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# Graph groups 2010

Herman and Mary Servatius



# 1. What is a graph group

$$\Gamma = (V, E)$$

$$V = \{a, b, c, \dots\} \quad E = \{(x, y), (z, w), \dots\}$$

$$F(\Gamma) = \langle a, b, c, \dots \mid xy = yx, zw = wz \dots \rangle$$

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$\Gamma = K_n \implies F(\Gamma)$  free abelian of rank  $k$ .

$\Gamma = K_n^c \implies F(\Gamma)$  free of rank  $k$ .

**Theorem:** (Droms 1983) [3]  $F(\Gamma) \cong F(\Gamma') \iff \Gamma \cong \Gamma'$



## Combinatorics of Graph Groups

Word problem, conjugacy problem, centralizer problem are all solved by algorithms linear in the number of edges.

Algorithmic questions are quite tractable.

**Theorem:** (Laurence 1995) [6] *The automorphisms of a graph group are generated by*

- Partially Inner Automorphisms*
- Graph Automorphisms*
- Generator Inversions*
- Pendant Translations*

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## What are Artin groups ?

Commutation Relation:  $ab = ba$

Braid Relation:  $aba = bab$

Artin Relation:  $aba \cdots = bab \cdots$

Coxeter adds  $a^2 = 1$ .



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## Coherence

A group is *coherent* if every finitely generated subgroup is finitely presented.

Free groups are coherent.

Free abelian groups are coherent.

**Theorem 1** (Droms-1983) [2] *A graph group  $G(\Gamma)$  is coherent if and only if each cycle of length greater than 3 has a chord.*

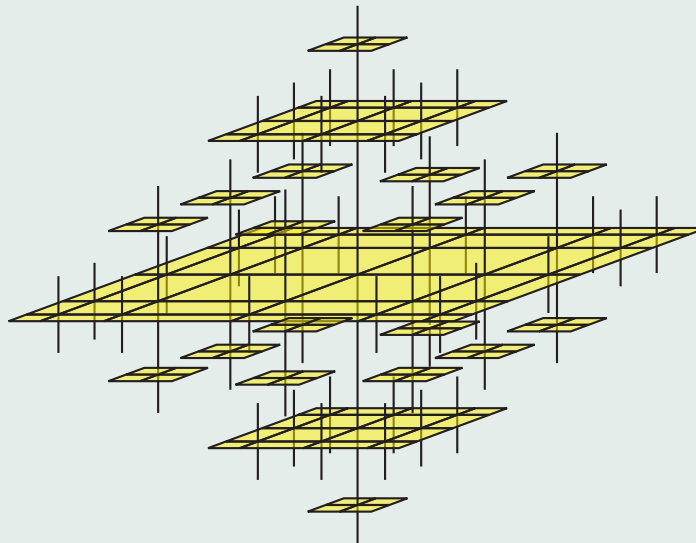


## 2. Graph Groups in $1D$

The Cayley graphs can be easily constructed.

The Cayley complex can be easily constructed and have a nice geometry.

The Eilenberg-MacLane spaces are also easy to construct.



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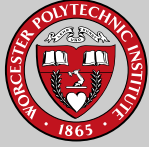
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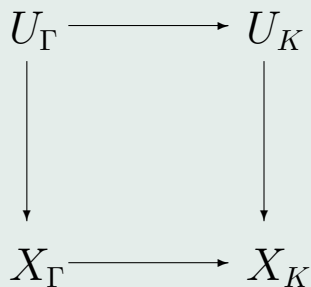
### 3. Graph Groups in $2D$

The graph group  $F(\{a, b\}, \{(a, b)\})$  is the fundamental group of the torus.

Can we find other surface groups?



The following pullback diagram realizes the commutator subgroup of  $F(\Gamma)$ .



$$X_K = [(S_1)^n]_2 \quad U_K = [\mathbb{R}^n]_2$$

**Theorem 2** *Let  $Z$  be a cover of the Cayley complex of  $F_\Gamma$ , and let  $Y$  be a subcomplex of  $Z$  with the property that any face of  $Z$  which contains at least two incident edges of  $Y$  is also a face of  $Y$ . Then the inclusion map  $i : Y \rightarrow Z$  induces a monomorphism  $i_* : \pi_1(Y) \rightarrow \pi_1(Z)$ .*

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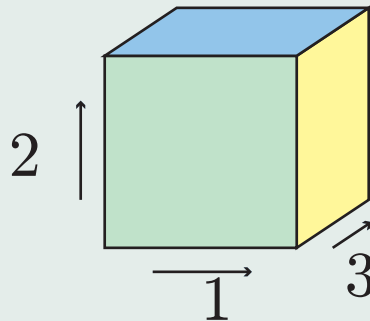
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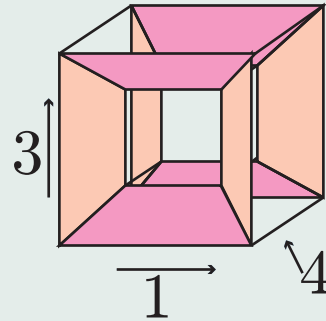
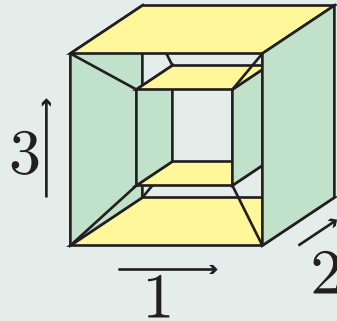
$\Gamma$  a triangle. 3D Cube



Conclusion: The free abelian group of rank three contains a trivial subgroup.



