delta_{8_{21}} = t^4 - 4t^3 + 5t^2 - 4t + 1$$

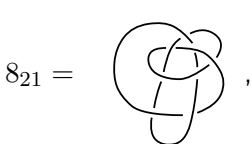
$$\frac{\Delta_{4_1}}{\Delta_{8_{21}}} = \frac{t^2 - 3t + 1}{t^4 - 4t^3 + 5t^2 - 4t + 1}$$

$\Delta_{8_{21}}$  can not divide  $\Delta_{4_1}$

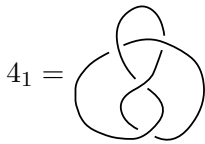
$$4_1 \not\geq 8_{21}$$

$$4_1 \not\geq_{\mu} 8_{21}$$

Example.  $8_{21} \geq_{\mu} 4_1$  ?



$$\Delta_{8_{21}} = t^4 - 4t^3 + 5t^2 - 4t + 1,$$



$$\Delta_{4_1} = t^2 - 3t + 1$$

$$\frac{\Delta_{8_{21}}}{\Delta_{4_1}} = \frac{t^4 - 4t^3 + 5t^2 - 4t + 1}{t^2 - 3t + 1} = t^2 - t + 1$$

$\Delta_{4_1}$  can divide  $\Delta_{8_{21}}$ !

We cannot determine the existence of an epimorphism from  $G(8_{21})$  onto  $G(4_1)$  by the Alexander polynomial.

the **non-existence** of an epimorphism which preserves meridians

- (1) By the (classical) Alexander polynomial
- (2) By the twisted Alexander polynomial

Fix Wirtinger presentation of  $G(K)$

$\Delta_{K,\rho}$  : the twisted Alexander polynomial of  $K$

$\Delta_{K,\rho}^N, \Delta_{K,\rho}^D$  : the numerator and denominator of  $\Delta_{K,\rho}$

**Theorem. (Kitano-S.-Wada)**

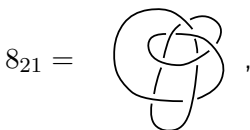
If there exists a representation  $\rho' : G(K') \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$  such that

$$\Delta_{K,\rho}^N \text{ is not divisible by } \Delta_{K',\rho'}^N \text{ or } \Delta_{K,\rho}^D \neq \Delta_{K',\rho'}^D$$

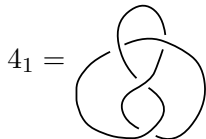
for any representation  $\rho : G(K) \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ ,

then there exists no epimorphism  $G(K) \twoheadrightarrow G(K')$  which preserves meridians.

Example.  $8_{21} \geq_{\mu} 4_1$  ?



$$\Delta_{8_{21}} = t^4 - 4t^3 + 5t^2 - 4t + 1,$$



$$\Delta_{4_1} = t^2 - 3t + 1$$

$$\frac{\Delta_{8_{21}}}{\Delta_{4_1}} = \frac{t^4 - 4t^3 + 5t^2 - 4t + 1}{t^2 - 3t + 1} = t^2 - t + 1$$

$\Delta_{4_1}$  divides  $\Delta_{8_{21}}$  !

We cannot determine the existence of an epimorphism from  $G(8_{21})$  onto  $G(4_1)$  by the Alexander polynomial.

For a certain representation  $\rho' : G(4_1) \longrightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ ,

$$\Delta_{4_1, \rho'}^N = t^4 + t^2 + 1, \quad \Delta_{4_1, \rho'}^D = t^2 + t + 1$$

Table of the twisted Alexander polynomials of  $G(8_{21})$   
for all representations  $\rho : G(8_{21}) \longrightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$

