

The Jones Polynomial

(a map from the planar algebra of tangles to the $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$ -Temperley-Lieb planar algebra.)

$$\textcircled{O} \longmapsto [2] = q + q^{-1}$$

$$\cancel{\textcircled{X}} \longmapsto$$

$$\cancel{\textcircled{X}} \longmapsto -q^{-2} \left(\begin{matrix} q \\ -q^2 \end{matrix} \right)$$



Invariance under the first two Reidemeister moves —

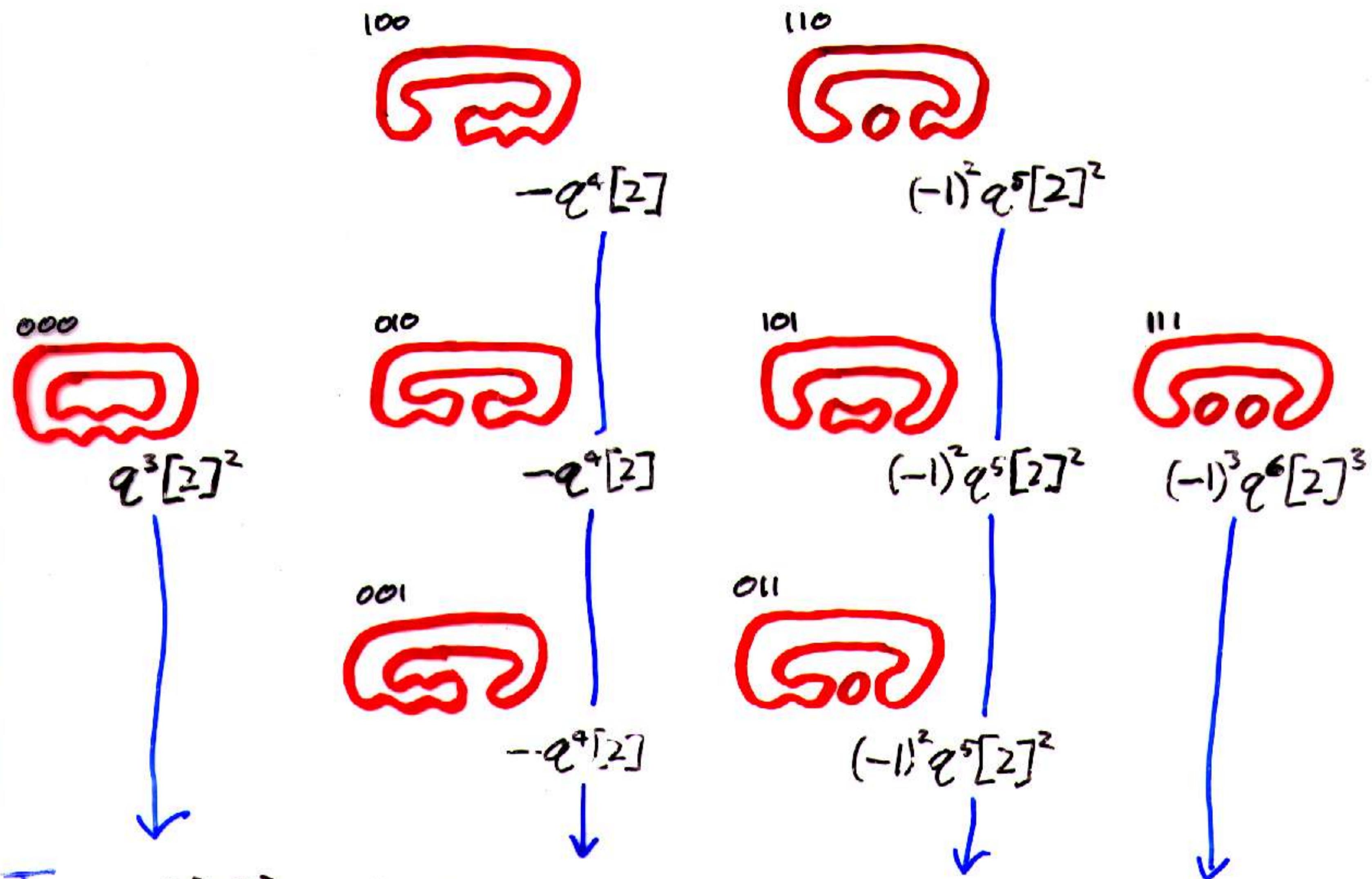
$$\cancel{\textcircled{P}} \longmapsto q \left(\begin{matrix} 0 \\ -q^2 \end{matrix} \right) = (q[2] - q^2) \mid = \mid$$

$$\cancel{\textcircled{X}} \longmapsto \mid \left(\begin{matrix} -(q+q^{-1}) \\ + \end{matrix} \right) \mid = \mid \mid$$

And a miracle occurs —

as long as we choose the coefficients in so we have invariance under R1 and R2, invariance under R3 comes for free!

$$J(\cancel{\textcircled{X}}) = J(\cancel{\textcircled{X}})$$

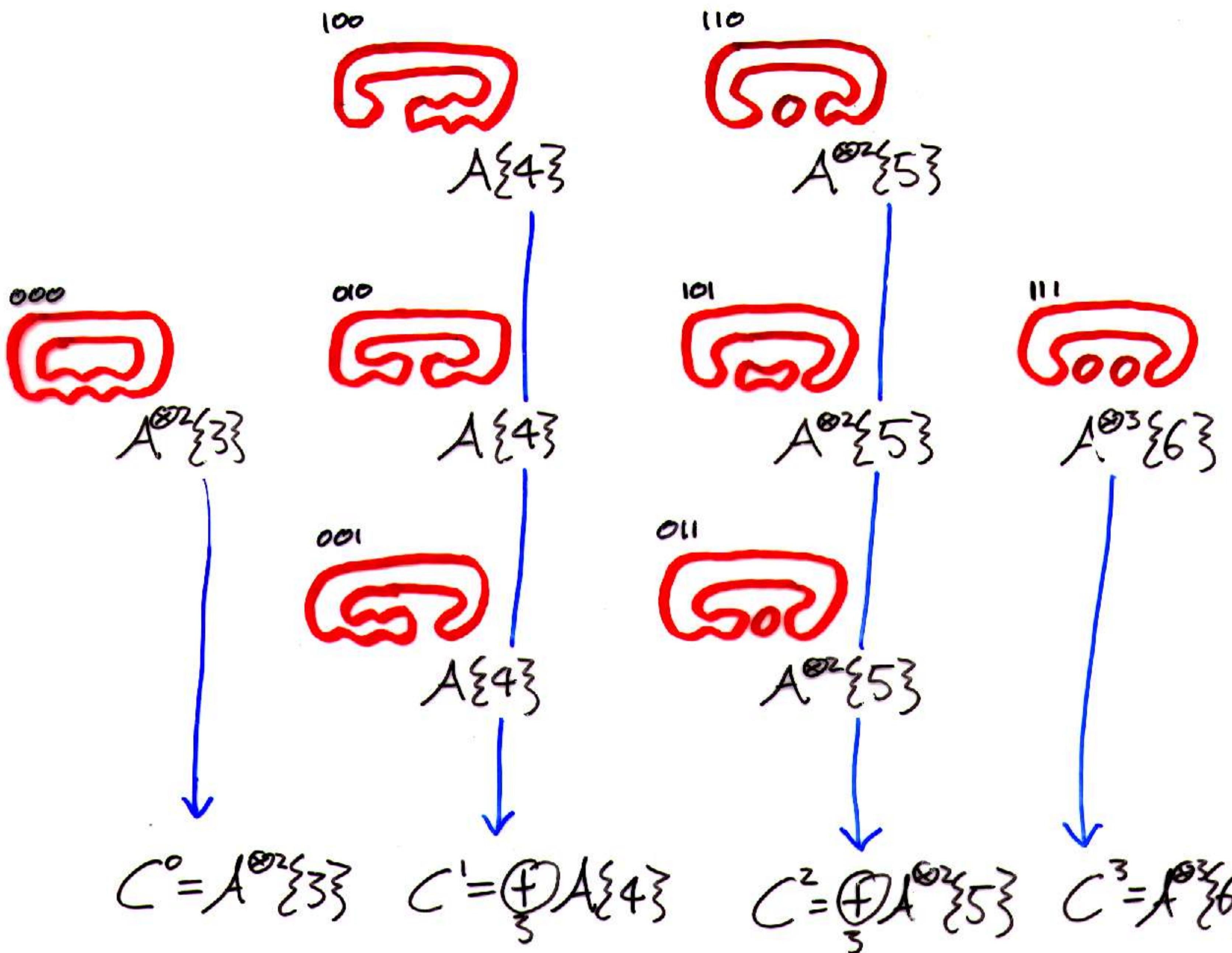
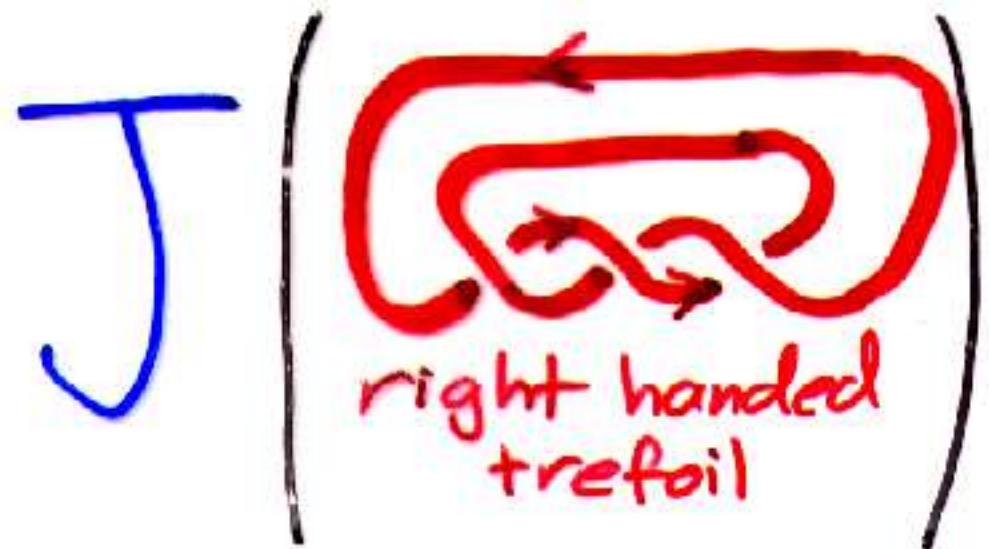


$$\begin{aligned}
 J &= q^3[2]^2 - (q^4[2] + q^4[2] + q^4[2]) + (3q^5[2]^2) - q^6[2]^3 \\
 &= q + q^3 + q^5 - q^9
 \end{aligned}$$