# $\Gamma$ 4-gon. 4D Cube



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$$F(\Gamma) = \langle a, c \rangle \oplus \langle a, c \rangle$$



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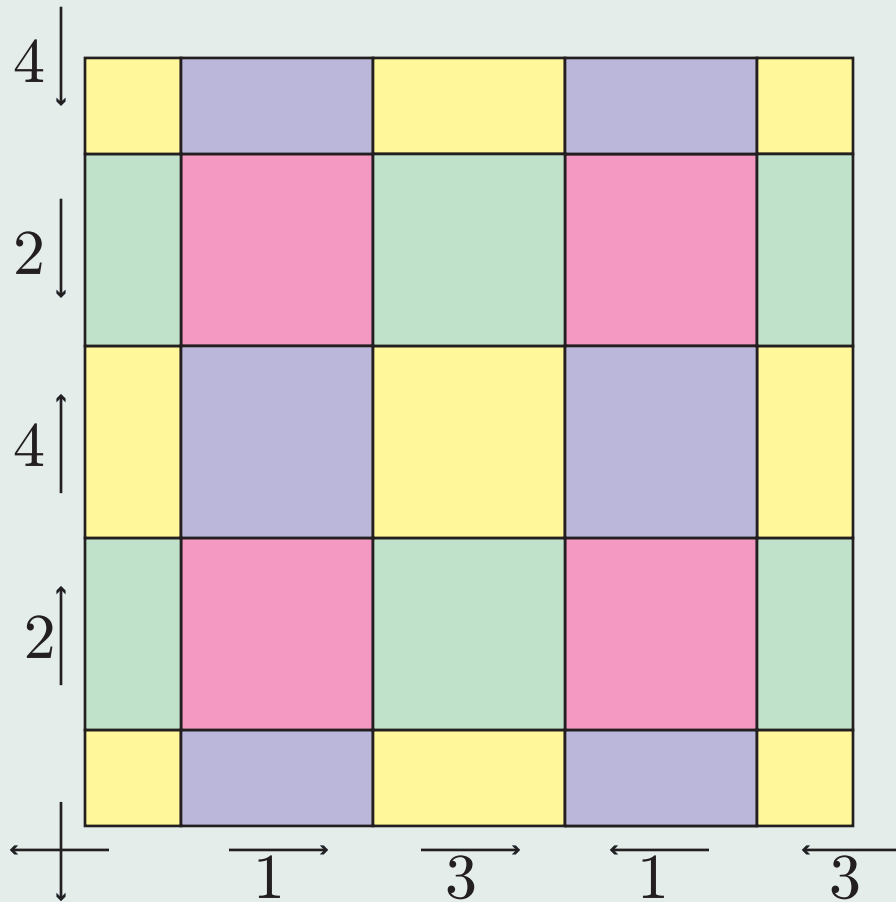
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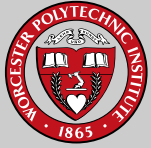
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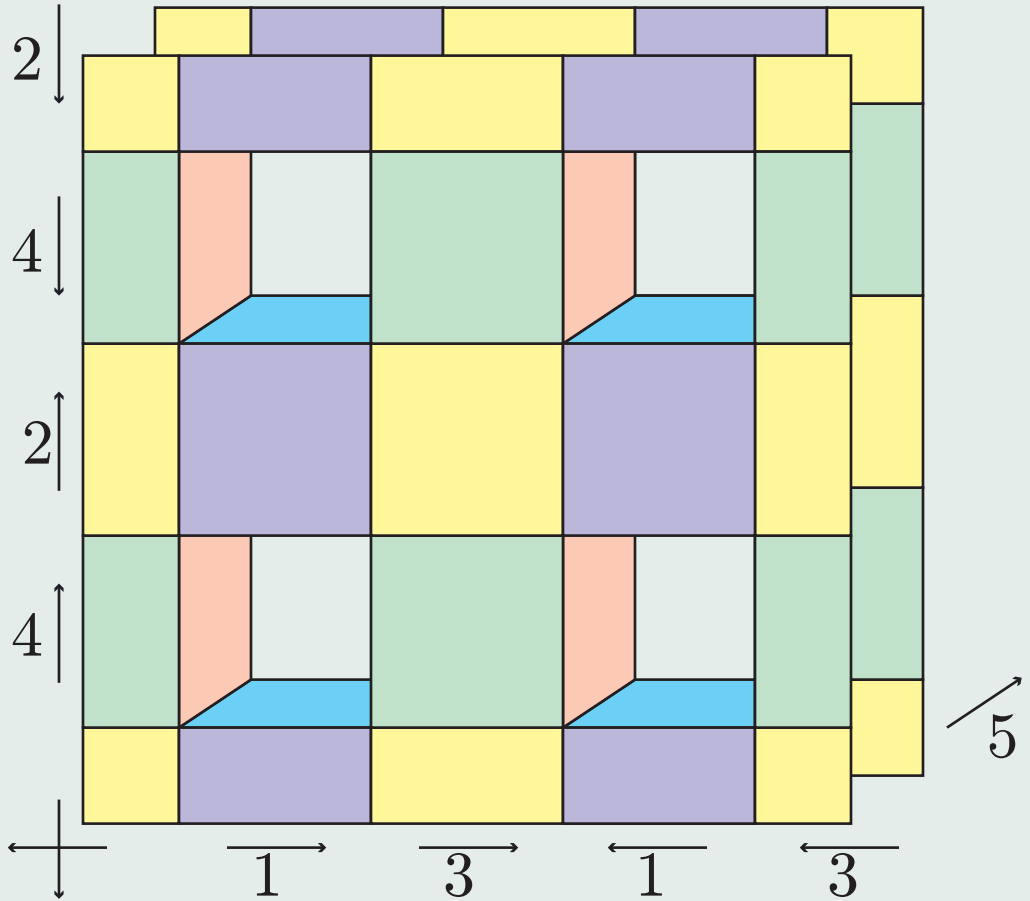
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Conclusion: The direct sum of two free groups of rank 2 contains a free abelian group of rank 2.



# $\Gamma$ 5-gon. 5D Cube



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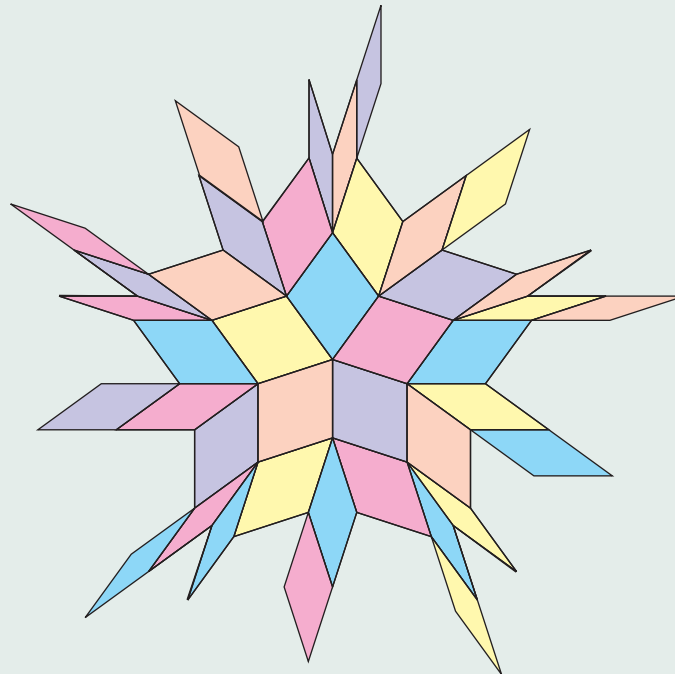
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**Theorem** (DSS 1990) [7] Let  $F_{\Gamma_n}$  be the graph group of the  $n$ -gon graph.  $F'_{\Gamma_n}$  contains a subgroup isomorphic to the fundamental group of the orientable surface of genus  $1 + (n - 4)2^{n-3}$ .

**Theorem** (Crisp Wiest 2004) [1] All but finitely many surface groups embed in graph groups.



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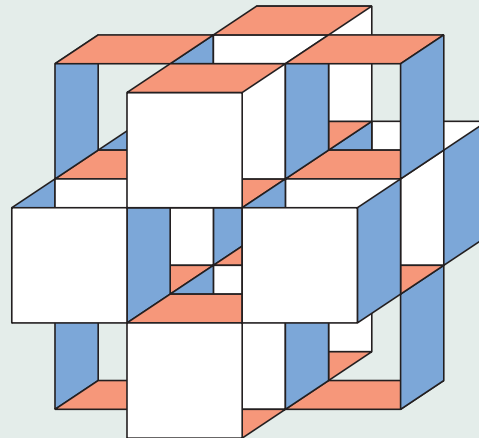
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A *Commutator Map* is a map on a surface such that: Every face is a quadrilateral The oriented edges are colored such that the boundary of each quadrilateral is a commutator in the color labels If two colors form a commutator, then any two edges of those colors which are incident at a vertex are incident at a face.

## Theorem

Every Eulerian graph embeds in a surface as a commutator map.



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A *Commutator Map* is a map on a surface such that: Every face is a quadrilateral The oriented edges are colored such that the boundary of each quadrilateral is a commutator in the color labels If two colors form a commutator, then any two edges of those colors which are incident at a vertex are incident at a face.

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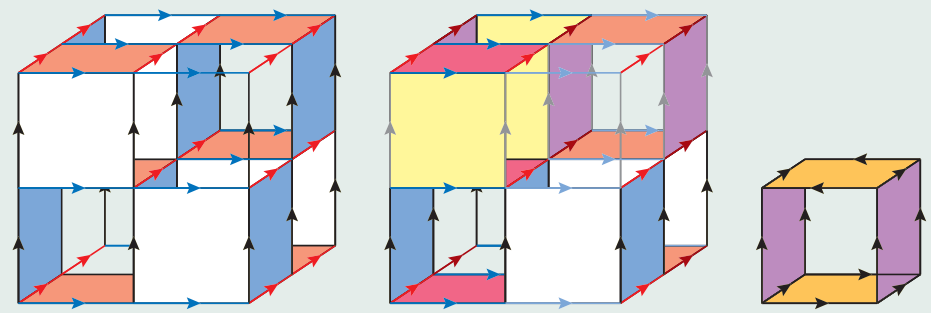
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## Theorem

Every Eulerian graph embeds in a surface as a commutator map.





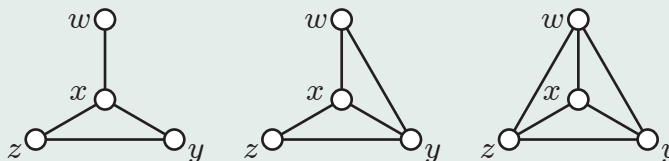
# 4. Graph Groups in 3D

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**Theorem 3** (Droms-1983) [2] A graph group  $G(\Gamma)$  is a 3-manifold group if and only if every connected component of  $\Gamma$  is either a tree or a triangle.

Necessity:

(Jaco and Shalen) [5] A three-manifold group is coherent.



(Shalen) [8] If  $\langle x \rangle \oplus X$  is a 3-manifold group, then  $X$  is a surface group.

(Hoare Karrass Solitar) [4] Every subgroup of infinite index in a surface group is free.

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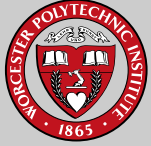
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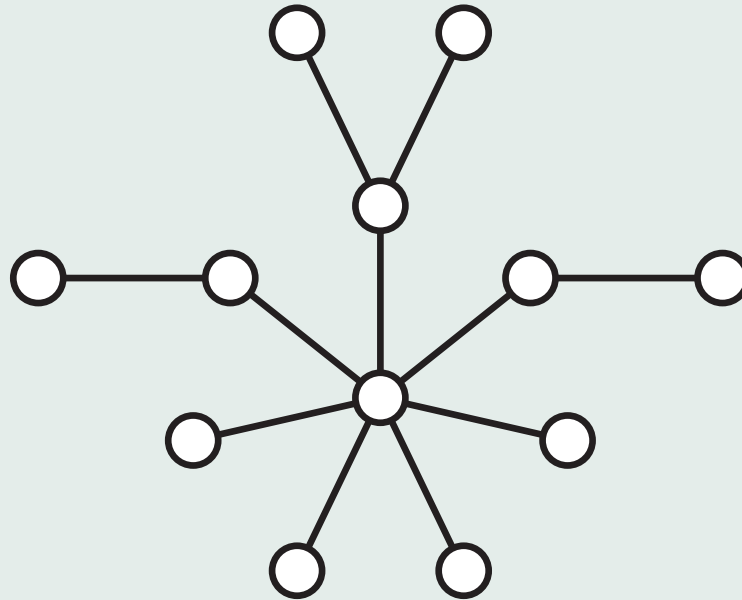
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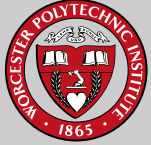
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For those components which are trees



