TWISTED BLANCHFIELD PAIRINGS AND DECOMPOSITION OF 3-MANIFOLDS

STEFAN FRIEDL, CONSTANCE LEIDY, MATTHIAS NAGEL, AND MARK POWELL

ABSTRACT. We prove a decomposition formula for twisted Blanchfield pairings of 3-manifolds. As an application we show that the twisted Blanchfield pairing of a 3-manifold obtained from a 3-manifold Y with a representation $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \to R$, infected by a knot J along a curve η with $\phi(\eta) \neq 1$, splits orthogonally as the sum of the twisted Blanchfield pairing of Y and the ordinary Blanchfield pairing of the knot J, with the latter tensored up from $\mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$ to R.

1. INTRODUCTION

We start out with some definitions and conventions. In this paper a ring R is always equipped with (a possibly trivial) involution. For example we view any group ring $\mathbb{Z}[\pi]$ as a ring with involution in the canonical way. Furthermore, all ring homomorphisms will be involution preserving i.e. morphisms of rings-with-involution. Given a left R-module M we denote the right R-module defined using the involution on R by $\overline{M}$.

Now let R be an Ore domain with (possibly trivial) involution. Let Q be the Ore localisation of R, i.e. the (skew) field of fractions of R, which inherits an involution from R. We refer to [Pas77], [Ste75] for details on Ore domains and the Ore localisation. A *linking pairing* on a torsion left R-module M is a morphism $B_M\colon M \to M^\wedge := \overline{\mathrm{Hom}_R(M, Q/R)}$ of left R-modules. The map B_M is the adjoint of a sesquilinear pairing $B_M\colon M \times M \to Q/R$, and henceforth we identify the two notions without comment. A linking pairing B_M is said to be *nonsingular* if B_M is an isomorphism, and *hermitian* if $B_M = B_M^\wedge$. A linking pairing that satisfies both of these properties is called a *linking form*. A *morphism* of linking pairings $\psi\colon (M, B_M) \to (N, B_N)$ is an R-module homomorphism $\psi\colon M \to N$ for which

$$B_M = \psi^* B_N := \psi^\wedge \circ B_N \circ \psi.$$

An *isomorphism* of linking pairings is defined to be a morphism of linking pairings $\varphi\colon (M, B_M) \to (N, B_N)$ for which $\varphi\colon M \xrightarrow{\cong} N$ is an isomorphism.

Now let Y be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary. (Here and throughout the paper we assume that all 3-manifolds are compact, oriented

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and connected.) Let $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \to R$ be a morphism to an Ore domain such that $H_*(Y;Q) = 0$. Under this hypothesis the *twisted Blanchfield pairing* of (Y,ϕ),

$$\mathrm{Bl}_{Y,\phi}\colon H_1(Y;R) \times H_1(Y;R) \to Q/R,$$

is defined. We will recall the definition in detail in Section 2. If $Y = S^3 \setminus \nu J$ is the exterior of an oriented knot J (here νJ denotes an open tubular neighbourhood around J) and the morphism $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(S^3 \setminus \nu J)] \to \mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]$ is induced by the abelianisation map, then

$$H_1(S^3 \setminus \nu J;\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]) \times H_1(S^3 \setminus \nu J;\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]) \to \mathbb{Q}(t)/\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]$$

is precisely the classical Blanchfield pairing Bl_J on the Alexander module of the knot; see [Bla57]. The more general twisted Blanchfield pairings (sometimes referred to as higher order Blanchfield pairings) first appeared in the seminal work of Cochran-Orr-Teichner [COT03, Theorem 2.13]. The theory of twisted Blanchfield pairings was further developed by Leidy [Lei06] and played a major rôle in the work of Cochran-Harvey-Leidy [CHL08, CHL09, CHL11] and other authors [Fra13, Bur14, Cha14, Jan15].

In general it is difficult to give a useful description of twisted Blanchfield pairings over a non-commutative ring R. The next theorem gives a decomposition formula for Blanchfield pairings, and thus allows the computation of Blanchfield pairings to be broken up into hopefully easier pieces.