	$\Delta_{8_{21}, \rho_i}^N$	$\Delta_{8_{21}, \rho_i}^D$
$\rho_1$	$t^8 + t^4 + 1$	$t^2 + 1$
$\rho_2$	$t^8 + t^7 + 2t^6 + 2t^4 + 2t^2 + t + 1$	$t^2 + t + 1$
$\rho_3$	$t^8 + t^7 + 2t^6 + 2t^4 + 2t^2 + t + 1$	$t^2 + 2t + 1$
$\rho_4$	$t^8 + 2t^7 + 2t^6 + 2t^4 + 2t^2 + 2t + 1$	$t^2 + t + 1$
$\rho_5$	$t^8 + 2t^7 + 2t^6 + 2t^4 + 2t^2 + 2t + 1$	$t^2 + 2t + 1$

$$8_{21} \not\cong_{\mu} 4_1$$

## To determine the partial order $\geq_\mu$ on the set of prime knots

For each pair of two prime knots  $K, K'$ ,  
determine whether there exists an epimorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \varphi : G(K) & \twoheadrightarrow & G(K') \\ \mu_K & \mapsto & \mu_{K'} \end{array}$$

which preserves meridians.

The number of prime knots with up to 11 crossings is **801**.

Then the number of cases to consider is  ${}_{801}P_2 = \mathbf{640,800}$ .

**146** cases: existence of an epimorphism

**637, 501** cases : non-existence by the Alexander polynomial

**3, 153** cases : non-existence by the twisted Alexander poly.

## Definition.

$K, K'$  : two prime knots

$$K \geq K' \iff \exists \varphi : G(K) \twoheadrightarrow G(K')$$

$$K \geq_{\mu} K' \iff \begin{array}{ccc} \exists \varphi : G(K) & \twoheadrightarrow & G(K') \\ \mu_K & \mapsto & \mu_{K'} \end{array}$$

$$K \geq_{\mu} K' \implies K \geq K'$$

## Problem.

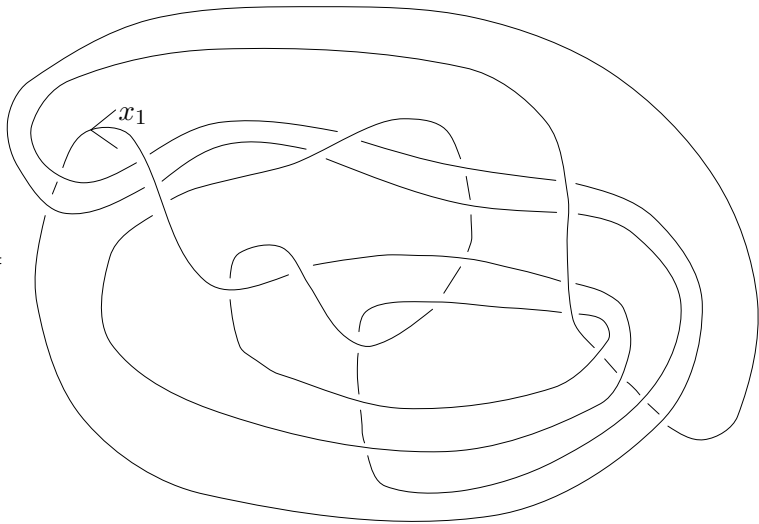
$$K \geq K' \stackrel{?}{\implies} K \geq_{\mu} K'$$

## Problem.

Does there exist an epimorphism between knot groups which does not preserve meridians?



$K =$



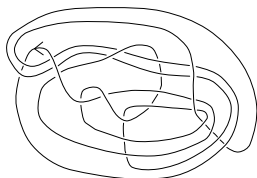
Wirtinger presentation of  $G(K)$

generators :  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{24}$

relators :

$x_6 x_2 \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_1,$	$x_{10} x_2 \bar{x}_{10} \bar{x}_3,$	$x_6 x_3 \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_4,$	$x_{22} x_4 \bar{x}_{22} \bar{x}_5,$
$x_1 x_6 \bar{x}_1 \bar{x}_5,$	$x_{17} x_7 \bar{x}_{17} \bar{x}_6,$	$x_{23} x_7 \bar{x}_{23} \bar{x}_8,$	$x_{13} x_9 \bar{x}_{13} \bar{x}_8,$
$x_3 x_9 \bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_{10},$	$x_1 x_{10} \bar{x}_1 \bar{x}_{11},$	$x_{22} x_{12} \bar{x}_{22} \bar{x}_{11},$	$x_6 x_{13} \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_{12},$
$x_{23} x_{14} \bar{x}_{23} \bar{x}_{13},$	$x_{17} x_{14} \bar{x}_{17} \bar{x}_{15},$	$x_{18} x_{16} \bar{x}_{18} \bar{x}_{15},$	$x_6 x_{17} \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_{16},$
$x_1 x_{17} \bar{x}_1 \bar{x}_{18},$	$x_{16} x_{19} \bar{x}_{16} \bar{x}_{18},$	$x_{24} x_{19} \bar{x}_{24} \bar{x}_{20},$	$x_{12} x_{21} \bar{x}_{12} \bar{x}_{20},$
$x_4 x_{21} \bar{x}_4 \bar{x}_{22},$	$x_1 x_{23} \bar{x}_1 \bar{x}_{22},$	$x_6 x_{23} \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_{24},$	$x_{18} x_{24} \bar{x}_{18} \bar{x}_1$