Next, introduce a graded module $A = R\{\mathbb{1}\} \oplus R\{\mathbb{-1}\}$
(where $\{\mathbb{n}\}$ denotes a grading shift)

Then $\text{qdim } A = q + q^{-1} = [2]$,

and, for example, $\text{qdim } A^{\otimes 2}\{\mathbb{3}\} = q^3[2]^2$



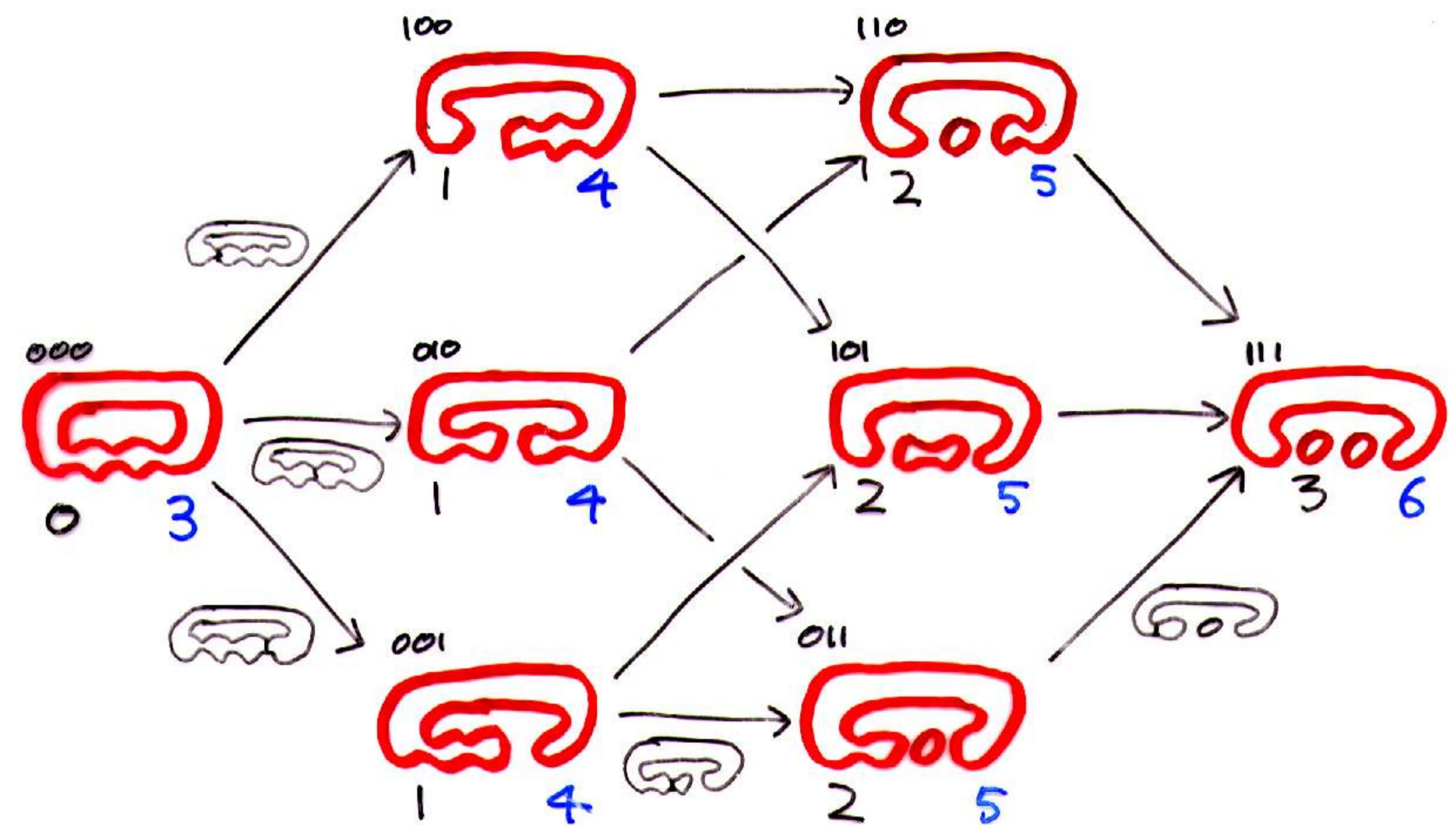
Then $J = \chi_e(C^*)$

$$= q\dim C^0 - q\dim C^1 + q\dim C^2 - q\dim C^3$$

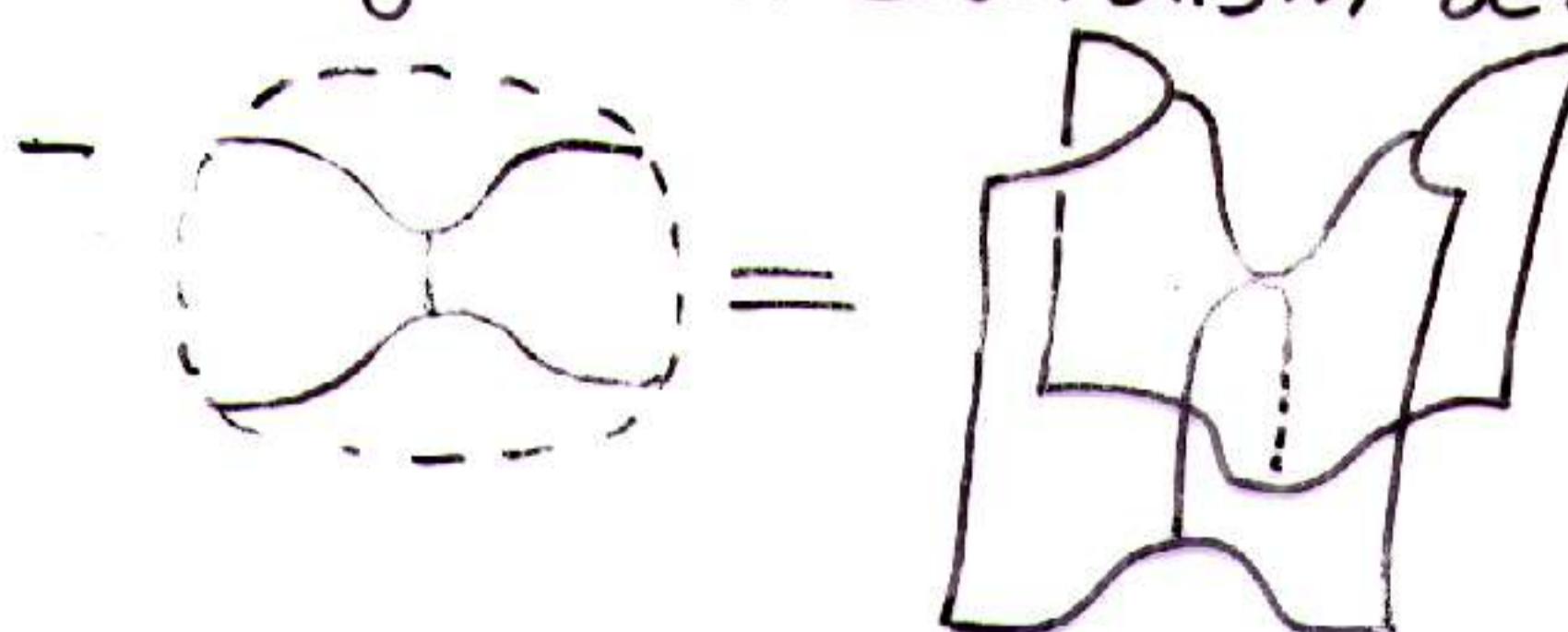
Writing J as an Euler characteristic gave the original motivation for Khovanov homology.



Step 1: build the commutative cube

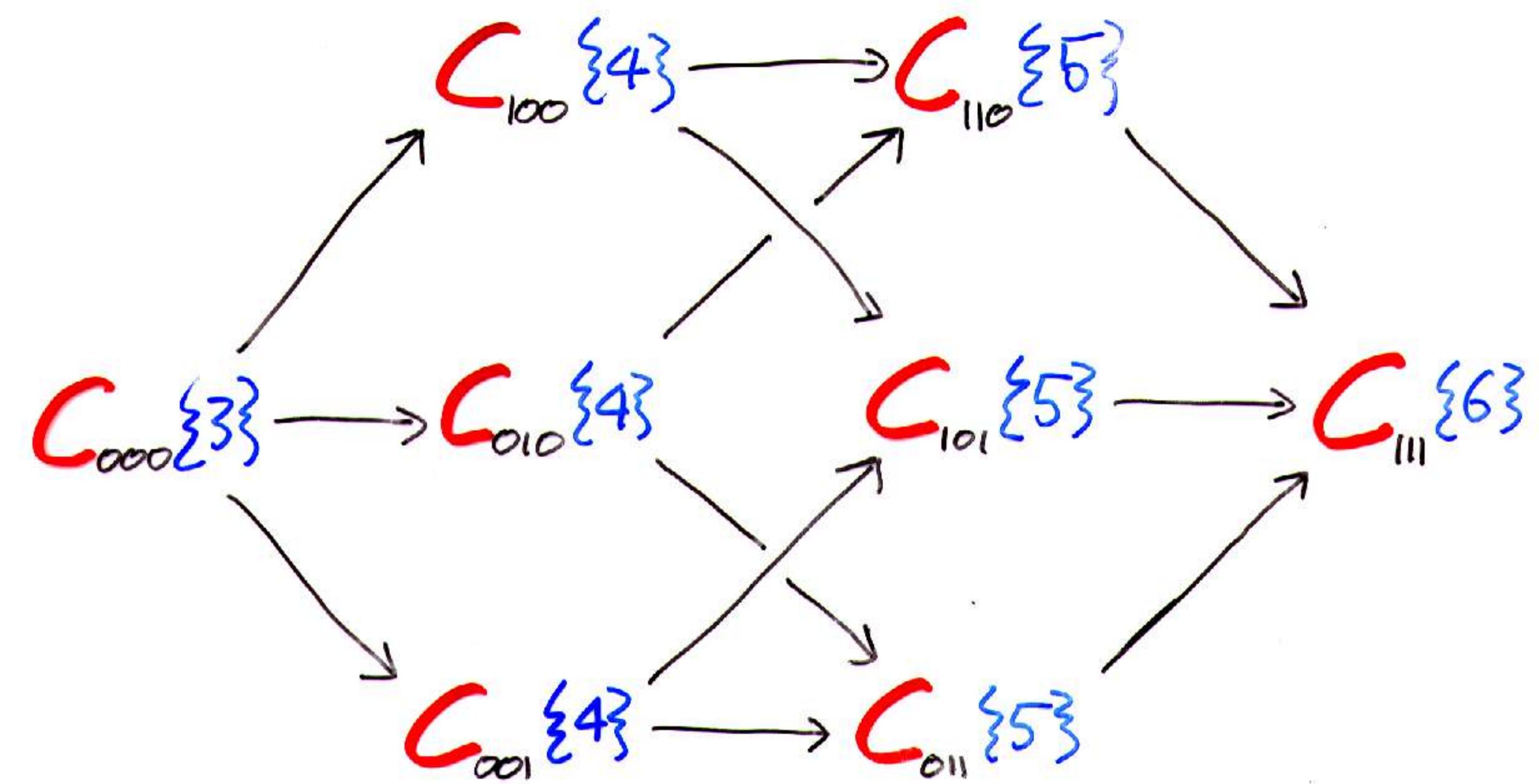


- This picture is a commutative cube in the category of 1+1 cobordisms
 - each vertex is a 1-manifold
 - decorated with a degree and a grading
 - each edge is a cobordism between 1-manifolds