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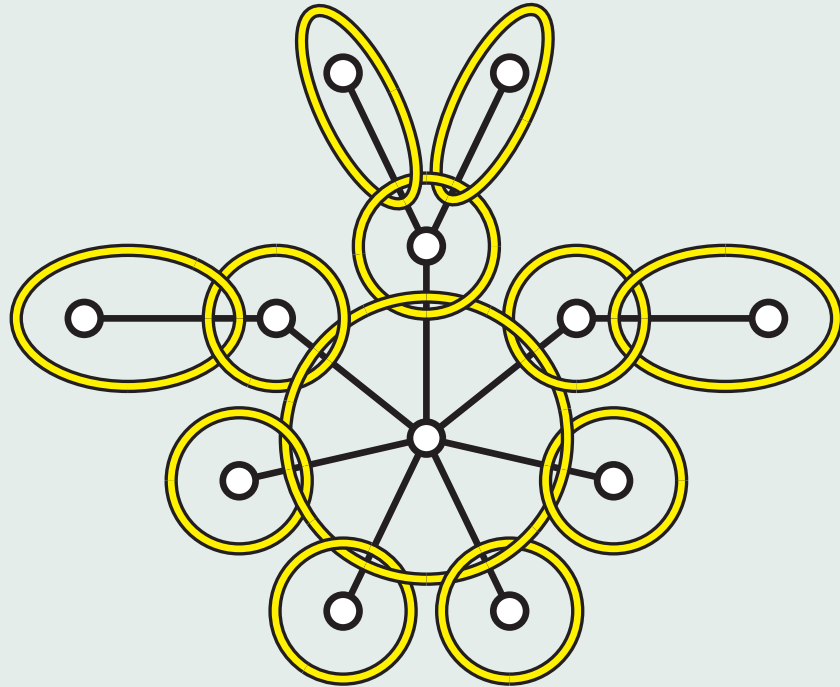
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For those components which are trees



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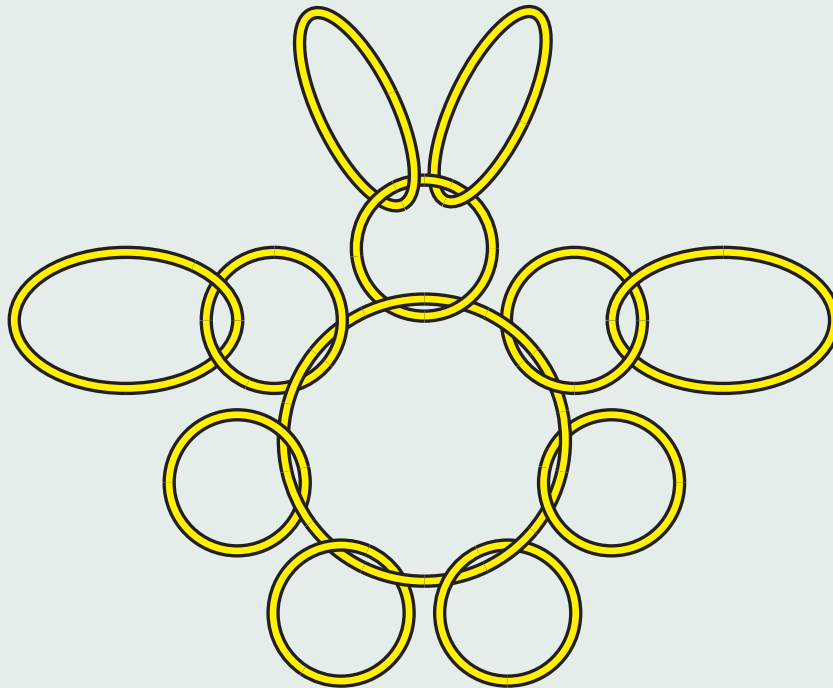
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For those components which are trees



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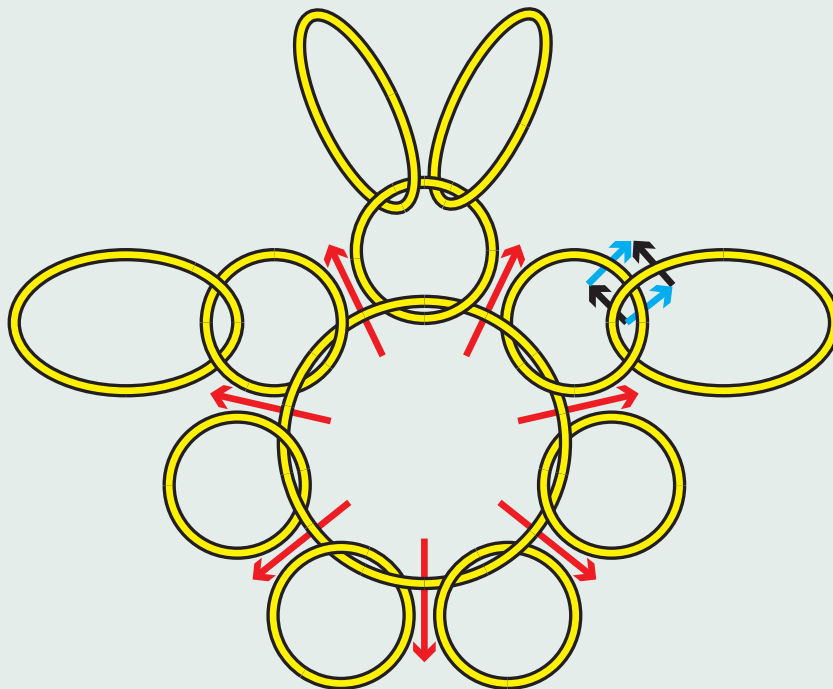
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For those components which are trees



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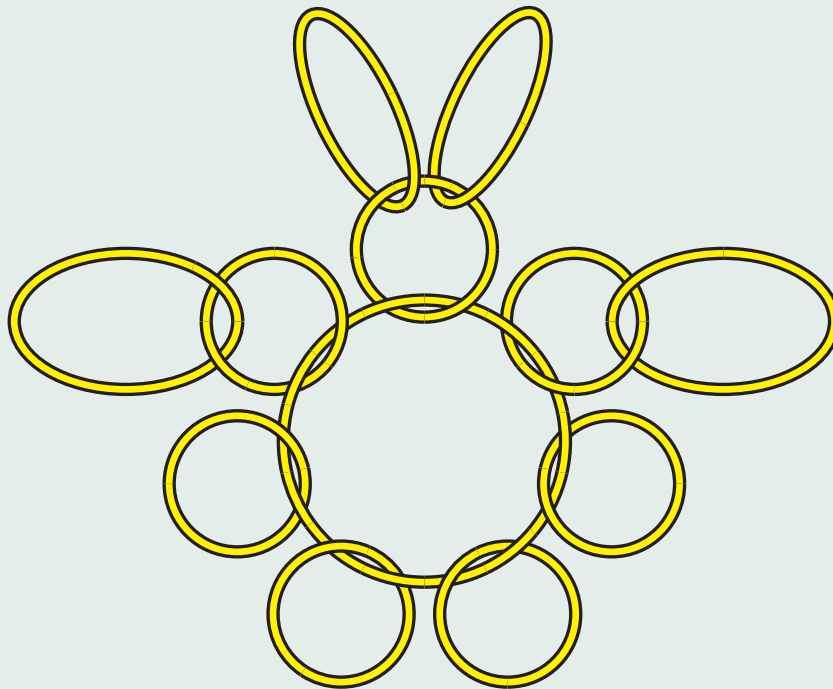
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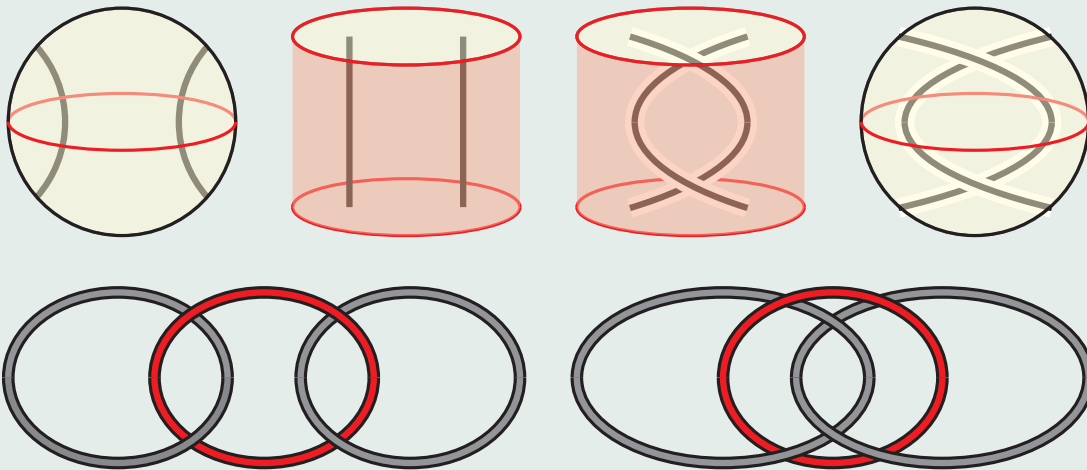


There are uncountably many 3-manifolds whose fundamental groups are graph groups.



## When is uncountable not enough?

Are there other links in  $S_3$  whose groups are graph groups?



Dehn twist on circle  $d$

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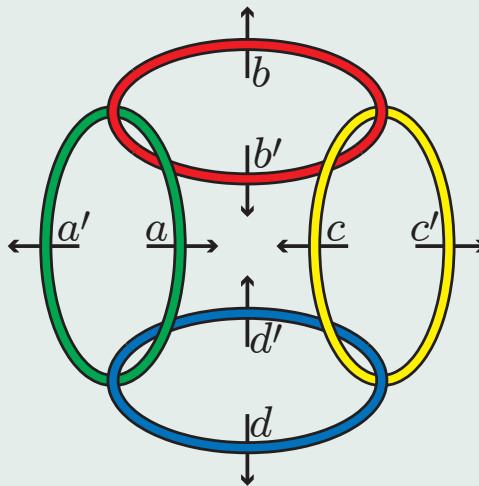
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$$\begin{aligned} ab &= ba' & ba &= ab' \\ bc &= cb' & cb &= bc' \\ cd &= dc' & dc &= cb' \\ da &= ad' & ad &= da' \end{aligned}$$

A graph group link group.



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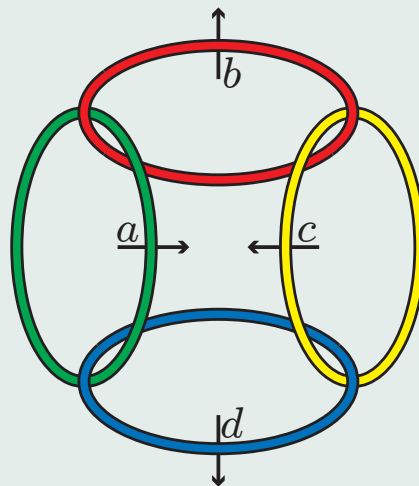
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$$\begin{aligned}b^{-1}ab &= d^{-1}ad \\c^{-1}bc &= a^{-1}ba \\d^{-1}cd &= b^{-1}cb \\a^{-1}da &= c^{-1}dc\end{aligned}$$

So both  $a$  and  $c$  commute with  $bd^{-1}$ . And both  $b$  and  $d$  commute with  $ca^{-1}$ .





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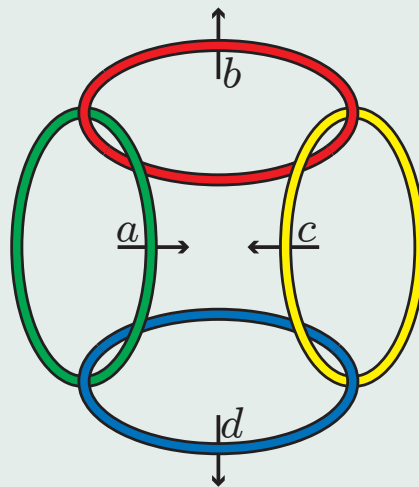
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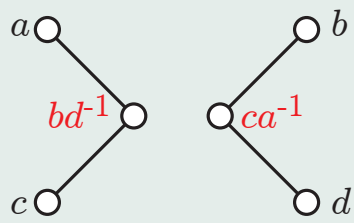
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$$\left\langle a, b, c, d, \mid \begin{array}{l} [a, bd^{-1}] = 1, [b, ca^{-1}] = 1, \\ [c, db^{-1}] = 1, [d, ac^{-1}] = 1 \\ [ac^{-1}, bd^{-1}] = 1 \end{array} \right\rangle$$





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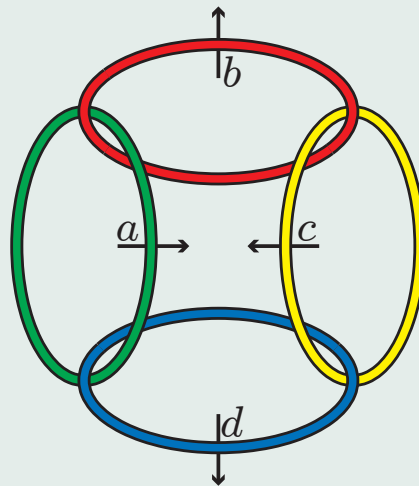
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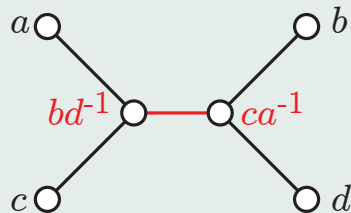
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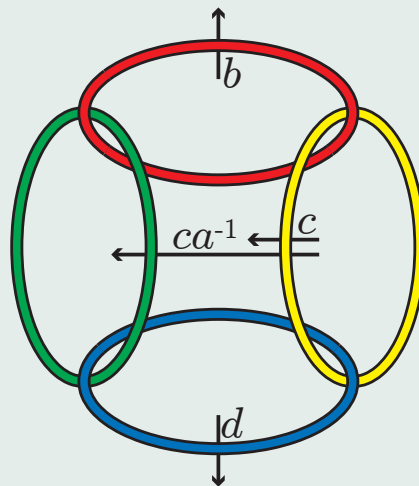
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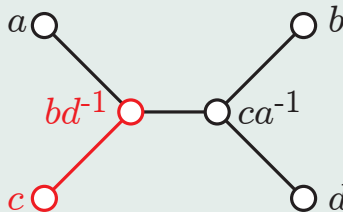
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$$\left\langle a, b, ca^{-1}, d, \begin{array}{l} [a, bd^{-1}] = 1, \quad [b, ca^{-1}] = 1, \\ [ca^{-1}, db^{-1}] = 1, \quad [d, ac^{-1}] = 1 \end{array} \right\rangle$$





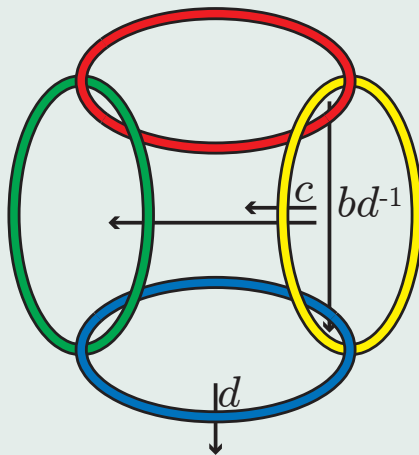
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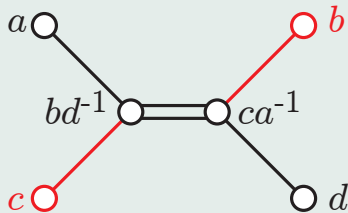
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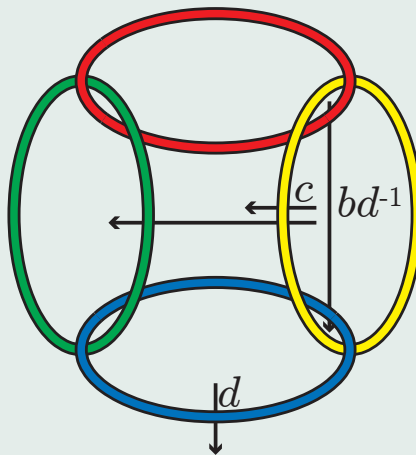
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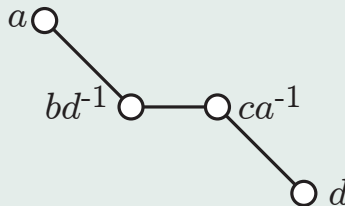
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$$\langle a, bd^{-1}, ca^{-1}, d, \mid [a, bd^{-1}] = 1, [ca^{-1}, db^{-1}] = 1, [d, ac^{-1}] = 1 \rangle$$





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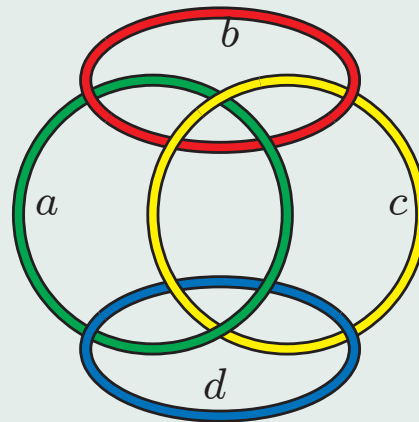
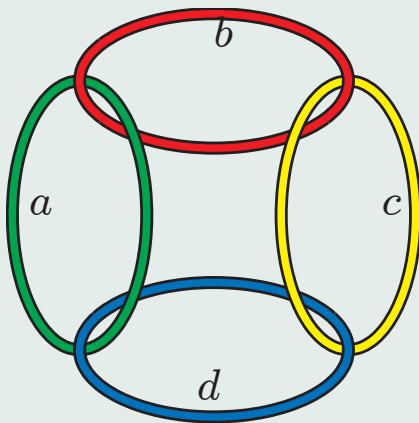
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Dehn twist on circle  $d$



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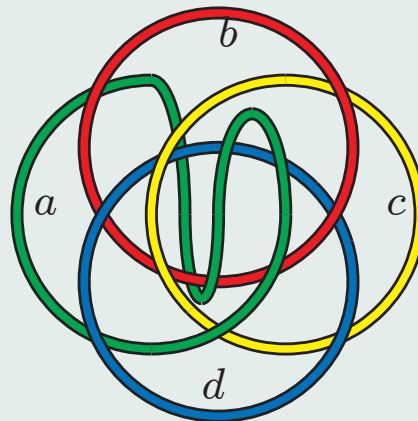
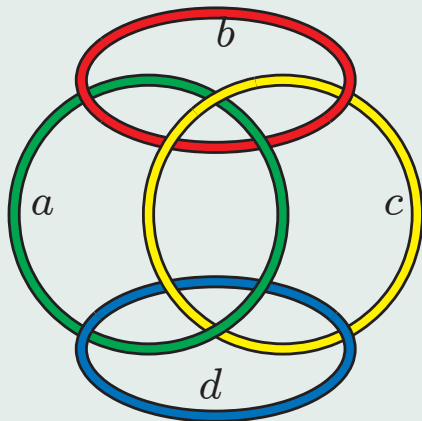
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Dehn twist on circle  $c$ .



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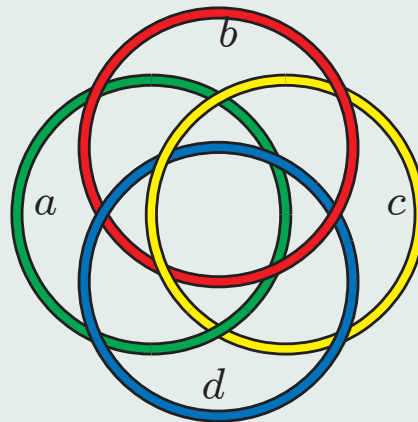
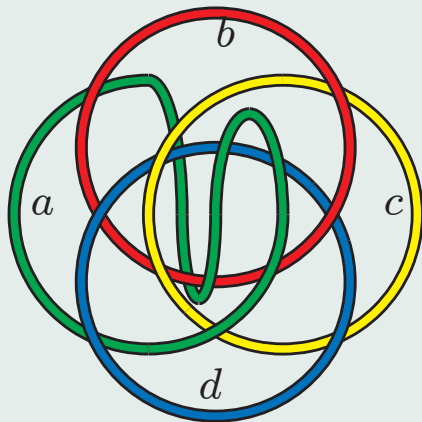
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Isotope circle  $a$ .





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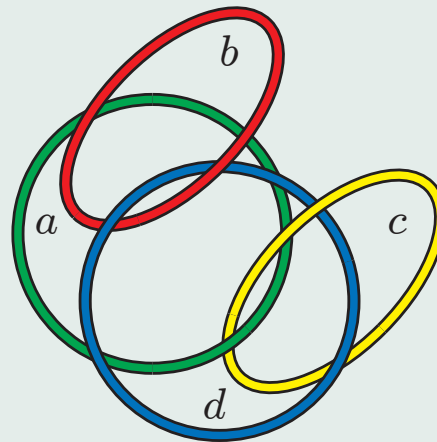
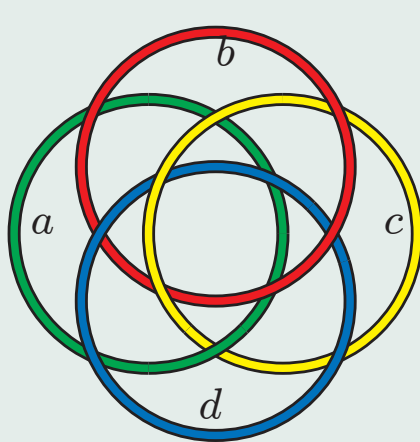
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Dehn twist on circle  $d$  in opposite direction.



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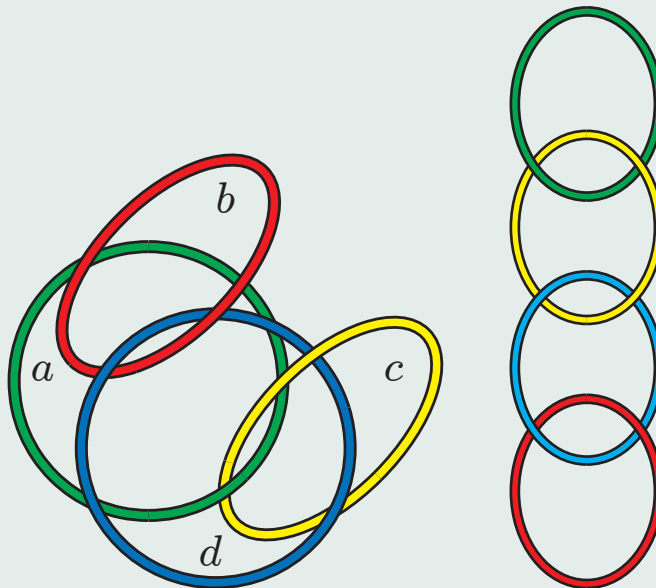
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Pull taut for the result.  $a$ — $c$ — $d$ — $b$ .



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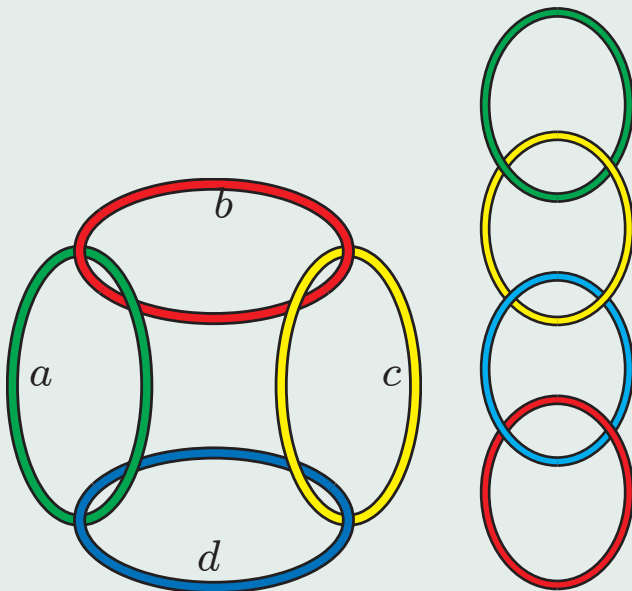
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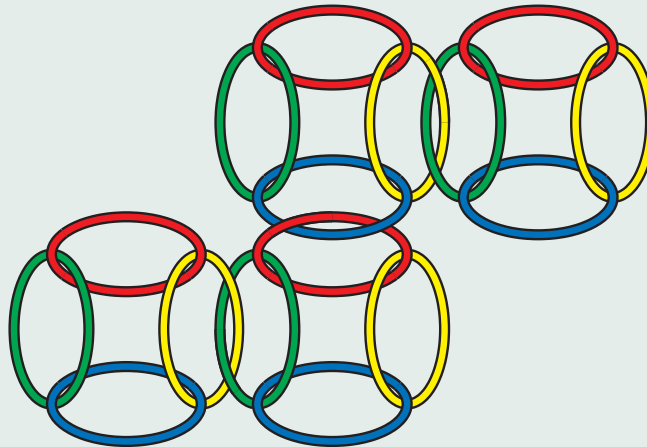
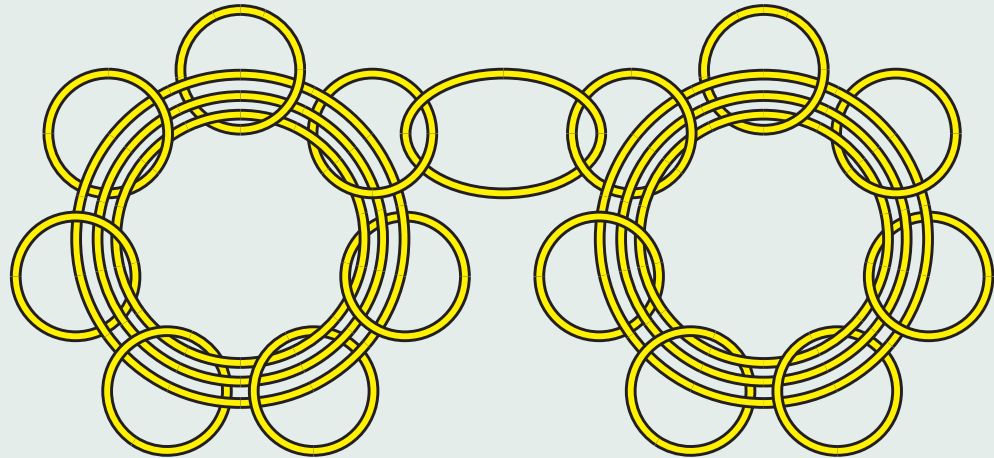
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So these links have homeomorphic complements



# Which links of unknotted circles yield graph groups



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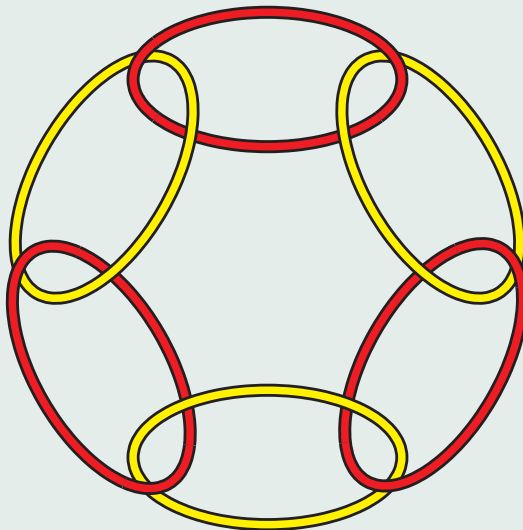
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## Fundamental group a graph group?



If so, what is the graph? It would have to have six vertices.

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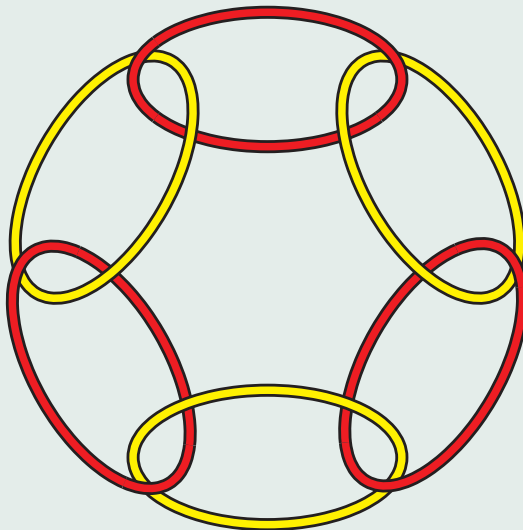
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## Fundamental group a graph group?



Theorem (Thurston 198?) 1982 [9] *The complement of the six link anklet in  $S_3$  has a hyperbolic structure.*

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# Hyperbolic 3-manifold groups

**Theorem 4** *A graph group  $G(\Gamma)$  which is a hyperbolic 3-manifold group has no component which is not complete.*

**Theorem 5**  *$PSL(2, \mathbb{C})$  has no discrete subgroup isomorphic to  $G(\circ \text{ --- } \circ \text{ --- } \circ)$ .*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mu \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \nu & 0 \\ 0 & \nu^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

**Theorem 6** *The group of the six link anklet is not a graph group.*

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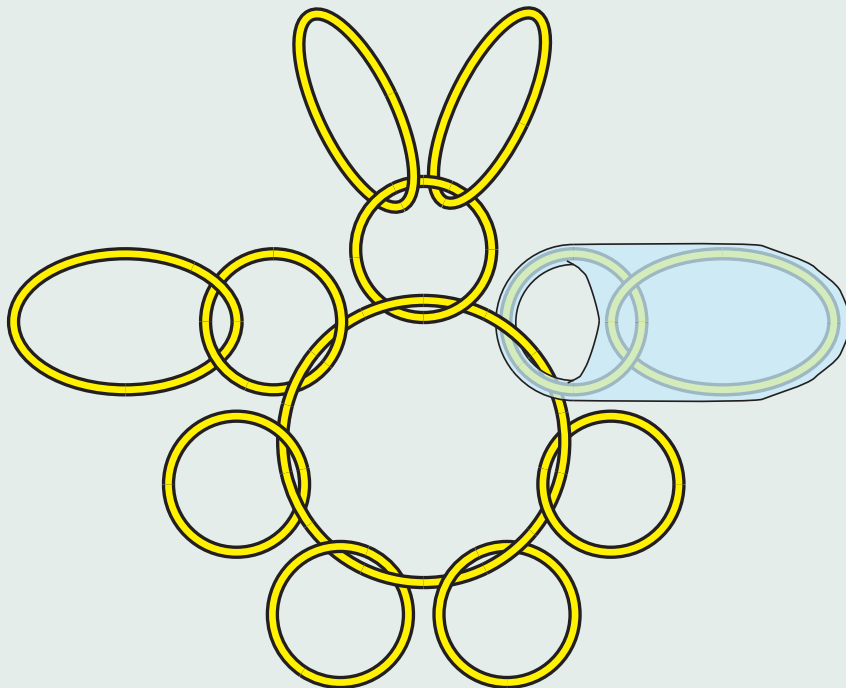
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# Geometric Structure of Graph Links

The an epsilon neighborhood of any link is *incompressible*.



The graph link manifolds which are *atoroidal* are

- $L(a)$  - solid torus with geometry  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- $L(a \text{---} b)$  - thickened torus with geometry  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- $L(a \text{---} b \text{---} c)$  -  $S^1 \times (\mathbb{R}^2 - \{p, q, r\})$  with geometry  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{H}$ .

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