where  $\bar{x}_i = x_i^{-1}$ .



Wirtinger presentation of  $G(3_1)$ :

$$G(3_1) = \langle y_1, y_2 \mid y_1 y_2 y_1 = y_2 y_1 y_2 \rangle = \langle 1, 2 \mid 121 = 212 \rangle$$

We define a map  $f : G(K) \rightarrow G(3_1)$  as follows:

$f(x_1) = 12\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_2) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}22\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1},$
$f(x_3) = 12\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_4) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1},$
$f(x_5) = 212\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_6) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1},$
$f(x_7) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{1}22\bar{2}\bar{1}\bar{1}22\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_8) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1},$
$f(x_9) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}22\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_{10}) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1},$
$f(x_{11}) = 12\bar{2}\bar{1}\bar{1},$	$f(x_{12}) = 1\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{1}22\bar{2}\bar{1}\bar{1}22\bar{1},$
$f(x_{13}) = 12\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_{14}) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1},$
$f(x_{15}) = 12\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_{16}) = 1\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}22\bar{1},$
$f(x_{17}) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_{18}) = 2\bar{2}\bar{1},$
$f(x_{19}) = 1\bar{2}\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}22\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}22\bar{1},$	$f(x_{20}) = 2\bar{2}\bar{1},$
$f(x_{21}) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_{22}) = 2\bar{2}\bar{1},$
$f(x_{23}) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}22\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1},$	$f(x_{24}) = 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}\bar{1}22\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}.$

## Theorem.

The above mapping  $f : G(K) \rightarrow G(3_1)$  is an epimorphism which does not map a meridian of  $K$  to a meridian of  $3_1$ . Moreover, there does not exist an epimorphism from  $G(K)$  onto  $G(3_1)$  which preserves meridians.

## To prove the above theorem

- (1)  $f$  is a group homomorphism.
- (2)  $f$  is surjective.
- (3)  $f$  does not map a meridian of  $K$  to a meridian of  $3_1$ .
- (4) There does not exist an epimorphism which preserves meridians.

## Corollary.

$$K \geq K' \not\Rightarrow K \geq_{\mu} K'$$

(1)  $f$  is a group homomorphism.

The relators of  $G(K)$  vanish under the mapping  $f$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_6 x_2 \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_1) &= 1\bar{2}12\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}222\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1} \\ &= e \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_{10} x_2 \bar{x}_{10} \bar{x}_3) &= 1\bar{2}12\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}222\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1} \\ &= e \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_6 x_3 \bar{x}_6 \bar{x}_4) &= 1\bar{2}12\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 12\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1} \\ &= e \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

(2)  $f$  is surjective.

We find elements of  $G(K)$  which are mapped to 1 and 2.

$$\begin{aligned} & f(x_{18}x_6\bar{x}_1\bar{x}_1x_{18}x_6\bar{x}_1) \\ &= f(x_{18})f(x_6)\overline{f(x_1)}\overline{f(x_1)}f(x_{18})f(x_6)\overline{f(x_1)} \\ &= 22\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}12\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1} \cdot 22\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}12\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1} \cdot 1\bar{2}1\bar{2}\bar{1} \\ &= 212\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}212\bar{1}\bar{1} = 121\bar{1}2\bar{1}2\bar{1}121\bar{1}\bar{1} = 1, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & f(x_1\bar{x}_6\bar{x}_1x_{18}x_1x_{18}x_6\bar{x}_1\bar{x}_1x_{18}x_6\bar{x}_1) \\ &= \dots \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

(3)  $f$  does not map a meridian of  $K$  to a meridian of  $3_1$ .