Theorem 1.1 (Orthogonal decomposition theorem)**.** *Let Y be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary and let $Y = A \cup_T B$ be a decomposition of Y along a torus T into two 3-manifolds A and B. Let R be an Ore domain with involution and let $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \to R$ be a morphism such that $H_*(T;Q) = 0$ and such that $H_*(Y;Q) = 0$. Then $H_*(A;Q) = 0$ and $H_*(B;Q) = 0$ and the inclusion maps $i_A\colon A \to Y$ and $i_B\colon B \to Y$ induce a morphism of linking pairings*

$$i_A + i_B\colon (H_1(A;R) \oplus H_1(B;R), \mathrm{Bl}_{A,\phi|_A} \oplus \mathrm{Bl}_{B,\phi|_B}) \to (H_1(Y;R), \mathrm{Bl}_{Y,\phi}).$$

This theorem can be used for many different purposes. For example it can be used to prove a formula relating the Blanchfield form of a connected sum of knots $K\#J$ to the Blanchfield forms of the knots K and J. Arguably the most important application of Theorem 1.3 is to infection of a 3-manifold by a knot, as in the aforementioned papers by Cochran-Harvey-Leidy, Burke, Cha, Franklin and Jang.

Definition 1.2. Let Y be a 3-manifold and let $\eta \subset Y$ be an embedded circle. Denote the exterior by $Y(\eta) := Y \setminus \nu\eta$. Furthermore, let $J \subset S^3$ be an oriented knot with exterior $E_J := S^3 \setminus \nu J$. An *infection* of Y by J is the 3-manifold

$$Y_J := Y(\eta) \cup E_J$$

where the meridian of η is glued to the zero-framed longitude of J and some longitude of η is glued to the meridian of J.

There is some indeterminacy in the choice of the longitude of η, and changing the isotopy class of η can change Y_J. However we will see that the twisted Blanchfield pairing only depends on the homotopy class of η. There exists a degree one map $E_J \to E_U = S^1 \times D^2$, which restricted to the boundary is a diffeomorphism that preserves the meridian and longitude. This map extended by the identity defines a degree one map $f\colon Y_J \to Y$.

In order to state the next result we need to introduce more notation. Let π be a group and let $\eta \in \pi$. Given an Ore domain R and a morphism $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi] \to R$, we say that ϕ is *η-regular* if the induced map $\mathbb{Z}[\langle\eta\rangle] \to R$ is a monomorphism. If $J \subset S^3$ is an oriented knot and $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}] = \mathbb{Z}[\langle t\rangle] \to R$ is a t-regular homomorphism, then we can consider the tensor product $R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]} \mathrm{Bl}_J$. More precisely, we have the pairing

$$\begin{array}{rcl} R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]} H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]) \times R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]} H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]) & \to & Q/R \\ ((r\otimes h),(r'\otimes h')) & \mapsto & r\phi(\mathrm{Bl}_J(h,h'))\overline{r}'. \end{array}$$

In the case of an infection, $E_J \subset Y_J$, and the restriction of $\phi \circ f_*\colon \mathbb{Z}[Y_J] \to R$ to $\mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(E_J)] \to R$ factors through $\mathbb{Z}[\langle\eta\rangle] = \mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]$. If ϕ is η-regular, we can identify

$$H_1(E_J;R) \cong R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]} H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]).$$

In Lemma 4.5 we also prove that under this identification $\mathrm{Bl}_{E_J} = R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]} \mathrm{Bl}_J$. The following theorem is the second main result of this paper.

Theorem 1.3 (Infection by a knot for twisted Blanchfield pairings)**.** *Let Y be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary, let $\eta \subset Y$ be a simple closed curve and let $J \subset S^3$ be an oriented knot. Furthermore, let $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \to R$ be an η-regular homomorphism to an Ore domain such that $H_*(Y;Q) = 0$. Then there is an isomorphism $\psi\colon H_1(Y;R) \oplus H_1(E_J;R) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_1(Y_J;R)$ (defined in Corollary 4.3), that induces an isomorphism*

$$\mathrm{Bl}_{Y,\phi} \oplus (R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]} \mathrm{Bl}_J) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J,\phi\circ f_*}$$

of linking pairings.

Remark 1.4. The statement of Theorem 1.3 is a generalisation of [Lei06, Theorem 4.6]. The proof of [Lei06, Theorem 4.6] is problematic, since in the second diagram on page 765, the square involving Poincaré duality does not commute in general.

The paper is organised as follows. In Section 2 we give the definition of twisted Blanchfield pairings. Section 3 gives the proof of the orthogonal decomposition Theorem 1.1, our main technical result. Then in Section 4, we apply Theorem 1.1 to prove Theorem 1.3.

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2. Twisted Blanchfield pairings

Let X be connected space and let $Y \subset X$ be a possibly empty subspace Y. Furthermore, let R be a ring and let M be a $(R, \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(X)])$-bimodule. We can define the chain complex

$$M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[\pi]} C_*(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{Y}; \mathbb{Z}),$$

where $\widetilde{X}$ is the universal cover of X, and the its chain complex

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\text{right-}\mathbb{Z}[\pi]}\left(\overline{C_*(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{Y}; \mathbb{Z})}, M\right).$$

Here $\widetilde{Y}$ is the pullback covering space of $\widetilde{X} \to X$ under the inclusion $Y \subset X$. Both chain complexes are naturally chain complexes of left R-modules. We denote the corresponding homology groups as $H_*(X, Y; M)$ and $H^*(X, Y; M)$, which are again left R-modules.

Let R be an Ore domain with involution and let $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(X)] \to R$ be a morphism. This allows us to view R, Q and Q/R as $\mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(X)]$-right modules. Using the fact that ϕ is a morphism of rings with involution, it is straightforward to verify that

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathrm{Hom}_{\text{right-}\mathbb{Z}[\pi]}\left(\overline{C_*(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{Y}; \mathbb{Z})}, Q/R\right) & \to & \overline{\mathrm{Hom}_{\text{left-}R}(R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[\pi]} C_*(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{Y}; \mathbb{Z}), Q/R)} \\ f & \mapsto & \left(r \otimes \sigma \mapsto \cdot\overline{f(\sigma)}\right) \end{array}$$

is a well-defined isomorphism of chain complexes of left R-modules. For the left R-action on the domain, we use the involution on Q/R to convert it to a right R-module. The isomorphism of chain complexes above induces a homomorphism

$$\kappa\colon H^i(X, Y; Q/R) \to \overline{\mathrm{Hom}_{\text{left-}R}(H_i(X, Y; R), Q/R)}$$

of left R-modules.

Now let N be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary. Throughout the remainder of this section we assume that $H_*(N; Q) = 0$. We consider the following sequence of homomorphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H_1(N; R) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{PD}} & H^2(N, \partial N; R) & \xrightarrow{\beta^{-1}} & H^1(N, \partial N; Q/R) \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathrm{Bl}_{N,\phi}} & & & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \kappa} \\ \overline{\mathrm{Hom}_R(H_1(N; R), Q/R)} & & \xleftarrow[i^*]{} & & \overline{\mathrm{Hom}_R(H_1(N, \partial N; R), Q/R)}. \end{array}$$

Here:

(1) $\mathrm{PD}\colon H_1(N; R) \to H^2(N, \partial N; R)$ denotes Poincaré-Lefschetz duality;
(2) $\beta\colon H^1(N, \partial N; Q/R) \to H^2(N, \partial N; R)$ denotes the Bockstein homomorphism, which is an isomorphism since our assumption that $H_*(N; Q) = 0$ implies by Poincaré duality that $H^*(N, \partial N; Q) = 0$;
(3) $\kappa\colon H^1(N, \partial N; Q/R) \to \mathrm{Hom}_R(H_1(N, \partial N; R), Q/R)$ denotes the Kronecker evaluation map defined above;

(4) $i\colon H_1(N;R) \to H_1(N,\partial N;R)$ denotes the map from the long exact sequence of the pair.

We refer to the pairing induced by the composition of these four maps,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Bl}_{N,\phi}\colon H_1(N;R) \times H_1(N;R) &\to Q/R \\ (a,b) &\mapsto \mathrm{Bl}_{N,\phi}(b)(a), \end{aligned}$$

as the Blanchfield pairing of (N,ϕ). By definition it is sesquilinear, meaning that it is linear in the first entry and conjugate-linear in the second entry. In favourable situations the Blanchfield pairing can also be shown to be hermitian and nonsingular, but we do not investigate these properties in this article.

3. Proof of the orthogonal decomposition theorem

If Y is a 3-manifold, $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \to R$ is a morphism, and $X \subset Y$ is a connected submanifold, then let us also denote the restriction of ϕ to $\mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(X)]$ by ϕ. For the convenience of the reader we recall the statement of Theorem 1.1 from the introduction.

Theorem 3.1. *Let Y be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary and let $Y = A \cup_T B$ be a decomposition of Y along a torus T into two 3-manifolds A and B. Let R be an Ore domain with involution and let $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \to R$ be a morphism such that $H_*(T;Q) = 0 = H_*(Y;Q)$. Then $H_*(A;Q) = 0$ and $H_*(B;Q) = 0$ and the inclusion maps $i_A\colon A \to Y$ and $i_B\colon B \to Y$ induce a morphism of linking pairings*

$$i_A + i_B\colon (H_1(A;R) \oplus H_1(B;R), \mathrm{Bl}_{A,\phi} \oplus \mathrm{Bl}_{B,\phi}) \to (H_1(Y;R), \mathrm{Bl}_{Y,\phi}).$$

Proof. In an attempt to keep the notation at a reasonable level we make the extra assumption that Y is closed. The proof we provide also goes through without problems in the case that Y has boundary.

The Mayer-Vietoris sequence for $Y = A \cup_T B$ with Q-coefficients and our hypothesis that $H_*(T;Q) = 0$ implies that $H_*(A;Q) = 0$ and $H_*(B;Q) = 0$. In particular the Blanchfield pairings on A and B are defined. Recall that, given an R-module P, we denote $\overline{\mathrm{Hom}_R(P, Q/R)}$ by $P^\wedge$. Consider the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H_1(A;R) & \longrightarrow & H_1(Y;R) & \longleftarrow & H_1(B;R) \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathrm{Bl}_A} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathrm{Bl}_Y} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathrm{Bl}_B} \\ H_1(A;R)^\wedge & \longleftarrow & H_1(Y;R)^\wedge & \longrightarrow & H_1(B;R)^\wedge \end{array}$$

where the horizontal maps are induced by inclusion. Here and throughout the proof we omit the ϕ from the notation for the Blanchfield pairing. We make the following observations.

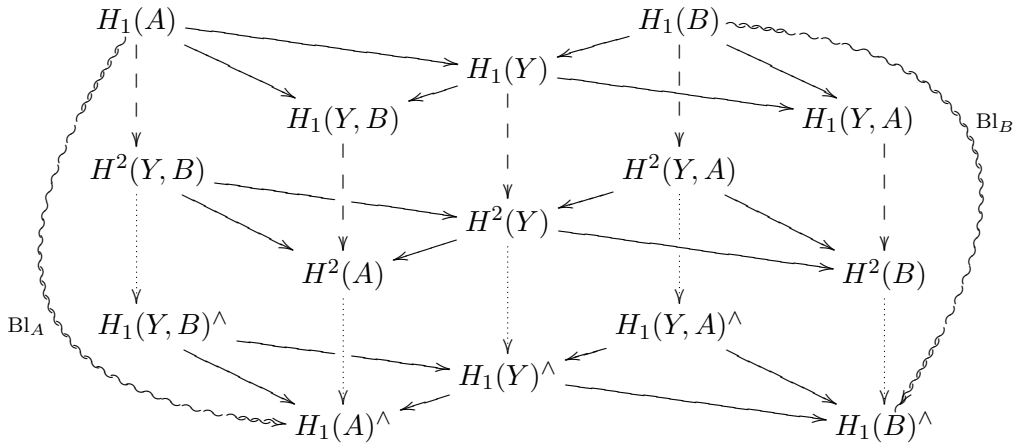
(I) The statement that $(H_1(A;R), \mathrm{Bl}_A) \to (H_1(Y;R), \mathrm{Bl}_Y)$ is a morphism of linking pairings is equivalent to the statement that the left square commutes.

(II) The statement that $(H_1(B;R), \mathrm{Bl}_B) \to (H_1(Y;R), \mathrm{Bl}_Y)$ is a morphism of linking pairings is equivalent to the statement that the right square commutes.

(III) The statement that the images of $H_1(A;R)$ and $H_1(B;R)$ are orthogonal is equivalent to the statement that the map $H_1(A;R) \to H_1(B;R)^\wedge$, from the top left to the bottom right, and also the map $H_1(B;R) \to H_1(A;R)^\wedge$, from the top right to the bottom left, are both the zero map.

Now consider the following diagram.

(3.2)



For space reasons we omit the R-coefficients. Before we discuss the diagram in more detail, first we give a quick guide to the diagram. The diagram (3.2) consists of four parts.

(a) The large parallelogram spanned by $H_1(A;R)$, $H_1(Y,A;R)$, $H_1(B;R)^\wedge$ and $H_1(Y,B;R)^\wedge$, comprising four smaller parallelograms. The large parallelogram contains three rows, each of which is a portion of the long exact sequence corresponding either to the pair (Y,A) or the pair (Y,B).

(b) The parallelogram spanned by $H_1(B;R)$, $H_1(Y,B;R)$, $H_1(A;R)^\wedge$ and $H_1(Y,A;R)^\wedge$ is defined in the same way as the previous parallelogram from (a), except that we swapped the rôles of A and B.

(c) There are diagonal maps towards the left and the right of the diagram that connect the two large parallelograms described in (a) and (b).

(d) The undulating arrows are given by the maps Bl_A and Bl_B defining the Blanchfield pairings on A and B.

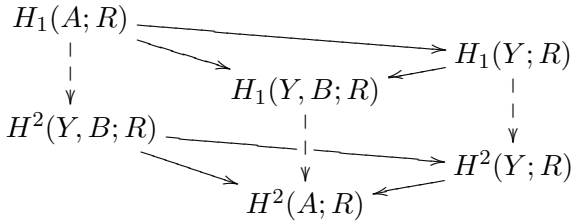
The above discussion shows, in particular, that the composition of two collinear solid maps is zero. In the hope of facilitating comprehension, we use four different ways of depicting maps:

(1) The solid maps are all inclusion induced maps. For example, the map $H_1(B;R) \to H_1(Y,A;R)$ on the top right is induced by the inclusion of the pair $(B,\emptyset)$ to (Y,A).

(2) The dashed arrows going down are the inverses of the maps given by capping with the fundamental class $[Y]$.
(3) The dotted arrows going down are the maps given by $\kappa \circ \beta^{-1}$.
(4) As mentioned above, the undulating arrows are given by the maps Bl_A and Bl_B defining the Blanchfield pairings on $H_1(A;R)$ and $H_1(B;R)$.

Now we argue that the above diagram is commutative. More precisely, we show that each parallelogram and each triangle commutes.

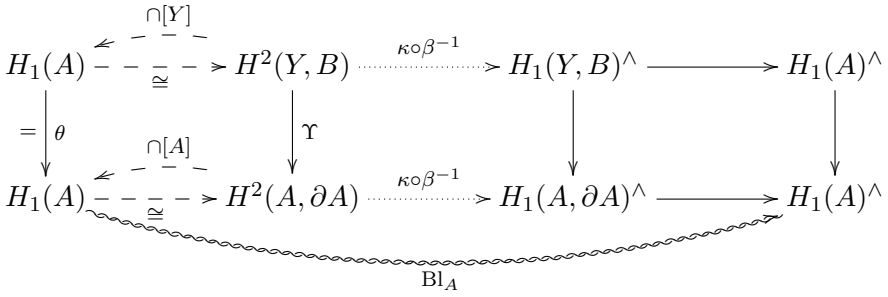
(i) All the triangles involve only inclusion induced maps, hence they commute.
(ii) The Bockstein homomorphism and the Kronecker evaluation map are functorial. In particular they commute with inclusion induced maps. It follows that all parallelograms involving the dotted arrows commute.
(iii) Consider the parallelogram spanned by $H_1(A;R)$, $H_1(Y,A;R)$, $H^2(B;R)$ and $H^2(Y,B;R)$, comprising two smaller parallelograms. This piece of the diagram commutes by [Bre93, Corollary VI.8.6].
(iv) Similarly to (iii), the parallelogram spanned by $H_1(B;R)$, $H_1(Y,B;R)$, $H^2(A;R)$ and $H^2(Y,A;R)$ also commutes.
(v) Next we consider the following piece of the above diagram



We have already shown that the top and bottom triangle commute, that the parallelogram in the back commutes and that the parallelogram on the right commutes. It is then straightforward to verify that the parallelogram on the left also commutes.
(vi) The same argument as in (v) shows that the parallelogram given by $H_1(B;R)$, $H_1(Y,A;R)$, $H^2(Y,A;R)$ and $H^2(B;R)$ commutes.
(vii) It remains to show that the pieces of the diagram involving the undulating arrows commute. By symmetry it suffices to show that the piece involving Bl_A commutes. Going back to the definition of Bl_A, we have

to show that the following diagram commutes.

(3.3)



Here Υ denotes the inclusion induced map. In the diagram, we once more suppress the R-coefficients from the notation. Furthermore we use the same conventions for the arrows as above. Therefore we see, with the same arguments as above, that the central square and the square on the right commute.

To see that the square on the left commutes, we return to the definition of the cap product that defines the Poincaré duality isomorphisms. Let $[A]$ and $[B]$ be fundamental classes in $H_3(A,\partial A;\mathbb{Z})$ and $H_3(B,\partial B;\mathbb{Z})$ respectively. Then $[Y] := i_A([A]) + i_B([B])$ is a fundamental class for Y. Denote Eilenberg-Zilber diagonal chain approximation maps, for example as arising from the Alexander-Whitney diagonal approximation map [Bre93, Chapter VI], by Δ. Then

$$\Delta([Y]) = \Delta([A]) + \Delta([B]) \in \overline{C_*(Y;R)} \otimes_R C_*(Y;R).$$

Let $[f] \in H^2(Y,B)$ and denote the dual of the excision isomorphism by $e^*\colon H^2(Y,B) \to H^2(A,\partial A)$. The cochain $f\colon C_2(Y,B;R) \to R$ is a function which vanishes on chains of B. This explains the penultimate equality of the following (co-)chain level computation. We have

$$\begin{aligned} f \cap [Y] &= (f \otimes \mathrm{Id})\Delta([Y]) \\ &= (f \otimes \mathrm{Id})\Delta([A] + [B]) \\ &= (f \otimes \mathrm{Id})(\Delta([A]) + \Delta([B])) \\ &= (f \otimes \mathrm{Id})(\Delta([A])) + (f \otimes \mathrm{Id})(\Delta([B])) \\ &= (f \otimes \mathrm{Id})(\Delta([A])) + 0 \\ &= e^*(f) \cap [A]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the left square of (3.3) commutes with the arrows pointing to the left. Denote capping with $[Y]$, $[A]$ by ρ_Y, ρ_A respectively. Then we have shown that $\theta \circ \rho_Y = \rho_A \circ \Upsilon$. However the horizontal dashed maps are isomorphisms, so it follows that the left square commutes with both directions of the arrows. For:

$$\rho_A^{-1} \circ \theta = \rho_A^{-1} \circ \theta \circ \rho_Y \circ \rho_Y^{-1} = \rho_A^{-1} \circ \rho_A \circ \Upsilon \circ \rho_Y^{-1} = \Upsilon \circ \rho_Y^{-1},$$

as desired.

This concludes the proof that the big diagram (3.2) commutes. But it is now straightforward to deduce from the big diagram that the original statements contained in (I), (II) and (III) hold. □

4. The Blanchfield pairing of an infection

For the convenience of the reader we recall the statement of Theorem 1.3 from the introduction with a little more detail.

Theorem 4.1. *Let Y be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary, let $\eta \subset Y$ be a simple closed curve and let $J \subset S^3$ be an oriented knot. Furthermore, let $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \to R$ be an η-regular morphism to an Ore domain with involution such that $H_*(Y;Q) = 0$. Then the map ψ defined in Corollary 4.3 is an isomorphism $H_1(Y;R) \oplus H_1(E_J;R) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_1(Y_J;R)$. There is an identification $R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]} \mathrm{Bl}_J \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathrm{Bl}_{E_J}$. Using this, ψ induces an isomorphism of linking pairings*

$$\begin{aligned}\psi\colon &\big(H_1(Y;R) \oplus (R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]} H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}])), \mathrm{Bl}_{Y,\phi} \oplus (R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]} \mathrm{Bl}_J)\big)\\ &\xrightarrow{\cong} \big(H_1(Y_J;R), \mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J,\phi\circ f_*}\big).\end{aligned}$$

4.1. **The homology of the infected 3-manifold.** Let Y be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary, let $\eta \subset Y$ be a simple closed curve and let $J \subset S^3$ be an oriented knot. Furthermore, let $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \to R$ be an η-regular morphism to an Ore domain with involution.

The restriction to $\pi_1(E_J) \to R$ factors through the abelianisation map $\pi_1(E_J) \to H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{Z}$, which implies $H_1(E_J;R) \cong R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}]} H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}])$.

Lemma 4.2. *We write $T = \partial\overline{\nu\eta} = \partial E_U = \partial E_J$. The inclusion maps $Y(\eta) \to Y_J$, $E_J \to Y_J$ and $Y(\eta) \to Y$ and the degree one map $f\colon Y_J \to Y$ induce a commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_1(Y(\eta);R)/H_1(T;R) \oplus H_1(E_J;R) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & H_1(Y_J;R) \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle (\mathrm{Id}\,\oplus 0)} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle f_*} \\ H_1(Y(\eta);R)/H_1(T;R) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & H_1(Y;R), \end{array}$$

for which the horizontal maps are isomorphisms.

Proof. Below we consider the Mayer-Vietoris sequences for

$$Y = Y(\eta) \cup_T \overline{\nu\eta} = Y(\eta) \cup_T E_U \text{ and } Y_J = Y(\eta) \cup_T E_J.$$

Note that $H_1(\nu\eta;R) = H_1(E_U;R) = 0$ since $\phi(\eta) \neq 1$. We also observe that the map $H_1(T;R) = H_1(\partial E_J;R) \to H_1(E_J;R)$ is the zero map, since this map is given by tensoring up $H_1(\partial E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]) \to H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}])$, but the latter map is well-known to be the zero map. The map $H_0(\partial Y(\eta);R) \to H_0(E_L;R)$ is an isomorphism for $L = J, U$. Note that $Y_U = Y$.

The results above show that the Mayer-Vietoris sequences give rise to the following commutative diagram with exact rows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} H_1(T;R) & \xrightarrow{(\mathrm{inc},0)} & H_1(Y(\eta);R)\oplus H_1(E_J;R) & \longrightarrow & H_1(Y_J;R) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathrm{Id}} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle (\mathrm{Id}\oplus f_*)} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle f_*} & & \\ H_1(T;R) & \xrightarrow{(\mathrm{inc},0)} & H_1(Y(\eta))\oplus (H_1(E_U;R)=0) & \longrightarrow & H_1(Y;R) & \longrightarrow & 0. \end{array}$$

The lemma follows easily from this diagram and the above observations. □

Theorem 4.1 states that there an isomorphism of R-modules $\psi\colon H_1(Y;R)\oplus H_1(E_J;R) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_1(Y_J;R)$. The dashed map in the corollary below gives such an isomorphism. The corollary is immediate from Lemma 4.2. We will prove in Section 4.2 that ψ induces a morphism of linking pairings.

Corollary 4.3. *Let $i_{Y_J}\colon Y(\eta)\to Y_J$, $i_Y\colon Y(\eta)\to Y$ and $i_J\colon E_J\to Y_J$ the inclusion maps. There is a unique morphism ψ, depicted by a dashed arrow, making the following diagram commutative.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & H_1(Y(\eta);R)\oplus H_1(E_J;R) & \\ {\scriptstyle i_Y\oplus\mathrm{Id}}\swarrow & & \searrow{\scriptstyle i_{Y_J}+i_J} \\ H_1(Y;R)\oplus H_1(E_J;R) & \overset{\psi}{\dashrightarrow} & H_1(Y_J;R). \end{array}$$

Moreover the map ψ is an isomorphism.

4.2. **Morphism of Blanchfield pairings.** To prove Theorem 4.1, we have to show that the isomorphism ψ is a morphism of linking pairings.

Proposition 4.4. *The isomorphism $\psi\colon H_1(Y;R)\oplus H_1(E_J;R) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_1(Y_J;R)$ is an isomorphism of linking pairings.*

Proof. We begin with a claim.

Claim. *The following two pairings on $H_1(Y(\eta);R)\oplus H_1(E_J;R)$ agree:*

$$(i_Y\oplus\mathrm{Id})^*(\mathrm{Bl}_Y\oplus\mathrm{Bl}_{E_J}) = (i_{Y_J}+i_J)^*\,\mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J}\,.$$

By the glueing formula of Theorem 3.1 we deduce that

$$(i_{Y_J}+i_J)^*\,\mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J} = \mathrm{Bl}_{Y(\eta)}\oplus\mathrm{Bl}_{E_J}$$

on $H_1(Y(\eta);R)\oplus H_1(E_J;R)$. Express Y as an infection by the unknot: $Y = Y_U = Y(\eta)\cup E_U$. Apply Theorem 3.1 once again, to deduce that $i_Y^*\,\mathrm{Bl}_Y = \mathrm{Bl}_{Y(\eta)}$, since $H_1(E_U;R)=0$. Thus we obtain that

$$(i_Y\oplus\mathrm{Id})^*(\mathrm{Bl}_Y\oplus\mathrm{Bl}_{E_J}) = \mathrm{Bl}_{Y(\eta)}\oplus\mathrm{Bl}_{E_J}\,.$$

This completes the proof of the claim. Next we show that

$$(i_Y\oplus\mathrm{Id})^*(\psi^*(\mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J})) = (i_Y\oplus\mathrm{Id})^*(\mathrm{Bl}_Y\oplus\mathrm{Bl}_{E_J})$$

on $H_1(Y(\eta);R) \oplus H_1(E_J;R)$. To see this we compute

$$\begin{aligned}(i_Y \oplus \mathrm{Id})^*(\psi^*(\mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J})) &= (\psi \circ (i_Y \oplus \mathrm{Id}))^*(\mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J}) \\ &= (i_{Y_J} + i_J)^*(\mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J}) \\ &= (i_Y \oplus \mathrm{Id})^*(\mathrm{Bl}_Y \oplus \mathrm{Bl}_{E_J})\end{aligned}$$

where the last equality is from the claim above.

Let $g := i_Y \oplus \mathrm{Id}$. Now we have two maps $\alpha := \psi^*(\mathrm{Bl}_{Y_J})$ and $\gamma := \mathrm{Bl}_Y \oplus \mathrm{Bl}_{E_J}$ on $H_1(Y;R) \oplus H_1(E_J;R)$ such that

$$g^\wedge \circ \alpha \circ g = g^\wedge \circ \gamma \circ g.$$

Note that $g = i_Y \oplus \mathrm{Id}$ is surjective, which implies that $g^\wedge$ is injective. It follows that $\alpha = \gamma$, which completes the proof of Proposition 4.4. □

The proof of Theorem 4.1 is completed by our final lemma.

Lemma 4.5. *Let $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}] \to R$ be a monomorphism of Ore domains with involution and let J be an oriented knot. We have an isomorphism of linking pairings*

$$\theta\colon (R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]} H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]), R \otimes \mathrm{Bl}_J) \xrightarrow{\cong} (H_1(E_J;R), \mathrm{Bl}_{E_J})$$

where θ is defined by $r \otimes [p \otimes \sigma] \to [r\phi(p) \otimes \sigma]$ for $\sigma \in C_1(\widetilde{E_J})$, $p \in \mathbb{Z}[t,t^{-1}]$ and $r \in R$.

This lemma was stated as Theorem 4.7 in [Lei06], but at that time no proof was provided, as the result was not used in the rest of that paper. However, [Lei06, Theorem 4.7] has since been cited by many subsequent papers, so we provide an argument here.

Proof. Consider the following diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_1(E_J;R) & \xleftarrow{\ \theta\ } & R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]} H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]) \\ & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathrm{Id}\otimes \mathrm{Bl}_J} \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathrm{Bl}_{E_J}} & & R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]} \overline{\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]}(H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]), \mathbb{Q}(t)/\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}])} \\ & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \xi} \\ \overline{\mathrm{Hom}_R(H_1(E_J;R), Q/R)} & \xrightarrow{\ \theta^\wedge\ } & \overline{\mathrm{Hom}_R(R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]} H_1(E_J;\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}]), Q/R)} \end{array}$$

The map θ an isomorphism of the underlying modules of the Blanchfield pairings. The left vertical arrow is the Blanchfield pairing Bl_{E_J} of E_J over R. The composition of right vertical arrows expresses the Blanchfield pairing $R \otimes \mathrm{Bl}_J$ defined in the introduction. Recall that $\phi\colon \mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}] \to R$ induces morphisms $\phi\colon \mathbb{Q}(t) \to Q$ and $\phi\colon \mathbb{Q}(t)/\mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm1}] \to Q/R$. The map ξ is defined as follows.

$$\xi\colon r \otimes f \mapsto \Big(s \otimes d \mapsto r\phi(f(d))\overline{s}\Big).$$

The lemma follows from commutativity of the diagram. The key point is that every element in $H_1(E_J;R)$ can be written as (a sum of elements of the

form) $[r \otimes d]$, where $r \in R$ and $d \in C_1(E_J; \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}])$, and that all the maps in the definition of the Blanchfield pairing are defined at the chain level. The chain level maps are the same on the $C_*(E_J; \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}])$ (or $C^*(E_J; \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}])$ part, for the left and right vertical maps, and can always be taken to be the identity on the R part. For example, focussing on Poincaré duality, $PD(r \otimes d)$ is

$$r \otimes PD(d) \in R \otimes C^2(E_J; \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]) \cong C^2(E_J; R).$$

Commutativity follows from a continuation of such definition chasing through the Bockstein and Kronecker maps. □

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