$\text{Kh}(\text{Knot})$

Step 2: Apply a TQFT



- This is a commutative cube in the category of graded R -modules.
 - A TQFT takes 1-manifold to R -modules

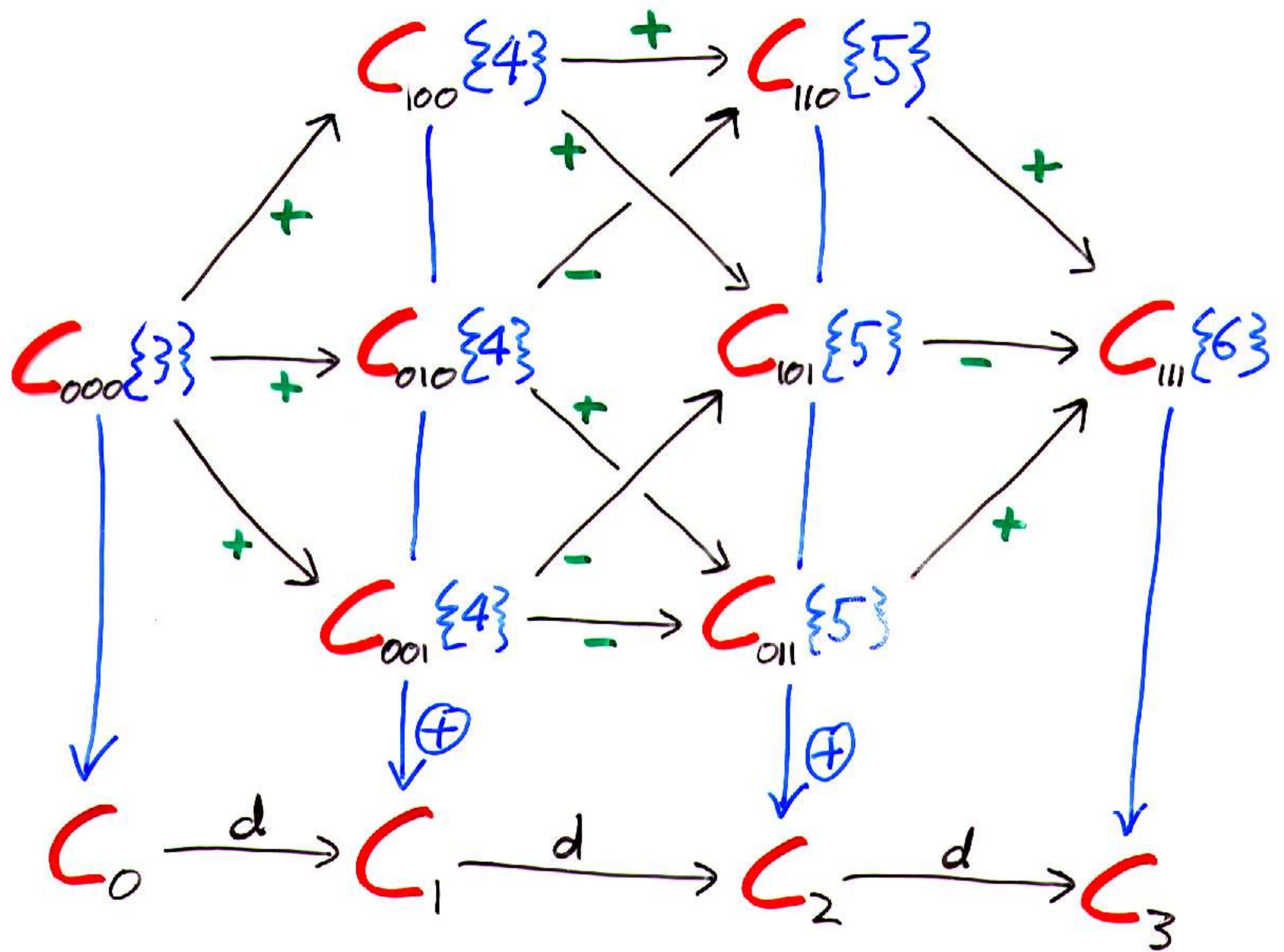
$$\underbrace{0 \ 0 \dots 0}_k \mapsto A^{\otimes k}$$

- and cobordisms to maps between them

$$\text{Knot} \xrightarrow{\text{id}_A} \text{Knot} \xrightarrow{(A \otimes A \xrightarrow{m} A), \text{etc}}$$

$$Kh \left(\text{red loop} \right)$$

Step 3: Sprinkle signs and collapse to a complex.

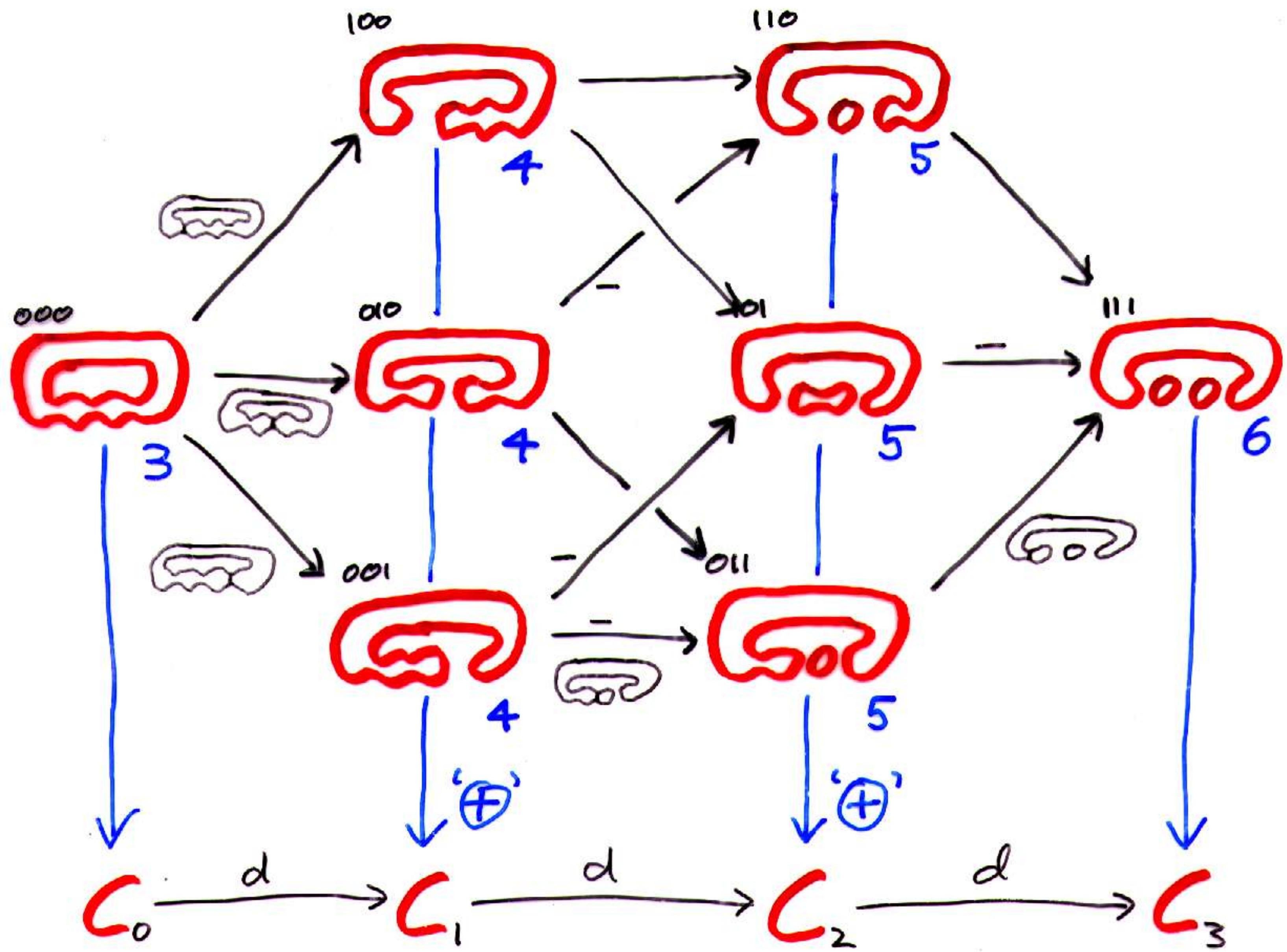


- This is a complex in the category of R-modules
 - $d^2 = 0$ since every square anticommutes

Theorem (Khovanov) The homology of this complex, Kh , is a knot invariant.

BN (right handed trefoil)

Forget the TQFT, sprinkle signs, and collapse to a complex using 'formal' direct sums.

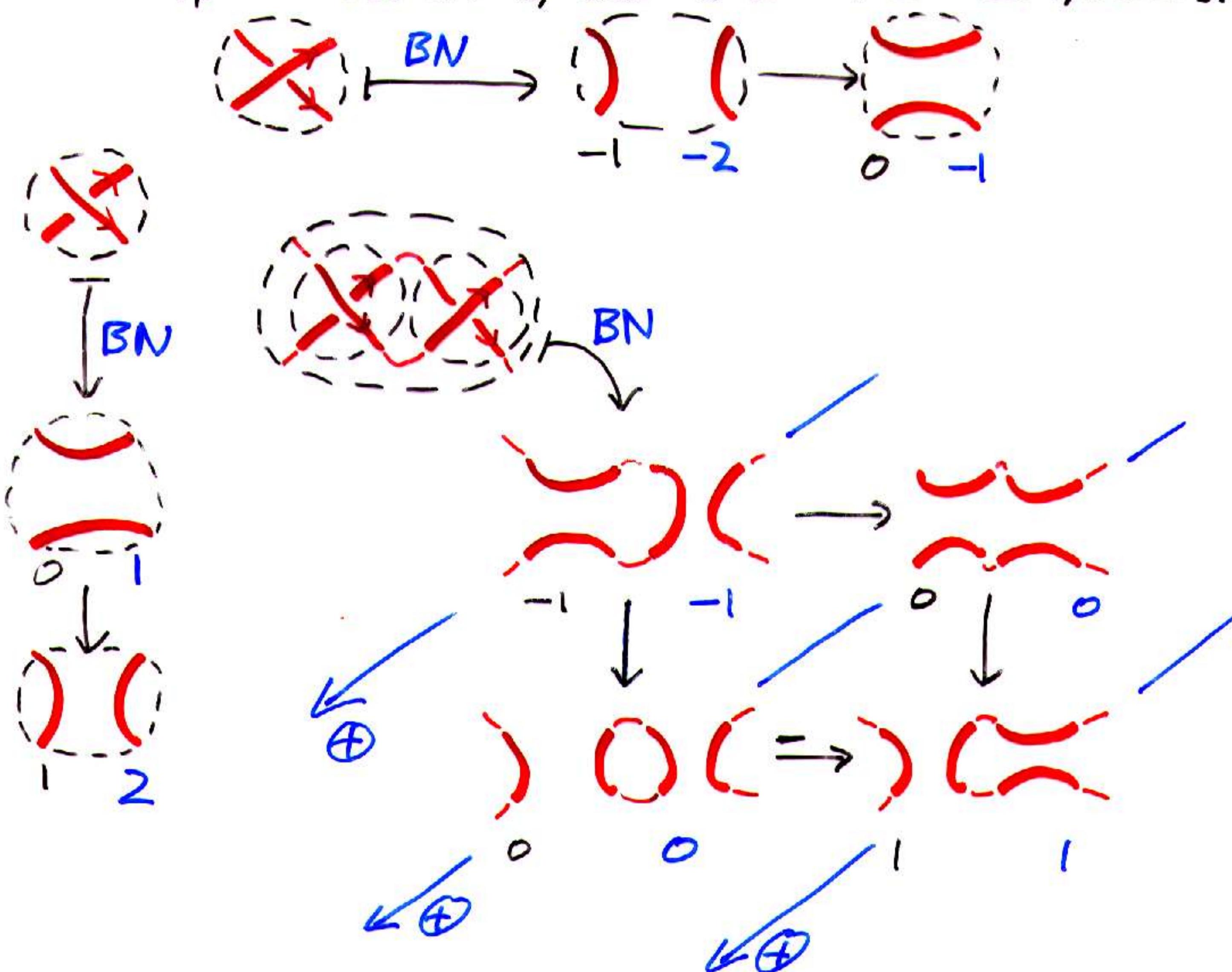


- This is a complex in the category of matrices of R-linear combinations of cobordisms.

Q: Might the homotopy type of this complex be a knot invariant?

Bar-Natan's theory for tangles

- everything so far makes sense for tangles, as well as links.
- the theory is a map of planar algebras; to compose complexes of cobordisms, join up the cobordisms, and tensor the complexes.



$$S \xrightarrow{d} \underset{0}{\circlearrowleft} \oplus \xrightarrow{d} O \xrightarrow{d} \underset{1}{\circlearrowright}$$

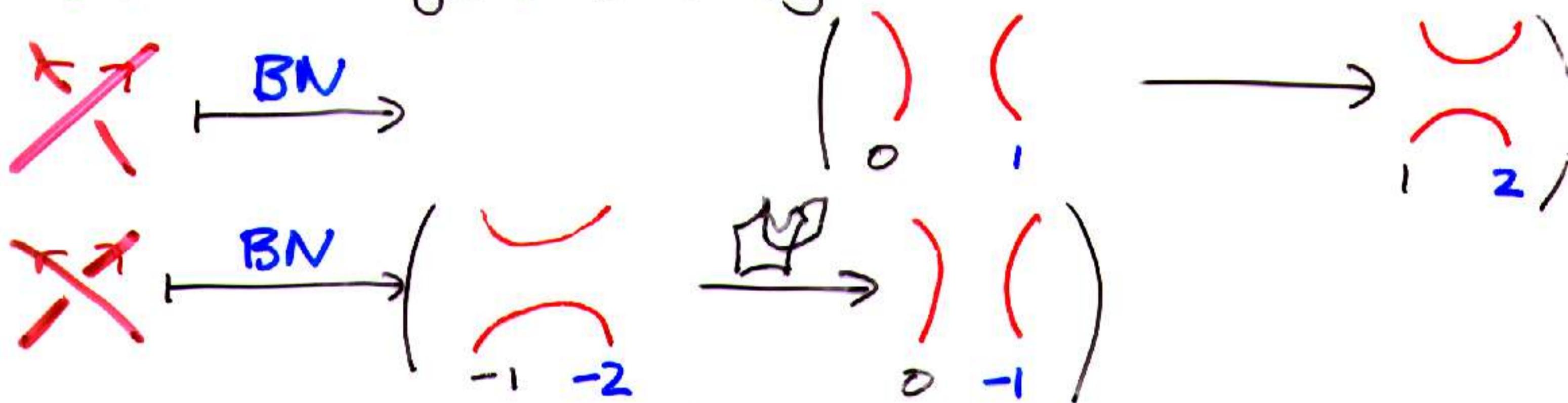
The story so far..

Bar-Natan's theory is a morphism of planar algebras

$$\text{Tangle-Diagrams} \xrightarrow{BN} \text{Kom}(\text{Mat}(\text{Cob}))$$

additive and
graded!

defined on generators by



$\text{Kom}(\text{Mat}(\text{Cob}))$ is a planar algebra; take tensor products of complexes and matrices, and use the usual planar algebra operations on cobordisms.

We now need to show this descends to

Tangles \cong Tangle-Diagrams $\xrightarrow{\text{BN}}$ Kom http:// Mat(Cob_n)

Quick reminder on chain homotopies.

A map between complexes $F:C^* \rightarrow D^*$ must satisfy the chain map condition: $dF = Fd$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \rightarrow & C^{\bullet} & \xrightarrow{d} & C^{\bullet+1} & \xrightarrow{d} & C^{\bullet+2} \\ & & \downarrow F^{\bullet} & & \downarrow F^{\bullet+1} & & \downarrow F^{\bullet+2} \\ \cdots & \rightarrow & D^{\bullet} & \xrightarrow{d} & D^{\bullet+1} & \xrightarrow{d} & D^{\bullet+2} \end{array} \quad \cdots$$

Two chain maps $F, G: C^* \rightarrow D^*$ are homotopic if there is a

$$\text{so } F - G = hd + dh$$

$\cdots \rightarrow C^0 \xrightarrow{d} C^{0+1} \xrightarrow{d} C^{0+2} \xrightarrow{\quad} \cdots$
 $F \downarrow \downarrow G \quad h \swarrow \quad F \downarrow \downarrow G \quad h \swarrow \quad F \downarrow \downarrow G$
 $\cdots \rightarrow D^0 \xrightarrow{d} D^{0+1} \xrightarrow{d} D^{0+2} \xrightarrow{\quad} \cdots$

and two complexes are homotopic if there are chain maps $F: C^* \rightarrow D^*$ and $G: D^* \rightarrow C^*$ so $F \circ G$ and $G \circ F$ are each homotopic to the identity.

Gradings

What is a graded category?

- For objects A, B , $\text{Hom}(A, B)$ must be a graded abelian group.

(Recall it must be an abelian group anyway, because our categories are all additive.)

- There is a \mathbb{Z} -action on objects, called 'grading shift' $(A, m) \mapsto A^{\{m\}}$

Morphisms don't change: $\text{Hom}(A^{\{m\}}, B^{\{n\}}) = \text{Hom}(A, B)$
(as abelian groups!)

but gradings do:

if $f \in \text{Hom}(A, B)$ has degree d then

$f \in \text{Hom}(A^{\{m\}}, B^{\{n\}})$ has degree $d+n-m$.

If the morphisms are graded, but there's no grading shift defined, we can introduce it by adding 'fake' objects $A^{\{m\}}$.

Example Graded R -modules

If $\text{qdim } V = s(q)$, then $\text{qdim } V^{\{m\}} = q^m s(q)$

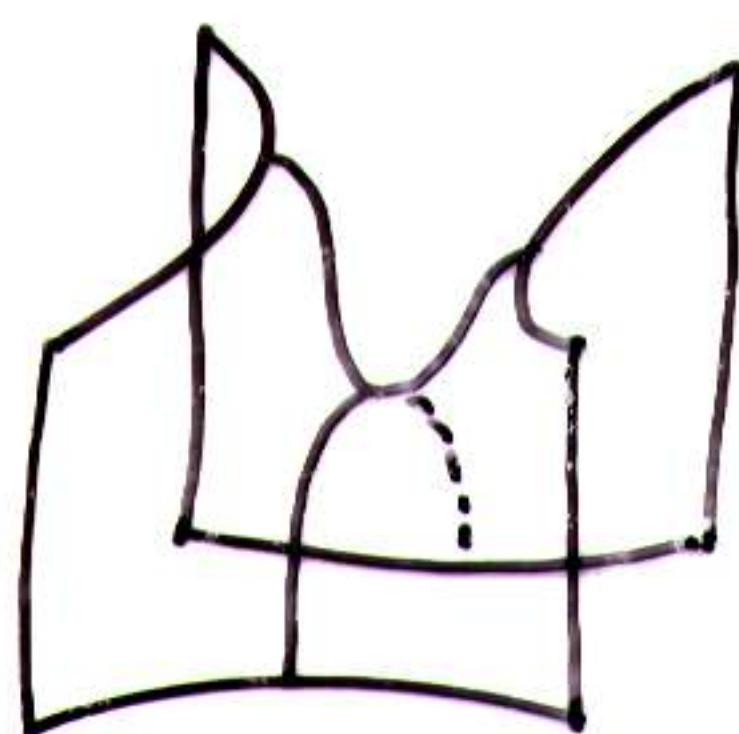
Complexes in graded categories should have differentials of degree zero.

(so we can hope for graded homology theories?)

Gradings

The differentials in this complex should be homogeneous (also the chain maps and homotopies).

The differentials are all built out of saddle cobordisms


$$: \quad \{\underline{\underline{ }}^k\} \longrightarrow \quad (\{\underline{\underline{ }}^{k+1}\})$$

'so' the unshifted saddle  must have degree -1 .

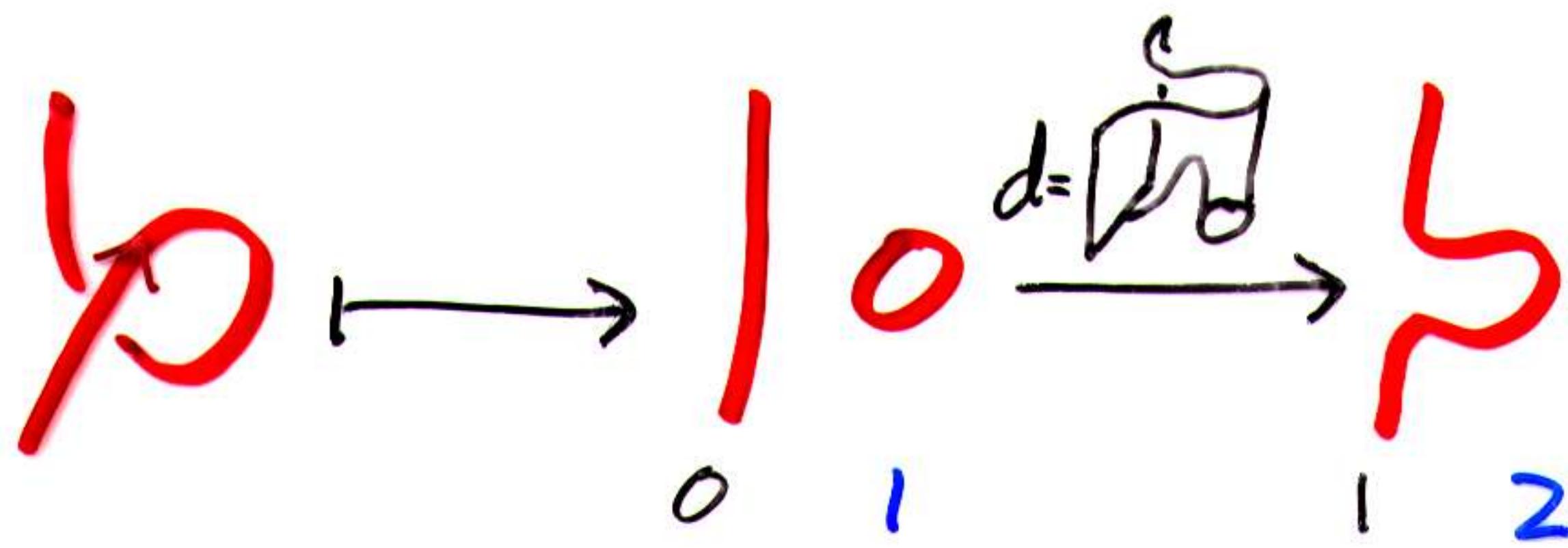
Further, we expect identity cobordisms to be of degree 0 , and degree to be additive under composition and planar algebra operations.

Thus $\deg \square = 0$, $\deg \text{ (two handles)} = -1$, so

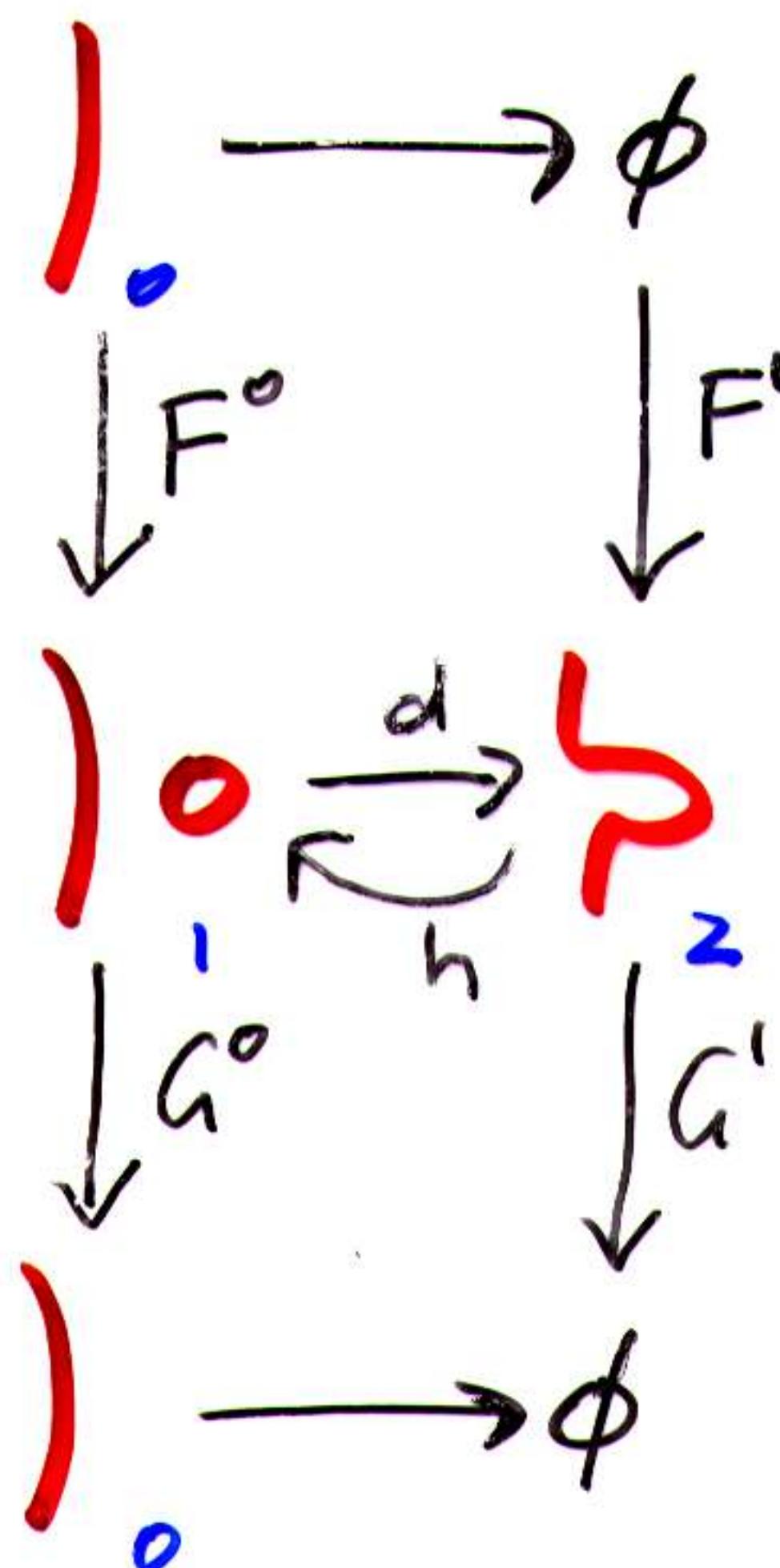
$$\deg \text{ (one handle)} = \deg \text{ (two handles)} = 0 \Rightarrow \deg \partial = 1.$$

This gives $\deg C = \chi(C) - \frac{1}{2}B$, where B is the number of vertical boundary components.

Reidemeister moves.



We want this to be homotopic to $\begin{matrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{matrix} \longrightarrow \phi$



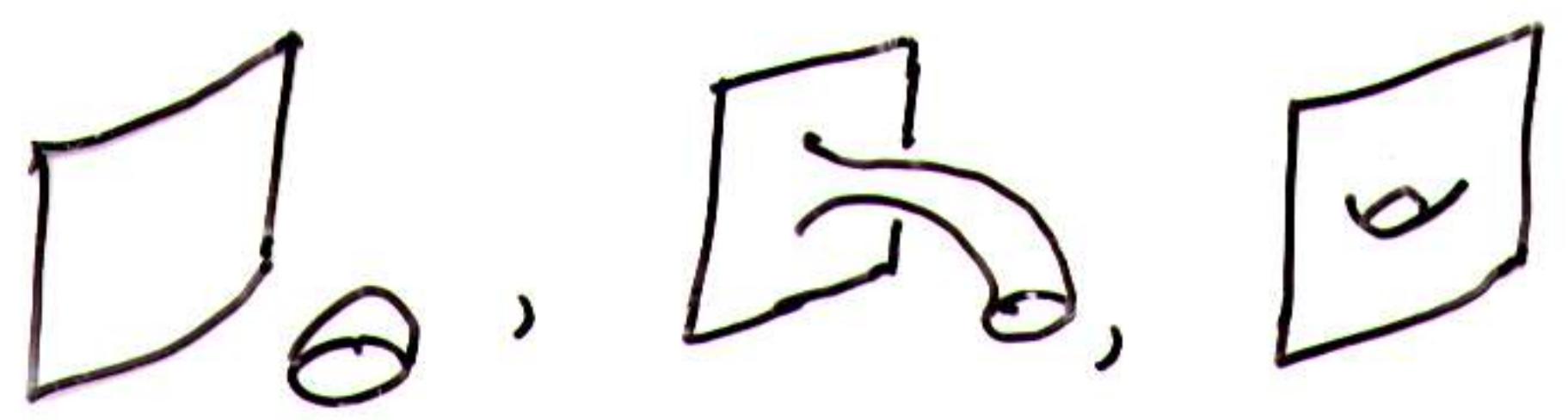
Clearly F' and G' are zero. But what might F^0 and G^0 be?

- They must be homogeneous.
- They must form chain maps. ($\Rightarrow dF^0 = 0$)
- They must be homotopy inverses.

$$F^0 G^0 - I = hd$$

$$G^0 F^0 = I$$

Candidates for G° include



, etc. (and linear combos!)

Since $G^\circ: \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ 0 \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ 0 \end{array}$ its 'bare' grading must be +1.

$$\deg G^\circ = \chi(G^\circ) - \frac{1}{2} B(G^\circ) = \chi(G^\circ) - 1, \text{ so } \chi(G^\circ) = 2.$$

Thus $G^\circ = \alpha \square_0$ for some $\alpha \in R$. Let's fix $\alpha = 1$.

Similarly, degree considerations force $\chi(F^\circ) = 0$,

$$\text{so } F^\circ = \beta \square_1 + \gamma \square_0 \quad \text{for } \beta, \gamma \in R$$

What about $dF^\circ = 0$? $d = \square_1$

$$dF^\circ = \beta \square_1 + \gamma \square_0$$

Thus $\beta = -\gamma$.

By now F and G are essentially determined!

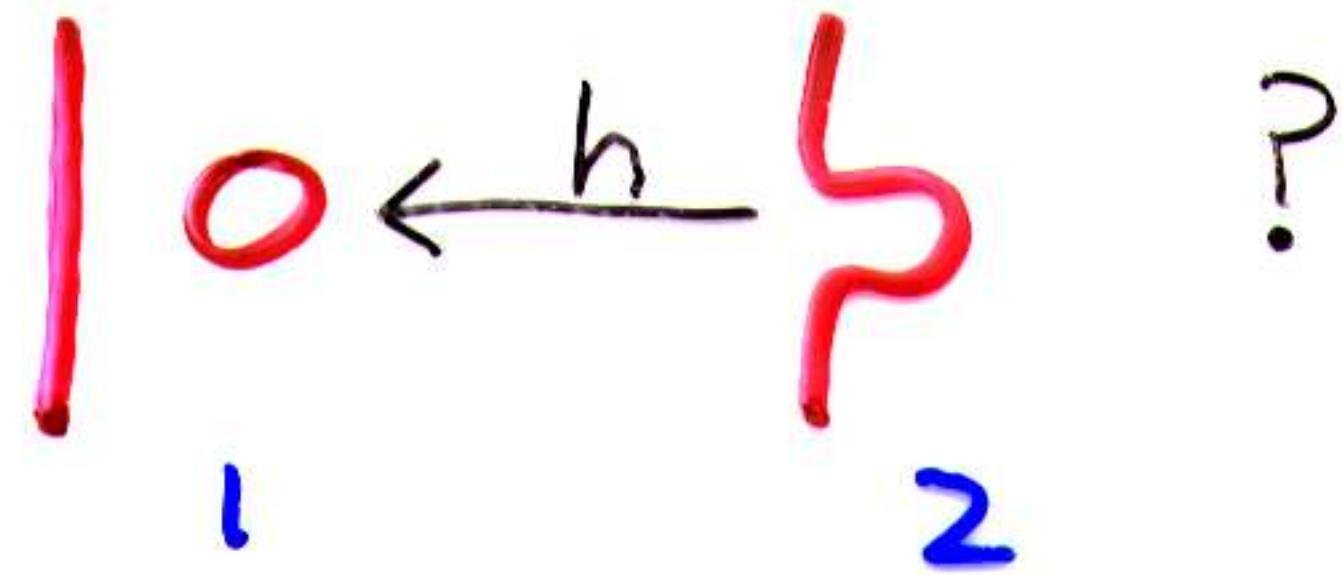
Are they homotopy inverses? Fingers crossed!

$$G^\circ F^\circ = \alpha \beta \text{Diagram} - \alpha \beta \text{Diagram},$$

so we better have $\alpha \beta (1 - \odot) = 1$

$$\text{Then } F^\circ G^\circ = \alpha \beta \text{Diagram} - \alpha \beta \text{Diagram}$$

What about



Gradings force $\deg h = 1$, so $\chi(h) = 2$, and so

h must be $s \text{Diagram}^\odot$ for some $s \in R$.

Thus $hd = s \text{Diagram}^\odot$.

$$F^\circ G^\circ - I = hd \implies$$

$$\frac{1}{1 - \odot} \text{Diagram} - \frac{1}{1 - \odot} \text{Diagram} - \text{Diagram} - s \text{Diagram}^\odot = 0$$

Weird! Fortunately this simplifies somewhat.

Add a 'cup' on the bottom right:

$$\frac{\text{cup}}{1 - \odot} \text{Diagram} - \frac{\text{cup}}{1 - \odot} \text{Diagram} - \text{Diagram} - s \text{Diagram}^\odot = 0$$

'Thus' $s = -1$, and $\odot = 0$.

We can also add a 'tube' connecting the top and bottom circles on the right:

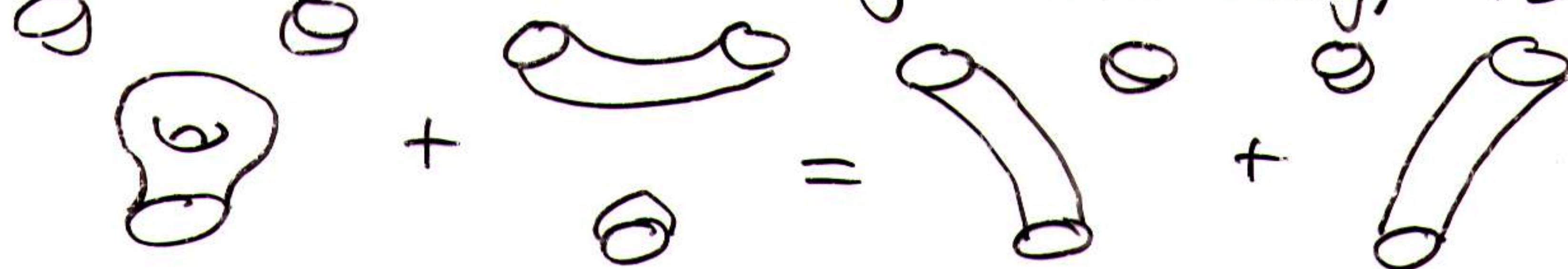
$$\frac{1}{1-\circlearrowleft} \square - \frac{\circlearrowleft}{1-\circlearrowleft} \square - \circlearrowleft \square + \square = 0$$

Thus $\frac{1-\circlearrowleft}{1-\circlearrowleft} - \circlearrowleft + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \circlearrowleft = 2.$

Our mysterious cobordism relation becomes

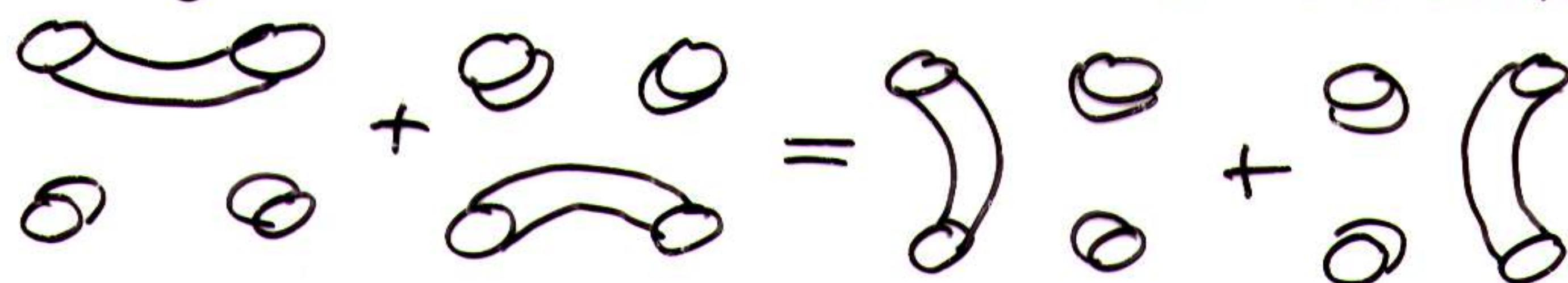
$$-\square^{\circlearrowleft} + \square^{\circlearrowright} - \square^{\circlearrowright} + \square^{\circlearrowleft} = 0$$

which, drawn more symmetrically, is



This is what Dror calls the 3S relation.

It's equivalent to the 4Tu relation

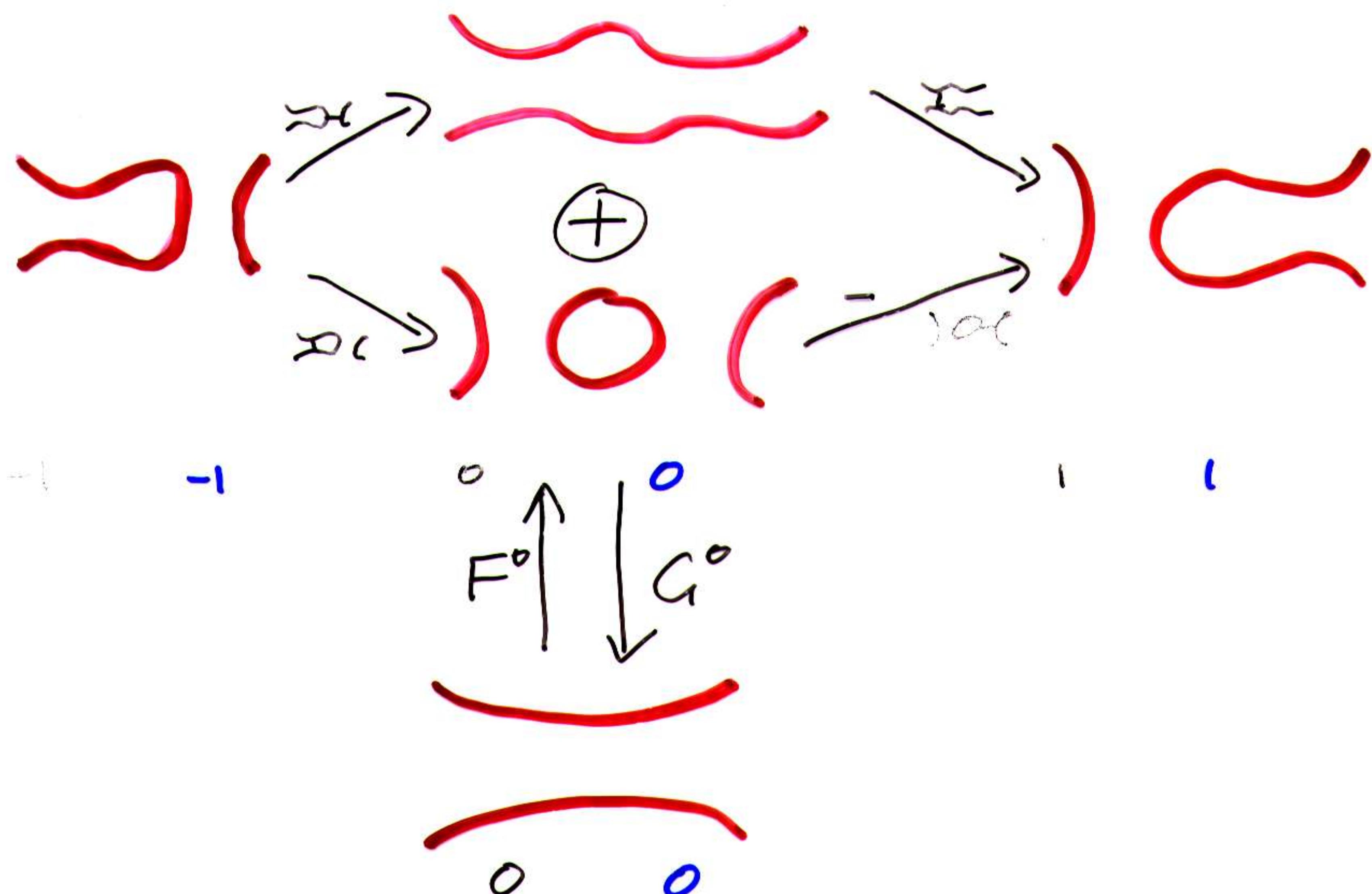


and implies the 'neck cutting relation'

$$2\text{---} = \text{---} + \text{---}$$

(actually equivalent if $\frac{1}{2} \in R$)

Reidemeister 2 (is easy after that!)



Grading considerations force ($\chi(F^\circ) = \chi(G^\circ) = 2$)

$$F^\circ = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \begin{matrix} \square \\ \vdash \end{matrix} \\ \beta & \begin{matrix} \square \\ \text{diag} \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G^\circ = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & \begin{matrix} \square \\ \vdash \end{matrix} \\ \delta & \begin{matrix} \square \\ \text{diag} \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

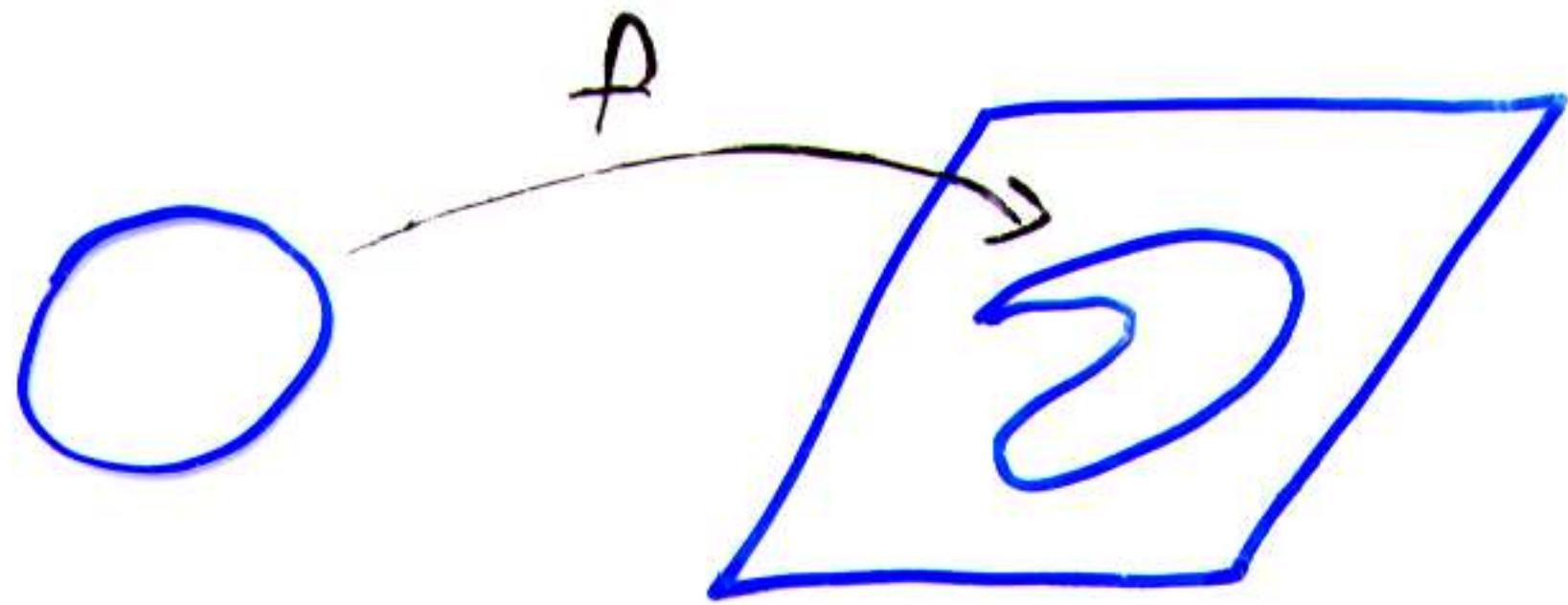
The chain map conditions $dF^\circ = 0$, $G^\circ d = 0$ force
 $\alpha = \beta$, $\gamma = -\delta$

With these restrictions, $F^\circ G^\circ \sim I$ and
 $G^\circ F^\circ = I$, just using $\text{circle} = 0$, $\text{double circle} = 2$
and the 3S relation.

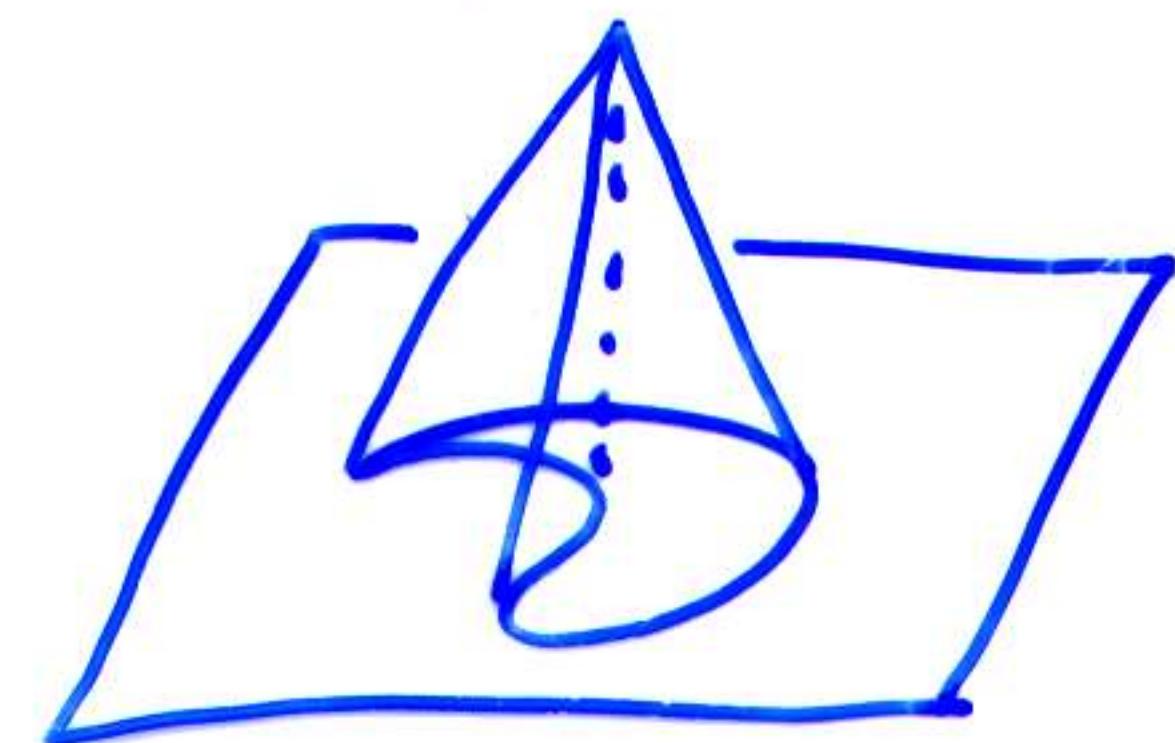
Mapping cones and retracts.

Topology (think this!)

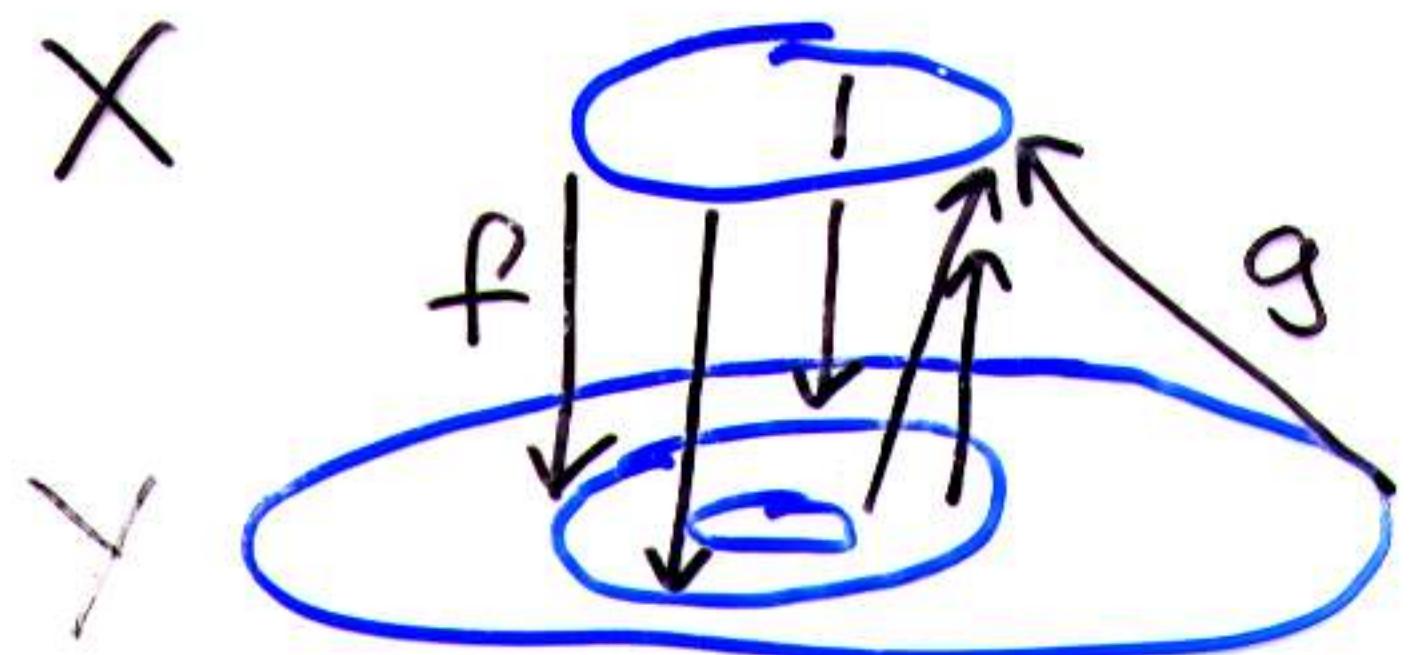
$$f: X \rightarrow Y$$



$$Cf = CX \sqcup_Y Y$$



Strong deformation retracts:



$$gf = id_X$$

$fg \xrightarrow{\text{htopy}} id_Y$ via a homotopy fixing f

g is a strong deformation retract, with inclusion f .

Homotopy (but do this)

$\psi: (\Omega^*, d_0) \rightarrow (\Omega^*, d_1)$ a chain map

$$C\psi = \cdots \rightarrow \Omega_0^{r-1} \xrightarrow{d_0} \Omega_0^r \xrightarrow{d_0} \Omega_0^{r+1} \cdots$$

$$\downarrow \pm \psi \quad \quad \quad \downarrow \pm \psi \quad \quad \quad \downarrow \pm \psi$$

$$\cdots \rightarrow \Omega_1^{r-1} \xrightarrow{d_1} \Omega_1^r \xrightarrow{d_1} \Omega_1^{r+1} \cdots$$

$$\oplus \quad \quad \quad \oplus \quad \quad \quad \oplus$$

$$\cdots \rightarrow (C\psi)^{r-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha} (C\psi)^r \xrightarrow{d} (C\psi)^{r+1} \cdots$$

Say we have chain maps $\Omega_a \xrightarrow{F} \Omega_b$
 and a homotopy $\Omega_a \xrightarrow{G} \Omega_b$ satisfying

$$GF = I, \quad FG - I = dh + hd \quad \text{and} \quad hF = 0.$$

We call F the inclusion in the strong deformation retract G .

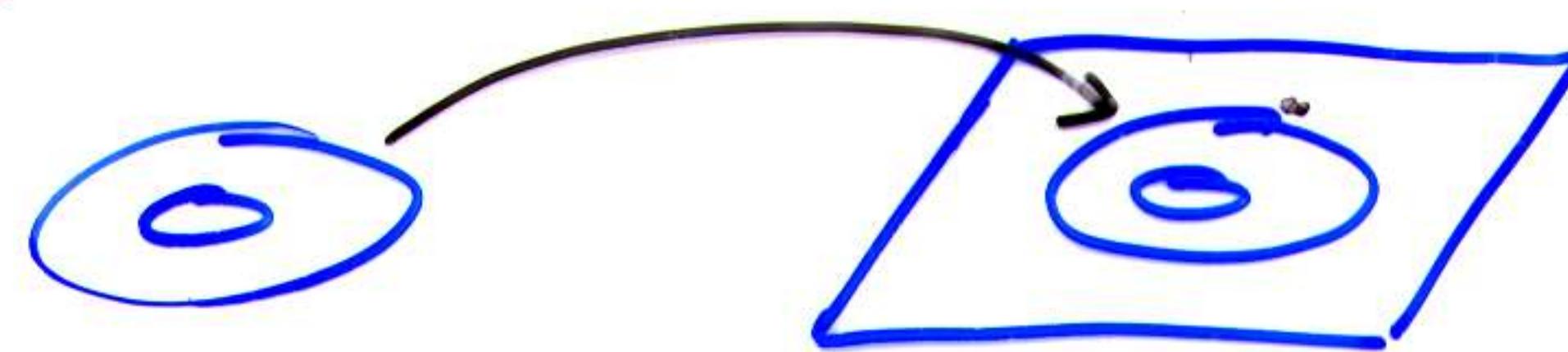
Lemma: $\Omega_a \xleftarrow[G]{F} \Omega_b \xrightarrow{\psi} \Omega_c$

Say F is an inclusion in the strong deformation retract G . Then

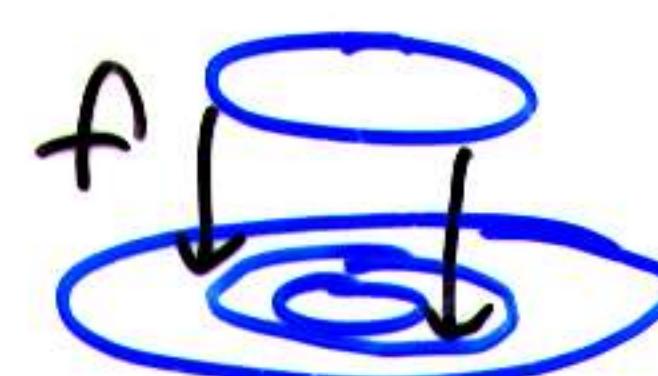
$$C(\psi F) \xrightleftharpoons[\text{htpy}]{\sim} C(\psi)$$

'Proof'

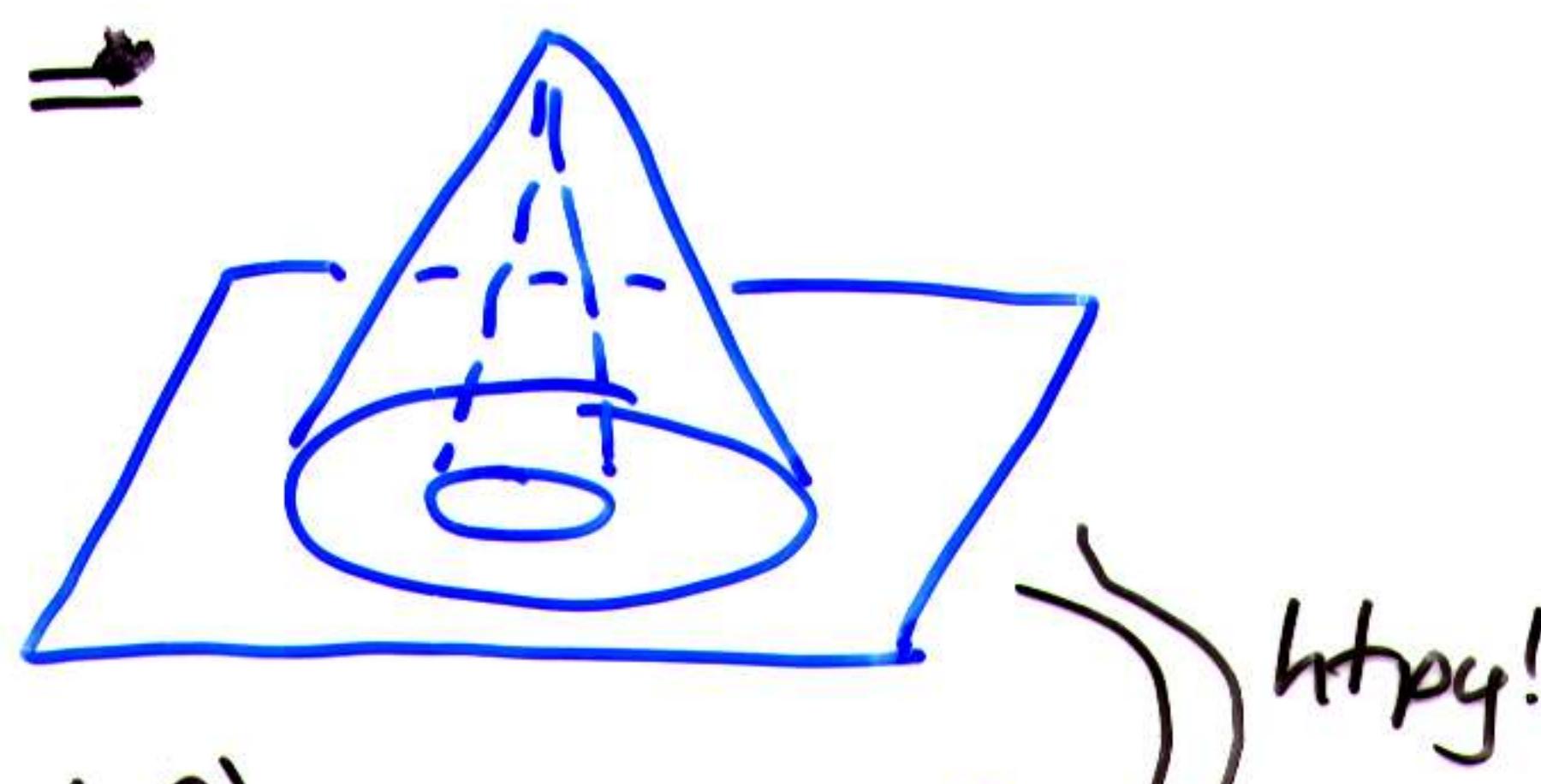
Say ψ :



and



Then, $C(\psi) =$



and $C(\psi f) =$



What was that for?

- ① The morphism $F: BN(\cancel{X}) \rightarrow BN(\cancel{X})$
 constructed in the $R2$ invariance proof
 is an inclusion in a strong deformation retract.

② $BN(\cancel{X}) = C(\) \leftarrow \begin{matrix} \rightarrow \\ \downarrow z \end{matrix}$

These facts are trivial to check; we're just taking the complex cone of a morphism between single step complexes (no differentials!)

Harder to get your head around is the interaction between the cone constructions and the planar algebra operations:

$$BN \left(\begin{array}{c} T \\ \cancel{\sigma} \end{array} \right) =$$

$BN(T)$

$BN(T)$

Putting these facts together, we get an easy proof of R3 invariance.

$$BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{dashed} \end{array}\right) = C\left(BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{dashed} \end{array}\right)\right) \xrightarrow{\psi_1} BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{dashed} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right)$$

$$\xleftarrow[\text{htpy}]{} C\left(BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right)\right) \xrightarrow{F} BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{\psi_1} BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right)$$

and

$$BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right) = C\left(BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{dashed} \end{array}\right)\right) \xrightarrow{\psi_2} BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{dashed} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right)$$

$$\xleftarrow[\text{htpy}]{} C\left(BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right)\right) \xrightarrow{F} BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{\psi_2} BN\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{array}\right)$$

We're taking the cone of the same morphism in each case: $F\psi_1 = F\psi_2$

A brief history of homologification