Check the image of a meridian of  $K$ .

$$\begin{array}{l} x_1 : \text{meridian of } K \\ 1 : \text{meridian of } 3_1 \end{array} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f(x_1) \not\sim 1 ?$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \rho : G(3_1) \longrightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}) \\ 1 \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ 2 \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

$$\rho(f(x_1)) = \rho(12\bar{1}2\bar{1}) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ -3 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{tr } \rho(f(x_1)) \neq \text{tr } \rho(1) \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f(x_1) \not\sim 1$$

(4) There does not exist an epimorphism which preserves meridians.  
By making use of the twisted Alexander polynomial.

Fix Wirtinger representations of the knot groups.

$\Delta_{K,\rho}$  : the twisted Alexander polynomial of  $K$

$\Delta_{K,\rho}^N, \Delta_{K,\rho}^D$  : the numerator and denominator of  $\Delta_{K,\rho}$

Theorem. (Kitano-S.-Wada)

If there exists a representation  $\rho' : G(K') \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$  such that

$$\Delta_{K,\rho}^N \text{ is not divisible by } \Delta_{K',\rho'}^N \text{ or } \Delta_{K,\rho}^D \neq \Delta_{K',\rho'}^D$$

for any representation  $\rho : G(K) \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ ,

then there exists no epimorphism  $G(K) \twoheadrightarrow G(K')$  which preserves meridians.



For a certain representation  $\rho' : G(3_1) \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})$ ,

$$\Delta_{3_1, \rho'}^N = t^4 + 2t^3 + 2t^2 + 2t + 1, \quad \Delta_{3_1, \rho'}^D = t^2 + 2t + 1$$

Table of the twisted Alexander polynomials of  $G(K)$   
for all representations  $\rho : G(K) \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})$

	$\Delta_{K, \rho_i}^N$	$\Delta_{K, \rho_i}^D$
$\rho_1$	$t^8 + 3t^6 + 3t^4 + 3t^2 + 1$	$t^2 + 1$
$\rho_2$	$t^8 + 4t^6 + t^4 + 4t^2 + 1$	$t^2 + 1$
$\rho_3$	$t^8 + t^7 + 4t^5 + 4t^4 + 4t^3 + t + 1$	$t^2 + 3t + 1$
$\rho_4$	$t^8 + 2t^7 + t^5 + 3t^4 + t^3 + 2t + 1$	$t^2 + t + 1$
$\rho_5$	$t^8 + 2t^7 + t^6 + 2t^5 + 4t^4 + 2t^3 + t^2 + 2t + 1$	$t^2 + t + 1$
$\rho_6$	$t^8 + 3t^7 + 4t^5 + 3t^4 + 4t^3 + 3t + 1$	$t^2 + 4t + 1$
$\rho_7$	$t^8 + 3t^7 + t^6 + 3t^5 + 4t^4 + 3t^3 + t^2 + 3t + 1$	$t^2 + 4t + 1$
$\rho_8$	$t^8 + 4t^7 + t^5 + 4t^4 + t^3 + 4t + 1$	$t^2 + 2t + 1$

$$K \not\cong_{\mu} 3_1$$

## Theorem. (Kitano-S.-Wada)

If there exists a representation  $\rho' : G(K') \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$  such that

$$\Delta_{K,\rho} \text{ is not divisible by } \Delta_{K',\rho'}$$

for any representation  $\rho : G(K) \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ ,  
then there exists no epimorphism  $G(K) \twoheadrightarrow G(K')$ .

## Problem.

Is the converse true?

If there exists no epimorphism  $G(K) \twoheadrightarrow G(K')$ , then does there exist a prime number  $p$  and  $\rho' : G(K') \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$  such that

$$\Delta_{K,\rho} \text{ is not divisible by } \Delta_{K',\rho'}$$

for any  $\rho : G(K) \rightarrow SL(2; \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ ?