Preprint

EXOTIC ELEMENTS OF THE RATIONAL HOMOTOPY GROUPS OF $\mathrm{Diff}(S^{2n})$

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Abstract. This paper studies the rational homotopy groups of the group $\mathrm{Diff}(S^{2n})$ of self-diffeomorphisms of S^{2n} with the C^∞-topology for $2n \geq 4$. We present a method to prove that there are many 'exotic' non-trivial elements in $\pi_*(\mathrm{Diff}(S^{2n}))\otimes\mathbb{Q}$ parametrized by trivalent graphs. As a corollary of the main result, the 4-dimensional Smale conjecture is disproved. The proof utilizes Kontsevich's characteristic classes for smooth disk bundles and a version of clasper surgery for families. In fact, our surgery is inspired by clasper theory for 3-manifolds due to Goussarov and Habiro, and we use a method inspired by the computation of Kontsevich's configuration space integrals for homology 3-spheres due to Kuperberg–Thurston and Lescop.

1. Introduction

The homotopy type of $\mathrm{Diff}(S^4)$ is an important object in topology, whereas almost nothing was known about its homotopy groups except that they include those coming from the orthogonal group O_5 (e.g., recent surveys in [Hat2, Kup]). Let $\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)$ denote the group of self-diffeomorphisms of D^d which fix a neighborhood of ∂D^d pointwise. This is the 'non-linear' part of $\mathrm{Diff}(S^d)$ in the sense of the well-known splitting $\mathrm{Diff}(S^d) \simeq O_{d+1} \times \mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)$ (e.g., [ABK]). For $d = 1, 2, 3$, it is known that $\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)$ is contractible. Proof for $d = 1$ is easy. The case $d = 2$ is due to Smale ([Sm], see also [EE]), and a proof for the case $d = 3$ (the Smale conjecture) has been given by Hatcher ([Hat]), and more recently by Bamler and Kleiner ([BK1, BK2]) through Ricci flow. On the other hand, for $d \geq 5$, it is known that $\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)$ is not contractible (e.g., [Hat2]). For $d = 4$, there was a conjecture which claims that $\mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial)$ is contractible, or equivalently, $\mathrm{Diff}(S^4) \simeq O_5$ (the 4-dimensional Smale conjecture [Kir, Problem 4.34, 4.126]). The following theorem, which is the main result of this paper, gives a negative answer to this conjecture.

Theorem 1.1 (Theorem 3.10)**.** *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$. For each $k \geq 1$, evaluation of Kontsevich's characteristic classes on D^d-bundles over $S^{(d-3)k}$ gives an epimorphism $Z_k \colon \pi_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)) \otimes \mathbb{R} \to \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R}$ to the space $\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R}$ of trivalent graphs (definition in §2.2).*

Remark 1.2. Theorem 1.1 gives no information about the mapping class group $\pi_0(\mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial)) \cong \pi_1(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial))$ because $\mathscr{A}_1^{\mathrm{even}} = 0$. The first nontrivial element is detected in $\mathscr{A}_2^{\mathrm{even}} \cong \mathbb{Q}$ (Remark 2.1). It should be mentioned that after

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the first version of this paper was submitted to the arXiv, S. Akbulut announced a proof that $\pi_0(\mathrm{Diff}(D^4,\partial)) \neq 0$ based on his theory of corks ([Ak]). Also, Budney and Gabai constructed some elements of $\pi_0(\mathrm{Diff}(D^4,\partial))$ explicitly in [BG, §5]. Some structure of the group $\pi_0(\mathrm{Diff}(D^4,\partial))$ has been studied recently by D. Gay ([Ga]), Gay–Hartman ([GH]). An alternative proof of Gay's result is given by Krannich and Kupers in [KK].

Remark 1.3. In our previous preprint [Wa4], we proved a result slightly different from Theorem 1.1 in terms of Morse theory. The techniques used in this article to prove Theorem 1.1 involve differential forms. They are quite different from those used in [Wa4].

Let $r\colon D^d \to D^d$ be the reflection $r(x_1,x_2,\ldots,x_d) = (-x_1,x_2,\ldots,x_d)$. The conjugation $r\circ g\circ r^{-1}$ for $g\in \mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial)$ gives an involution on $\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial)$ which is a homomorphism, and hence an involution on $\pi_*(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial))$.

Proposition 1.4 ([KRW, Remark 7.16])**.** *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$. For an element ξ of $\pi_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial))\otimes\mathbb{R}$, let ξ' be the element obtained from ξ by the reflection involution r. Then we have*

$$Z_k(\xi') = (-1)^k Z_k(\xi).$$

A proof of Proposition 1.4 is given in Subsection 2.5.

Corollary 1.5. *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$. The $(-1)^k$-eigenspace of the reflection involution in $\pi_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial))\otimes\mathbb{R}$ is nontrivial whenever $\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$ is nontrivial.*

Proof. This follows from Theorem 1.1 and Proposition 1.4. Namely, let $\pi_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial))\otimes\mathbb{R} = V_{(-1)^k}\oplus V_{(-1)^{k+1}}$ be the eigenspace decomposition with respect to the reflection involution. If $\xi\in V_{(-1)^{k+1}}$, then by Proposition 1.4, we have $(-1)^k Z_k(\xi) = Z_k(\xi') = (-1)^{k+1}Z_k(\xi)$ and hence $Z_k(\xi)=0$. This shows that the image of Z_k agrees with $Z_k(V_{(-1)^k})$. □

Remark 1.6. For example, the $(+1)$-eigenspace of $\pi_{2d-6}(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial))\otimes\mathbb{R}$ is at least one dimensional. This is compatible with a result of Kupers and Randal-Williams ([KRW, Corollary 7.15]) that there is at least one dimensional nontrivial subspace in the $(+1)$-eigenspace of $\pi_i(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial))\otimes\mathbb{Q}$ for some i in $2d-9\leq i\leq 2d-5$ (the fourth band), $d\geq 6$ even, as pointed out in [KRW]. As also pointed out in [KRW, Example 6.9], Corollary 1.5 has a nontrivial consequence for the group $C(D^n) = \mathrm{Diff}(D^n\times I, \partial D^n\times I\cup D^n\times\{0\})$ of pseudo-isotopies. The following corollary holds since the $(+1)$-eigenspaces of $\pi_*(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial))\otimes\mathbb{R}$ inject into $\pi_*(BC(D^{d-1}))\otimes\mathbb{R}$ ([KRW, Example 6.9]).

Corollary 1.7. *Let d be an even integer such that $d\geq 4$. If $k\geq 2$ is even and if $\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}}\neq 0$, then $\pi_{(d-3)k}(BC(D^{d-1}))\otimes\mathbb{R}\neq 0$.*

1.1. **Some consequences of Theorem 1.1 for $d=4$.** Theorem 1.1 answers some problems in Kirby's problem list [Kir].

(1) $\mathrm{Diff}(S^4)\not\simeq O_5$. (cf. [Kir, Problem 4.34, 4.126 (D. Randall)])

(2) There is a bundle over S^2, with a 4-manifold as fiber, which is topologically trivial but not smoothly trivial. (cf. [Kir, Problem 4.122 (K. Fukaya)])

(3) The space *Sympl* of all standard-at-infinity symplectic structures on $\mathbb{R}^4$ is not contractible. (cf. [Kir, Problem 4.141 (Eliashberg)], [El, 7.3])

Here, (2) follows from the contractibility of the topological automorphism (homeomorphism) group $\mathrm{Top}(D^4, \partial)$ with the C^0-topology, which can be shown by the Alexander trick. The result (3) follows from Theorem 1.1 and the remark given in [Kir, Problem 4.141], which says that the evaluation map $\mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial) \to \mathit{Sympl}$ is a fibration whose fiber is the group of self-symplectomorphisms of (D^4, ω_0) fixed at the boundary, where ω_0 is the standard symplectic form. This group is contractible by a deep result of Gromov based on his theory of pseudo-holomorphic curves ([Gr]).

As in [Hat, Appendix], the 4-dimensional Smale conjecture has several equivalent statements. We denote by PL_d the structure group for PL microbundles of dimension d ([Mil]). By the equivalence $\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial) \simeq \Omega^{d+1}\mathrm{PL}_d/O_d$ ([BL], the PL analogue of Morlet's equivalence), we have the following.

(4) The inclusion $O_4 \to \mathrm{PL}_4$ is not a homotopy equivalence.

Let $\mathrm{Emb}(S^3, \mathbb{R}^4)_0$ denote the component of $\mathrm{Emb}(S^3, \mathbb{R}^4)$ of the standard inclusion. Let $\mathrm{Emb}^+(D^4, \mathbb{R}^4)$ denote the space of orientation preserving embeddings $D^4 \to \mathbb{R}^4$. By the fibration sequence $\mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial) \to \mathrm{Emb}^+(D^4, \mathbb{R}^4) \to \mathrm{Emb}(S^3, \mathbb{R}^4)$ of Cerf–Palais ([Ce1, Pa]), a parametrized version of the 4-dimensional Schoenflies conjecture fails:

(5) $\mathrm{Emb}(S^3, \mathbb{R}^4)_0 \not\simeq \mathrm{Emb}^+(D^4, \mathbb{R}^4)$ $(\simeq SO_4)$.*

By the fibration sequence $\mathrm{Diff}(D^{d+1}, \partial) \to C(D^d) \to \mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)$, Hatcher's theorem $\mathrm{Diff}(D^3, \partial) \simeq *$, and Theorem 1.1, we have the following.

(6) $C(D^3) \not\simeq *$. In particular, $\pi_1 C(D^3) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \neq 0$.

By $\pi_0\mathrm{Diff}(D^5, \partial) \approx \Theta_6 = 0$ ([Ce2], [KM]), $\pi_1\mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \neq 0$, and the long exact sequence for the fibration $C(D^4) \to \mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial)$, we have the following.

(7) $\pi_1 C(D^4) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \neq 0$.

By considering the Cerf–Palais fibration sequences $\mathrm{Diff}(S^3\times D^1, \partial) \to \mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial) \to \mathrm{Emb}(D^4, \mathrm{Int}\, D^4)$, $\mathrm{Diff}(S^3\times D^1, \partial)\times\mathrm{Diff}(S^3\times D^1, \partial) \to \mathrm{Diff}(S^3\times D^1, \partial) \to \mathrm{Emb}(S^3, S^3\times D^1)$, we obtain the following.

(8) $\mathrm{Diff}(S^3 \times D^1, \partial) \not\simeq \Omega O_4$.

(9) $\mathrm{Emb}(S^3, S^3 \times D^1)_0 \not\simeq SO_4$, where $\mathrm{Emb}(S^3, S^3 \times D^1)_0$ is the component of the standard inclusion $S^3 \to S^3 \times \{0\} \subset S^3 \times D^1$.

In (1), (3), (4), (5), (6), (8), (9), the deficiency of being a homotopy equivalence can be measured by $\mathrm{Diff}(D^4, \partial)$.

1.2. **Background.** Kontsevich's characteristic classes, defined in [Kon], are invariants for fiber bundles with fiber a punctured homology sphere. They were defined,

*The 4-dimensional smooth Schoenflies conjecture claims that any smoothly embedded 3-sphere in $\mathbb{R}^4$ bounds a smooth 4-disk. This is equivalent to $\pi_0\mathrm{Emb}(S^3, \mathbb{R}^4) \cong \pi_0\mathrm{Emb}(D^4, \mathbb{R}^4)$ $(= \pi_0 O_4)$ by Cerf or Hatcher's theorem.

as a higher dimensional analogue of a perturbative invariant for 3-manifolds, by utilizing a graph complex and configuration space integrals, both developed by Kontsevich in [Kon]. The method of this paper is essentially the same as [Wa2], where we studied the rational homotopy groups of $\mathrm{Diff}(D^{4k-1},\partial)$. Namely, we construct some explicit fiber bundles from trivalent graphs, by giving a higher-dimensional analogue of graph-clasper surgery, developed by Goussarov and Habiro for knots and 3-manifolds ([Gou, Hab]). Then we compute the values of the characteristic numbers for the bundles, by giving a higher-dimensional analogue of Kuperberg–Thurston's computation of configuration space integrals for homology 3-spheres ([KuTh, Les2]). Thus, what is new in this paper is to give higher-dimensional analogues of the ideas of Goussarov–Habiro and Kuperberg–Thurston so that they fit together well and to check that they indeed work.

In fact, the construction needed is not different between $d=4$ and $d>4$ even. This is similar to the fact that the cocycles of $\mathrm{Emb}(S^1,\mathbb{R}^d)$ given by configuration space integrals are nontrivial for all $d\geq 4$ and $d=4$ is not exceptional there ([Kon, CCL]). In earlier versions of this paper, we gave a proof of Theorem 1.1 only for $d=4$ to simplify notations. However, we learned that some remarkable progresses on the topology of $\mathrm{Diff}(D^d,\partial)$ for higher even dimensions $d\geq 6$ have appeared recently (e.g., Weiss ([We]), Boavida de Brito–Weiss ([BdBW]), Fresse–Turchin–Willwacher, Fresse–Willwacher ([FTW, FW]), Kupers ([Kup]), Kupers–Randal-Williams ([KRW])) and we thought it would be worth giving a proof of our result for arbitrary even integer $d\geq 4$. It would be very interesting to compare the results in this paper and those of [We, BdBW, FTW, FW, Kup, KRW].

1.3. **Contents of the paper.** The aim of this paper is to give a proof of Theorem 1.1 by means of differential forms and to give a foundation of graph surgery which works for manifolds of arbitrary dimensions ≥ 3. There are roughly three ingredients in this paper.

(i) Kontsevich's characteristic classes for framed disk bundles defined by a graph complex and configuration space integrals. This will be explained in §2.
(ii) Surgery on "graph claspers", a higher dimensional analogue of Goussarov–Habiro's theory. This will be explained mainly in §3, and technical details are described in §5.
(iii) That Kontsevich's configuration space integral invariants can be computed explicitly for the disk bundles constructed by graph clasper surgeries. The method for the computation is a higher dimensional analogue of Kuperberg–Thurston's computation of configuration space integrals for homology 3-spheres ([KuTh, Theorem 2]), for which a detailed exposition has been given by Lescop ([Les2]). This will be explained in §4, §6, §7.

In the appendices, we will explain about the following.

(A) Smooth manifolds with corners.
(B) Blow-up in differentiable manifolds.
(C) Compactification of configuration spaces of a manifold with boundary.
(D) Orientations on manifolds and on their intersections.
(E) Well-definedness of Kontsevich's characteristic class.

(F) Homology class of the diagonal.

The readers who do not need to check the technical details for the moment can read only §2–4.

1.4. **Notations and conventions.**

(a) The diagonal $\{(x,x) \in X \times X \mid x \in X\}$ is denoted by Δ_X. We identify its normal bundle $N\Delta_X$ and tangent bundle $T\Delta_X$ with TX in a canonical manner, namely, identifying $(-v,v) \in N_{(x,x)}\Delta_X$, $(v,v) \in T_{(x,x)}\Delta_X$ with $v \in T_xX$, as in (E.11).

(b) Let I denote the interval $[0,1]$.

(c) We abbreviate the vector field $\dfrac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ as ∂x_i.

(d) Throughout this paper, we assume that manifolds and maps between manifolds are smooth, unless otherwise stated.

(e) For manifolds with corners, smooth maps between them and their (strata) transversality, we follow [BTa, Appendix]. See also Appendix A in this paper.

(f) For a sequence of submanifolds $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_r \subset W$ of a smooth Riemannian manifold W, we say that the intersection $A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \cdots \cap A_r$ is *transversal* if for each point x in the intersection, the subspace $N_xA_1 + N_xA_2 + \cdots + N_xA_r \subset T_xW$ is the direct sum $N_xA_1 \oplus N_xA_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus N_xA_r$, where N_xA_i is the orthogonal complement of T_xA_i in T_xW with respect to the Riemannian metric. Note that the transversality property does not depend on the choice of Riemannian metric.

(g) We interpret a normal framing of a submanifold A of a manifold X of codimension r by a sequence of sections $(s_1, \ldots, s_r)$ of the normal bundle NA of A that restricts to an ordered basis of each fiber of NA.

(h) Homology and cohomology are considered over $\mathbb{R}$ if the coefficient ring is not specified.

(i) For a fiber bundle $\pi\colon E \to B$, we denote by T^vE the (vertical) tangent bundle along the fiber $\operatorname{Ker} d\pi \subset TE$. Let ST^vE denote the subbundle of T^vE of unit spheres. Let ∂^vE denote the fiberwise boundaries: $\bigcup_{b\in B} \partial(\pi^{-1}\{b\})$.

(j) We represent an orientation of a manifold M by a nowhere-zero section of $\bigwedge^{\dim M} TM$ and use the symbol $o(M)$ for orientation of M. When $\dim M = 0$, we give an orientation of M by a choice of sign ± 1 at each point, as usual. Unless otherwise mentioned, we orient the boundary of a manifold by the outward-normal-first convention. One could instead represent an orientation by a section of $\bigwedge^{\dim M} T^*M$. The two interpretations are related by the duality $T_xM \cong T_x^*M$; $v \mapsto \langle v, \cdot\rangle$ given by a Riemannian metric. In Appendix D, we describe more orientation conventions adopted in this paper.

(k) We orient the total space of a fiber bundle over an oriented manifold with fiber D^d or its configuration space by the rule $o(\text{base}) \wedge o(\text{fiber})$.

(l) When M is a submanifold of an oriented Riemannian r-dimensional manifold R, then we define the orientation $o_R^*(M)$ of the orthogonal complement of TM in TR by the rule

$$o(M) \wedge o^*_R(M) \sim o(R). \tag{1.1}$$

$o^*_R(M)$ is called a *coorientation* of M in R.

(m) For oriented submanifolds A, B of an oriented manifold M, we orient the submanifold $A \times B$ of $M \times M$ by the *product orientation* $o(A) \wedge o(B)$ of $T(A \times B) = TA \oplus TB$, unless otherwise stated.

(n) In Appendix B, we recall the definition of the blow-up in differentiable manifolds.

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2. Kontsevich's characteristic class

The aim of this section is to give a self-contained exposition of Kontsevich's characteristic classes for even dimensional disk bundles, which were developed in [Kon] and play a crucial role in the main result of this paper. *There are no new results in this section.* We try to make the exposition as complete as possible since there seems to be no literature about the detail of that for higher even dimensions, though necessary ideas are given in [Kon][†]. What will be needed in the proof of our main result from this section are the definition of Kontsevich's invariant and the statement of Theorem 2.16 and of its corollary.

2.1. Framed smooth fiber bundles and classifying spaces.

2.1.1. (X, A)*-bundle.* In this paper, we consider *pointed* smooth fiber bundles, where we say that a smooth fiber bundle is pointed if the base space is a pointed space and if the bundle is equipped with a smooth identification of the fiber over the basepoint with a standard model of the fiber. Let X be a compact manifold and

[†]For 3-dimensional rational homology spheres, there are several expositions about Axelrod–Singer's or Kontsevich's configuration space integral invariants ([Fu, BC, KuTh, Les1, Wa3]) other than the original papers ([AS, Kon]). Among these, Lescop's [Les1] (also [Les4]) gives a thorough exposition of the definition and well-definedness of the invariant. It was helpful to write this section.

A be a submanifold of X. An (X,A)-*bundle* is a pointed X-bundle $E \to B$ over a pointed space B, equipped with maps of smooth fiber bundles

$$\begin{tikzcd} A \arrow[r, "\widetilde{i}"] \arrow[d] & B \times A \arrow[r, "\varphi"] \arrow[d, "p_1"'] & E \arrow[d] \\ * \arrow[r, "i"] & B \arrow[r, "="] & B \end{tikzcd} \tag{2.1}$$

where i is the inclusion map of the basepoint $*$, $\widetilde{i}$ is given by the identification $A = \{*\}\times A$, p_1 is the projection onto the first factor, and φ is a fiberwise embedding such that $\varphi\circ\widetilde{i}$ agrees with the inclusion $A \subset X$ into the fiber over $*$. In other words, an X-bundle equipped with trivializations on a subbundle with fiber A (given by φ) and on the fiber over $*$, which are compatible on their intersection $A \subset \pi^{-1}(*)$. This can instead be defined as pointed X-bundles with structure group $\mathrm{Diff}(X,A)$, the group of diffeomorphisms $X \to X$ each of which fixes a neighborhood of A pointwise, or equivalently, as X-bundles corresponding to a pointed classifying map from a pointed space to $B\mathrm{Diff}(X,A)$. The main objects in this paper are $(D^d, \partial D^d)$-bundles, or (D^d,∂)-bundles for short.

Studying a (D^d,∂)-bundle is equivalent to studying a (S^d, U_∞)-bundle, where $S^d = \mathbb{R}^d \cup \{\infty\}$ and U_∞ is a small d-ball about ∞, and we will often consider the latter instead. More explicitly, a (D^d,∂)-bundle over B can be canonically extended to an S^d-bundle by attaching a trivial bundle over B with fiber the disk $\{x \in S^d = \mathbb{R}^d \cup \{\infty\} \mid |x| \geq 1\}$, along the boundaries where the bundles are trivialized.

2.1.2. *Framed* (X,A)-*bundle.* Now suppose that TX is trivial. We fix a trivialization $\tau\colon TX \overset{\cong}{\to} \mathbb{R}^{\dim X} \times X$, which we think as a standard one. For an X-bundle $\pi\colon E \to B$, let $T^vE := \operatorname{Ker} d\pi$, that is, the linear subbundle of TE whose fiber over $z \in E$ is the subspace $\operatorname{Ker}(d\pi_z\colon T_zE \to T_{\pi(z)}B) \subset T_zE$. Suppose that a Riemannian metric on T^vE is given. A *vertical framing* on T^vE is a trivialization $T^vE \overset{\cong}{\to} \mathbb{R}^{\dim X} \times E$. For an (X,A)-bundle, we consider a vertical framing that agrees with the standard one τ on $\varphi(B\times A)\cup \pi^{-1}(*) = (B\times A)\cup\pi^{-1}(*)$, where φ is the map in (2.1). We call such a framed bundle a *pointed framed bundle*.

2.1.3. *Classifying space for framed* (X,A)-*bundles.* Let $\mathrm{Fr}(X,A;\tau)$ be the space of framings on X that agree with τ on A, equipped with the topology as the subspace of the section space of the principal $GL_d(\mathbb{R})$-bundle over X associated to TX, which is also known as the oriented orthonormal frame bundle. Then $\mathrm{Fr}(X,A;\tau)$ is naturally a left $\mathrm{Diff}(X,A)$-space by $g\cdot\sigma = \sigma\circ(dg)^{-1}$ for $g \in \mathrm{Diff}(X,A), \sigma\in \mathrm{Fr}(X,A;\tau)$. We set

$$\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(X,A;\tau) := E\mathrm{Diff}(X,A) \times_{\mathrm{Diff}(X,A)} \mathrm{Fr}(X,A;\tau).$$

This is a fiber bundle over $B\mathrm{Diff}(X,A)$ with fiber

$$\mathrm{Fr}(X,A;\tau) \simeq \mathrm{Map}((X,A),(GL_d(\mathbb{R}),\mathrm{id})).$$

This homotopy equivalence depends on the choice of τ. Then $\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(X,A;\tau)$ is the classifying space for pointed framed (X,A)-bundles in the sense that there is a natural bijection between $[(B,*),(\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(X,A;\tau),*)]$ with the set of isomorphism classes of framed (X, A)-bundle over B. Since there is a (pointed) homotopy equivalence $\mathrm{Fr}(D^d, \partial D^d; \tau) \simeq \Omega^d SO_d$, we have a fiber sequence

$$\Omega^d SO_d \to \widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d, \partial; \tau) \to B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial). \tag{2.2}$$

2.2. **Graph complex.** We recall the notion of Kontsevich's graph complex given in [Kon] relevant to even dimensional manifolds.

2.2.1. *Space of graphs.* By a *graph* we mean a finite connected graph where the valence of every vertex is at least 3. For a graph Γ with v vertices and e edges, a *label* is a choice of bijections $\nu\colon \{\text{vertices of } \Gamma\} \to \{1, 2, \ldots, v\}$ and $\mu\colon \{\text{edges of } \Gamma\} \to \{1, 2, \ldots, e\}$. We identify two labelled graphs related by a label preserving graph isomorphism. Let $\mathscr{L}^{\text{even}}_{v,e}$ be the set of all labelled graphs (Γ, ν, μ) with v vertices and e edges with no multiple edges and no self-loops. An *orientation* of Γ is a choice of an orientation of the real vector space

$$\mathbb{R}^{\{\text{edges of } \Gamma\}}.$$

A label μ on edges of a graph Γ canonically determines an orientation of Γ, which we denote by $o(\Gamma, \mu)$. In this way, we consider a labelled graph also as an oriented graph. Let $V^{\text{even}}_{v,e}$ be the vector space over $\mathbb{Q}$ generated by labelled graphs (Γ, ν, μ) with v vertices and e edges, modulo the relations

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{(i)} & (\Gamma, \nu', \mu') = -(\Gamma, \nu, \mu) & \text{if } \mu' \text{ and } \mu \text{ differ by an odd permutation,} \\ \text{(ii)} & (\Gamma, \nu, \mu) = 0 & \text{if } \Gamma \text{ has a self-loop.} \end{array} \tag{2.3}$$

It follows from the relation (i) that (Γ, ν, μ) is zero in $V^{\text{even}}_{v,e}$ if it has a pair of vertices with multiple edges between them. The equivalence class of (Γ, ν, μ) in $V^{\text{even}}_{v,e}$ without self-loop bijectively corresponds to the oriented graph $(\Gamma, o(\Gamma, \mu))$ considered modulo the relation $(\Gamma, -o) = -(\Gamma, o)$. We will omit ν, μ from the notation of labelled graph, and use the same notation Γ for the equivalence class of $((\Gamma, \nu, \mu), o(\Gamma, \mu))$ in $V^{\text{even}}_{v,e}$ to avoid complicated notations .

2.2.2. *Graph complex.* We set

$$\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}} = \bigoplus_{v,e} V^{\text{even}}_{v,e}.$$

As in [BNM, Definition 3.6], we impose a bigrading on $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}$ by the "degree" $k = e - v = -\chi(\Gamma) = b_1(\Gamma) - 1$, and the "excess" $\ell = 2e - 3v$‡. We denote by $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{\ell,k}$ the subspace of $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}$ of excess ℓ and degree k, and by $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{\ell}$ (resp. $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{*,k}$) the direct sum $\bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{\ell,k}$ (resp. $\bigoplus_{\ell \geq 0} \mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{\ell,k}$). We set $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{-1} = 0$. The graded vector space $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}$ is made into a chain complex by the differential $\delta\colon \mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{\ell} \to \mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{\ell+1}$ defined on an element represented by a labelled graph $\Gamma = (\Gamma, \nu, \mu) \in \mathscr{L}^{\text{even}}_{v,e}$ with the orientation $o = o(\Gamma, \mu)$ as

$$\delta(\Gamma, o) := \sum_{\substack{i\colon \text{edge} \\ \text{of } \Gamma}} (\Gamma/i, o[i]),$$

where Γ/i is the labelled graph obtained from Γ by contracting the edge i, equipped with the induced label: if the endpoints of the edge i are j_0, j_1 with $j_0 < j_1$, then the set of vertices of Γ/i is labelled by shifting the labels $\{j_1 + 1, j_1 + 2, \ldots, v\}$ in

‡In [BNM], $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}$ is denoted by ${}^{bc}C$, and $\mathscr{G}^{\text{even}}_{\ell,k}$ is denoted by ${}^{bc}C^{\ell}_{k}$.

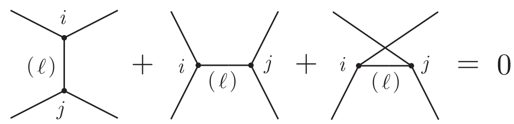

FIGURE 1. IHX relation. Each term is the equivalence class in $\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}$ of a labelled graph.

$\{1,\ldots,v\}-\{j_1\}$ by -1, the set of edges of Γ/i is labelled by shifting the labels $\{i+1,i+2,\ldots,e\}$ in $\{1,\ldots,e\}-\{i\}$ by -1. The orientation on Γ/i, denoted by $o[i]$, induced from an orientation o of Γ is determined by the rule

$$i\wedge o[i]=o \tag{2.4}$$

as an element of the vector space $\bigwedge^e\mathbb{R}^{\{\text{edges of }\Gamma\}}$. Even if $o=o(\Gamma,\mu)$, the induced orientation $o[i]$ may be either the orientation $o(\Gamma/i)$ determined by the labels on Γ/i or its reverse $-o(\Gamma/i)$. It follows from $(o[i])[j]=-(o[j])[i]$ that $\delta\circ\delta=0$. The chain complex $(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}},\delta)$ is a version of Kontsevich's graph complex in [Kon]. The "graph cohomology" is defined by

$$H^\ell(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})=\frac{\mathrm{Ker}\,(\delta\colon \mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_\ell\to\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{\ell+1})}{\mathrm{Im}\,(\delta\colon \mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{\ell-1}\to\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{\ell})}.$$

Note that δ preserves the degree and thus $H^\ell(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})=\bigoplus_{k\geq 0}H^\ell(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{*,k})$, and we set $H^{\ell,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})=H^\ell(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{*,k})$.

We will also consider the dual chain complex $(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}},\delta^*)$, which is defined by identifying $\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_\ell$ with $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_\ell,\mathbb{Q})$ by the canonical basis given by graphs, and by letting δ^* be the dual of δ. The "graph homology"[§] is defined by

$$H_\ell(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})=\frac{\mathrm{Ker}\,(\delta^*\colon \mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_\ell\to\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{\ell-1})}{\mathrm{Im}\,(\delta^*\colon \mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{\ell+1}\to\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{\ell})}.$$

2.2.3. *The 0-th graph (co)homology.* Since $\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{-1}=0$, we have

$$H^0(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})=\mathrm{Ker}\,(\delta\colon\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_0\to\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_1),\quad H_0(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})=\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_0/\delta^*(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_1),$$

where $\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_0$ is the subspace of trivalent graphs. It follows from the definition of δ^* that $\delta^*(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_1)$ is spanned by the IHX relation shown in Figure 1. We set $H_{\ell,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})=H_\ell(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{*,k})$ and

$$\mathscr{A}^{\mathrm{even}}_k:=H_{0,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})=\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{0,k}/\mathrm{IHX}.$$

Any class in $H^0(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})$ can be obtained in the following way. Let $\mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{even}}_k=\mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{even}}_{2k,3k}$ be the set of all labelled trivalent graphs with $2k$ vertices and with no multiple edges and no self-loops, and let

$$\zeta_k:=\sum_{\Gamma\in\mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{even}}_k}\Gamma\otimes\Gamma\in\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{0,k}\otimes\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{0,k}.$$

It is obvious that any element $\gamma\in\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{0,k}$ can be represented as

$$\gamma=(W\otimes\mathrm{id})\zeta_k=\sum_{\Gamma\in\mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{even}}_k}W(\Gamma)\Gamma$$

[§]In [Wi], the complex $(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}},\delta^*)$ is denoted by GC_d.

for some linear map $W\colon \mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}} \to \mathbb{Q}$. Since we have

$$(\mathrm{id}\otimes\delta)\zeta_k = \sum_{\Gamma\in\mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}} \Gamma\otimes\delta\Gamma = \sum_{\Gamma'} \delta^*\Gamma'\otimes\Gamma' \in \mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}}\otimes\mathscr{G}_{1,k}^{\mathrm{even}},$$

where the sum of Γ' is over all generating labelled graphs in $\mathscr{G}_{1,k}^{\mathrm{even}}$, it follows that $\delta\gamma = 0$ if and only if $W(\delta^*(\mathscr{G}_{1,k}^{\mathrm{even}})) = 0$, or equivalently, W factors through a linear map $\overline{W}\colon \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \to \mathbb{Q}$. Hence any class $[\gamma] \in H^{0,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})$ can be written uniquely as

$$[\gamma] = (\overline{W}\otimes\mathrm{id})([\cdot]\otimes\mathrm{id})\zeta_k$$

for some linear map $\overline{W}\colon \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \to \mathbb{Q}$. We define

$$\widetilde{\zeta}_k := \frac{1}{(2k)!(3k)!}([\cdot]\otimes\mathrm{id})\zeta_k = \frac{1}{(2k)!(3k)!}\sum_{\Gamma\in\mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}} [\Gamma]\otimes\Gamma \in \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}}\otimes\mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}}, \tag{2.5}$$

which can be considered as the universal class in $H^{0,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}};\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}})$. The reason for the coefficients $\frac{1}{(2k)!(3k)!}$ in the formula of $\widetilde{\zeta}_k$ is just to avoid a coefficient in the right hand side of Theorem 3.10(3).

Remark 2.1. It is an easy exercise to see that $\mathscr{A}_1^{\mathrm{even}} = 0$, and $\mathscr{A}_2^{\mathrm{even}}$ is 1-dimensional and generated by the class of the complete graph W_4 on four vertices with some labels. That W_4 represents a nontrivial class in $\mathscr{A}_2^{\mathrm{even}}$ is a special case of [CGP, Example 2.5]. One may also easily check that $\mathscr{A}_3^{\mathrm{even}} = 0$. The dimensions of $\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$ for $4 \leq k \leq 9$ are computed in [BNM] as in the following table (${}^{bc}H_k^0$ in the notation of [BNM] is $H^{0,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})$, so that $\dim \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} = \dim {}^{bc}H_k^0$).

k	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$\dim \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

A lot more is known about $H_*(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}})$, e.g. lower bounds through [Br, Wi] and the Euler characteristics ([WZ]). More computations can be found in [BW].

2.3. **Compactification of configuration spaces.** The reader who is familiar with the real Fulton–MacPherson compactification of the configuration space given in [AS, Kon, BTa] may skip or read briefly this subsection.

2.3.1. *Differential geometric analogue of the Fulton–MacPherson compactification due to Axelrod–Singer and Kontsevich.* Let X be a manifold without boundary. The configuration space of labelled tuples of n points on X is

$$C_n(X) = \{(x_1,\ldots,x_n)\in X^n \mid x_i\neq x_j \text{ if } i\neq j\}.$$

For a subset Λ of $N = \{1,2,\ldots,n\}$, we consider the blow-up $B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$, where $\Delta(\Lambda)\subset X^\Lambda$ denotes the small diagonal $\{(x,\ldots,x)\in X^\Lambda \mid x\in X\}$. Roughly, the blowing up of X^Λ along $\Delta(\Lambda)$ replaces $\Delta(\Lambda)$ with its normal sphere bundle $SN\Delta(\Lambda)$. See Appendix B for more information about blow-ups. Let $C_\Lambda(X)\subset X^\Lambda$ denote the configuration space of points labelled by Λ, analogously defined by replacing N with Λ in the above definition of $C_n(X)$. There is a natural map $C_\Lambda(X)\to B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$ into the interior of $B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$. By precomposing the forgetful map $C_n(X) \to C_\Lambda(X)$, a map $i_\Lambda\colon C_n(X) \to B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$ is defined. The inclusion $C_n(X) \to X^n$ and the maps i_Λ give an embedding

$$C_n(X) \to X^n \times \prod_{|\Lambda|\geq 2} B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda). \tag{2.6}$$

Then the space $\overline{C}_n(X)$ is defined to be the closure of the image of this map. The following properties are proved in [FM, AS] (see also Theorem 4.4, Propositions 1.4, 6.1 of [Si])[¶].

Proposition 2.2 (Fulton–MacPherson, Axelrod–Singer). (1) *$\overline{C}_n(X)$ is a manifold with corners.*
(2) *If X is compact, so is $\overline{C}_n(X)$.*
(3) *The forgetful map $C_m(X) \to C_n(X)$ for $m > n$ which forgets the last $m-n$ factors extends to a smooth map $\overline{C}_m(X) \to \overline{C}_n(X)$. The same is true for other choices of the $m-n$ factors.*

The structure of manifold with corners on $\overline{C}_n(X)$ can be obtained from X^n by a sequence of blow-ups, as follows.

Lemma 2.3 ([DP, §4], [Li, §4.2], [KuTh], [Les4, Ch.8]). *Let $r > 2$ and $\overline{C}_n^{(r)}(X)$ be the closure of the image of the embedding*

$$\iota_r\colon C_n(X) \to X^n(r) = X^n \times \prod_{|\Lambda|\geq r} B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$$

defined similarly as (2.6). Then $\overline{C}_n^{(r-1)}(X)$ can be obtained from $\overline{C}_n^{(r)}(X)$ by a sequence of blow-ups:

$$\overline{C}_n^{(r)}(X) = M_0 \leftarrow M_1 \leftarrow M_2 \leftarrow \cdots \leftarrow M_N = \overline{C}_n^{(r-1)}(X),$$

where each M_ℓ is a manifold with corners and each step $M_\ell \leftarrow M_{\ell+1}$ is the blow-up along a submanifold of M_ℓ of codimension $d(r-2)$ that is strata-transversal to the boundary. Thus $\overline{C}_n(X) = \overline{C}_n^{(2)}(X)$ can be obtained from X^n by a sequence of blow-ups.

We will also use the following important property of $\overline{C}_n(X)$ given in [Si, Corollaries 4.5, 4.9].

Proposition 2.4 (Sinha). (1) *The inclusion $C_n(X) \to \overline{C}_n(X)$ to the interior is a homotopy equivalence.*
(2) *The diagonal action of* $\mathrm{Diff}(X)$ *on $C_n(X)$ extends to an action on $\overline{C}_n(X)$.*

In [Si], there are also explicit charts near the boundary (and corners) of $\overline{C}_n(X)$. The following is a compactification of $C_n(\mathbb{R}^d)$, given in [BTa].

[¶]More precisely, Proposition 2.2 (3) was proved in [FM, §3] for nonsingular algebraic varieties over algebraically closed fields by constructing $\overline{C}_{n+1}(X) \to \overline{C}_n(X)$ by a sequence of blow-ups. In [AS, Kon], an analogue of the construction of [FM] was given for differentiable manifolds. That the construction of [Si] for $X = \mathbb{R}^m$ is canonically diffeomorphic to that of [AS] (given via (2.6)) follows by an analogue of [FM, Corollary 4.1a] and since an image in $X^n \times S^k$ for the fiber S^k of the sphere bundle $\partial B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$ over $\Delta(\Lambda)$ with canonical trivialization recovers a unique lift in $X^n \times B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$.

Definition 2.5. For $S^d = \mathbb{R}^d \cup \{\infty\}$, we define the space $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$ to be the preimage of $\{\infty\}$ under the map $\rho^{n+1}\colon \overline{C}_{n+1}(S^d) \to S^d$ induced by the projection $(x_1,\ldots,x_{n+1}) \mapsto x_{n+1}$.

Lemma 2.6. *The map $\rho^{n+1}\colon \overline{C}_{n+1}(S^d) \to S^d$ is a fiber bundle such that the fiber $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$ is a manifold with corners.*

Proof. The closure $\overline{C}_{n+1}(S^d)$ of $C_{n+1}(S^d)$ in $X^{n+1} \times \prod_{\substack{\Lambda\subset\{1,2,\ldots,n+1\}\\ |\Lambda|\geq 2}} B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$ is the fiberwise closure of the $C_n(\mathbb{R}^d)\times\{\infty\}$-bundle $C_{n+1}(S^d) \to S^d$. That the closure of the fiber is a manifold with corners is analogous to Lemma 2.3. □

An example of the construction of the compactification $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ of $C_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is given in §2.3.4.

2.3.2. *Codimension 1 strata.* We give a description of the codimension 1 strata of $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$, following [AS, Kon, BTa, Si, Les4]. We refer the reader to these references for details. By the definition of $\overline{C}_n(X)$ given above and by Lemma 2.3, the codimension 1 strata of $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$ corresponds to the boundaries of the factors $B\ell_{\Delta(\Lambda)}(X^\Lambda)$ in (2.6). Thus the set of codimension 1 strata of $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$ can be parametrized by subsets $\Lambda \subset N\cup\{\infty\}$ with $|\Lambda|\geq 2$. Now we set $X = S^d$, $X^\circ = S^d - \{\infty\} = \mathbb{R}^d$, though the description below is also valid when X is an almost parallelizable closed d-manifold, i.e. a closed d-manifold such that the tangent bundle of the complement X° of a point $\infty \in X$ has a trivialization.

Definition 2.7.
(1) Let S_Λ be the codimension 1 stratum of $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$ corresponding to Λ.
(2) For a finite dimensional real vector space W and an integer $r\geq 2$, let $C_r^*(W)$ be the quotient of $C_r(W)$ by the subgroup of affine transformations in W generated by the diagonal actions of translations and multiplication by positive real number‖. The space $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ can be identified with the subspace of $C_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ of $(y_1,\ldots,y_r)$ characterized by
$$|y_1|^2+\cdots+|y_{r-1}|^2 = 1, \quad y_r = 0. \tag{2.7}$$
(3) The compactification $\overline{C}_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is defined as the closure of $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ in $\overline{C}_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$. This has the structure of a manifold with corners induced from $\overline{C}_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$. The compactification $C_r^*(W)$ is defined analogously.
(4) Let $C_r^*(TX)$ denote the $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$-bundle over X associated to the oriented orthonormal frame bundle over X. The $\overline{C}_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$-bundle $\overline{C}_r^*(TX)$ is defined by replacing the $GL_d(\mathbb{R})$-space $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $\overline{C}_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ in the definition of $C_r^*(TX)$.

The strata S_Λ and its closures can be described explicitly as follows.

When $\infty \notin \Lambda$, let
$$C_{n,\Lambda}(X^\circ) := \{(x_1,\ldots,x_n)\in (X^\circ)^n \mid x_i = x_j\ (i\neq j) \text{ if and only if } i,j\in\Lambda\}.$$
There is a diffeomorphism $C_{n,\Lambda}(X^\circ)\cong C_{n-r+1}(X^\circ)$, where $r=|\Lambda|$. Then the stratum S_Λ of $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$ can be identified with the pullback of the bundle $C_r^*(TX)\to$

‖In [Si], $\overline{C}_n(X)$, $C_r^*(W)$, S_Λ are denoted by $C_n[X]$, $\widetilde{C}_r(W)$, $C_T(X)$, respectively.

X by the projection $C_{n,\Lambda}(X^\circ) \to X$, which forgets the $(n-r)$-factors labelled by $N-\Lambda$ and maps the multiple factors for Λ to $X^\circ \subset X$ by the natural map.

$$S_\Lambda = \lim\left(C_{n,\Lambda}(X^\circ) \longrightarrow X \longleftarrow C_r^*(TX)\right) \tag{2.8}$$

A framing on X° induces a trivialization $C_r^*(TX^\circ) \xrightarrow{\cong} X^\circ \times C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and a diffeomorphism

$$S_\Lambda \cong C_{n,\Lambda}(X^\circ) \times C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

The projection $S_\Lambda \to C_{n,\Lambda}(X^\circ)$ is compatible near S_Λ with the bundle projection $C_n(X^\circ) \to C_{n-r+1}(X^\circ)$, which forgets points with labels in a subset of Λ with $r-1$ elements. Then the closure $\overline{S}_\Lambda$ of S_Λ in $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$ is diffeomorphic to

$$\overline{C}_{n-r+1}(S^d;\infty) \times \overline{C}_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d). \tag{2.9}$$

The case $\infty \in \Lambda$ is similar. In this case, we consider the pullback by the map $C_{N-\Lambda}(X^\circ) \times \{\infty\} \to \{\infty\}$ instead of left map in the diagram in (2.8), where we set $r = |\Lambda|$, so that $|N-\Lambda| = n - |\Lambda - \{\infty\}| = n-r+1$. Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_\Lambda &= C_{N-\Lambda}(X^\circ) \times C_r^*(T_\infty X),\\ \overline{S}_\Lambda &= \overline{C}_{N-\Lambda}(S^d;\infty) \times \overline{C}_r^*(T_\infty X). \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

2.3.3. *Unusual coordinates on $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$.* When $X = S^d$, we will use seemingly unusual coordinates on $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$ ((2.11) below) in which the origin does not correspond to ∞, so that it is consistent with the coordinate system of $C_r(X^\circ) = C_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with respect to the limit. To fix such a coordinate system, we identify $T_\infty X - \{0\}$ with $T_0X - \{0\}$ through the diffeomorphism $\sigma\colon T_\infty X - \{0\} \overset{\cong}{\leftarrow} S^d - \{0,\infty\} \overset{\cong}{\rightarrow} T_0X - \{0\}$ given by the stereographic projections[**]. This is equivariant with respect to the positive scalar multiplications in the sense that $\sigma(ay) = \frac{1}{a}\sigma(y)$ for $a > 0$. The following lemma is evident.[††]

Lemma 2.8. *The diffeomorphism $\sigma\colon T_\infty X - \{0\} \to T_0X - \{0\}$ induces a diffeomorphism $C_{r-1}(\sigma)\colon C_{r-1}(T_\infty X - \{0\}) \to C_{r-1}(T_0X - \{0\})$, equivariant with respect to the positive scalar multiplications $(y_1,\ldots,y_{r-1}) \mapsto (ay_1,\ldots,ay_{r-1})$ and $(y_1,\ldots,y_{r-1}) \mapsto (a^{-1}y_1,\ldots,a^{-1}y_{r-1})$. Hence, under the identification $C_r^*(T_xX) = C_{r-1}(T_xX - \{0\})/$dilations via (2.7), it induces a diffeomorphism*

$$C_r^*(\sigma)\colon C_r^*(T_\infty X) \to C_r^*(T_0X) = C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

We identify $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$ with $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ via the diffeomorphism $C_r^*(\sigma)$. Since $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ can be naturally identified with a subspace of $C_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ as in Definition 2.7 (2), we

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[**]See e.g., [Kos, Ch.I-(1.2)]. In the notation of [Kos], σ is $h_+ \circ h_-^{-1}$ and by the formula for $h_\pm$, it follows that $\sigma(y) = \frac{y}{|y|^2}$. This identification can be visualized by considering $S^d - \{0,\infty\}$ as an S^{d-1}-family of geodesic arcs between 0 and ∞, so that a linear half-ray from the origin in T_0X corresponds to another linear half-ray to the origin in $T_\infty X$.

[††]Lemma 2.8 is also valid for almost parallelizable closed d-manifold X with a framing τ_{X° on X° such that there is a small ball U_∞ about $\infty \in S^d$ and a diffeomorhism $U'_\infty \to U_\infty$ from a small neighborhood U'_∞ of $\infty \in X$ sending τ_{X° to the restriction of the standard framing on $\mathbb{R}^d$.

obtain the following explicit coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned} &C_r^*(T_\infty X)\\ &= \{(y_1,\ldots,y_{r-1})\in(\mathbb{R}^d-\{0\})^{r-1} \mid |y_1|^2+\cdots+|y_{r-1}|^2=1,\ y_i\neq y_j \text{ if } i\neq j\}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

The right hand side is identified with $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ by considering the last one y_r in the r points is restrained at the origin (as in (2.7)). Intuitively, $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$ can be considered as the space of "macroscopic" configurations, and the last point $y_r=0$ in $C_r^*(T_\infty X)=C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)\subset C_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ as a factor in (2.10) plays the role of the limit point where the non-infinite $n-r+1$ points from $N-\Lambda$ gather together. This is the alternative of putting the infinity at the origin. These coordinates will be used in Lemma 2.10 and in the derivation of (E.8).

Remark 2.9. The coordinates (2.11) obtained via the identification by $C_r^*(\sigma)$ look unusual but natural when taking relative directions. For example, we fix points $x,x'\in\mathbb{R}^d-\{0\}$, $x\neq x'$, and consider a smooth path $a\colon[1,\infty)\to(S^d)^{\times 3}$ given by $t\mapsto(tx,tx',\infty)$, which converges to (∞,∞,∞) as $t\to\infty$. Taking the unit direction $(x_1,x_2,\infty)\mapsto\frac{x_2-x_1}{|x_2-x_1|}\in S^{d-1}$ on the path a gives a map $\phi_a\colon[1,\infty)\to S^{d-1}$, which is a constant map in this case. If we consider $C_2(\mathbb{R}^d)\times\{\infty\}$ as a subset of $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$, the path a can be extended to a path $\bar{a}\colon[1,\infty]\to\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ such that $\bar{a}(\infty)\in S_{\{1,2,\infty\}}=C_3^*(T_\infty X)$. With the coordinates (2.11), the limit point $\bar{a}(\infty)$ agrees with (x,x') up to a scalar multiplication and ϕ_a can be extended to $[1,\infty]\to S^{d-1}$ by the same formula $\frac{x_2-x_1}{|x_2-x_1|}$.

The coordinate description (2.11) of $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$ also allows us to consider it as a subspace of $C_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ by mapping $(y_1,\ldots,y_{r-1})$ to $(y_1,\ldots,y_{r-1},0)$ and hence as a subspace of $\overline{C}_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Then the compactification $\overline{C}_r^*(T_\infty X)$ can be obtained by the closure of $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$ in $\overline{C}_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$. This is compatible with the compactification of $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$ obtained by identifying $T_\infty X$ with $\mathbb{R}^d$ and $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$ with $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)\subset\overline{C}_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ in a usual way.

2.3.4. *Example: the case of two points.* We describe the structure of a manifold with corners on $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$, following [BTa, Section III] and [Les1, §3]. The compactification $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ can be obtained by the closure of the embedding

$$\begin{aligned} \iota'\colon C_2(X^\circ)\to X^2&\times B\ell_{\Delta(\{1,2,\infty\})}(X^2\times\{\infty\})\\ &\times B\ell_{\Delta(\{1,\infty\})}(X\times\{\infty\})\times B\ell_{\Delta(\{2,\infty\})}(X\times\{\infty\})\times B\ell_{\Delta(\{1,2\})}(X^2), \end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

where $B\ell_{\Delta(\{1,2,\infty\})}(X^2\times\{\infty\})\cong B\ell_{\{(\infty,\infty)\}}(X^2)$, $B\ell_{\Delta(\{i,\infty\})}(X\times\{\infty\})\cong B\ell_{\{\infty\}}(X)$. We claim that $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ is obtained from $X^2\times\{\infty\}$ by the sequence of blow-ups along the strata $\Delta_{\{1,2,\infty\}}\subset\Delta_{\{1,\infty\}}\cup\Delta_{\{2,\infty\}}\cup\Delta_{\{1,2\}}$. Indeed, there is a sequence of embeddings analogous to (2.6):

$$\begin{tikzcd} C_2(X^\circ) \arrow[d, "\iota_4"'] \arrow[dr, "\iota_3"] \arrow[drr, "\iota_2"] & & \\ X^2=X^2(4) & X^2(3) \arrow[l, "q_3"] & X^2(2) \arrow[l, "q_2"] \end{tikzcd}$$

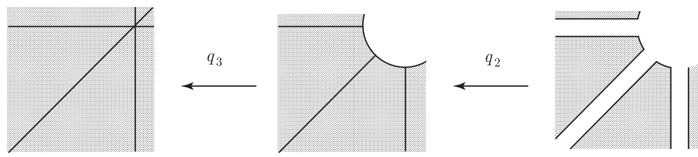


FIGURE 2. $\overline{C}_2^{(4)}(S^d;\infty) \xleftarrow{q_3} \overline{C}_2^{(3)}(S^d;\infty) \xleftarrow{q_2} \overline{C}_2^{(2)}(S^d;\infty)$

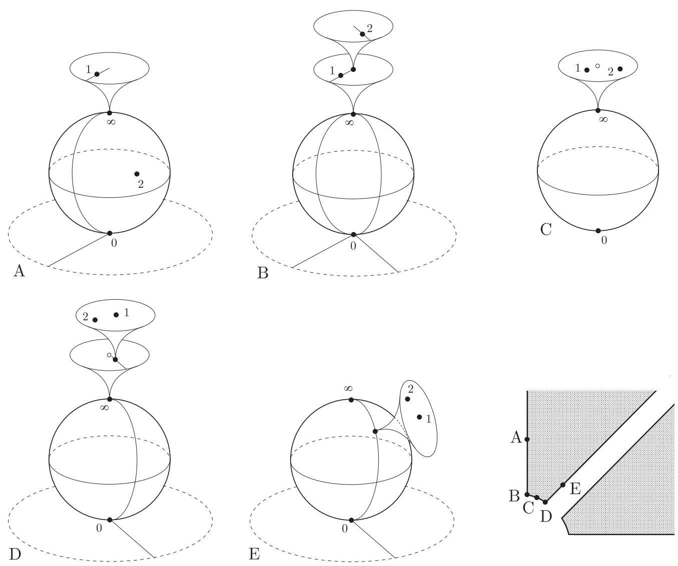


FIGURE 3. Points in $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$. $A \in S_{\{1,\infty\}}$, $B \in \overline{S}_{\{1,\infty\}} \cap \overline{S}_{\{1,2,\infty\}}$, $C \in S_{\{1,2,\infty\}}$, $D \in \overline{S}_{\{1,2,\infty\}} \cap \overline{S}_{\{1,2\}}$, $E \in S_{\{1,2\}}$

where $X^2(3) = X^2 \times B\ell_{\Delta(\{1,2,\infty\})}(X^2 \times \{\infty\})$ and $X^2(2)$ is the right hand side of (2.12). Let $\overline{C}_2^{(r)}(S^d;\infty)$ be the closure of the image of ι_r. It is straightforward that $\overline{C}_2^{(4)}(S^d;\infty) = X^2$ and $\overline{C}_2^{(3)}(S^d;\infty) \cong B\ell_{\{(\infty,\infty)\}}(X^2)$. The next term $\overline{C}_2^{(2)}(S^d;\infty) = \overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ is obtained by blowing up $\overline{C}_2^{(3)}(S^d;\infty)$ along the closures of the preimages of the strata $X^\circ \times \{\infty\}$, $\{\infty\} \times X^\circ$, Δ_{X° under q_3 (see Figure 2).

Let $\overline{S}_{\{1,2,\infty\}}$ be $q_2^{-1}(\partial\overline{C}_2^{(3)}(S^d;\infty))$, and let $\overline{S}_{\{1,\infty\}}$, $\overline{S}_{\{2,\infty\}}$, $\overline{S}_{\{1,2\}}$ be the (closed) codimension 1 strata obtained by the blow-ups along the closures of the preimages of $X^\circ \times \{\infty\}$, $\{\infty\} \times X^\circ$, Δ_{X°, respectively. Then the boundary of $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ is

$$\overline{S}_{\{1,2,\infty\}} \cup \overline{S}_{\{1,\infty\}} \cup \overline{S}_{\{2,\infty\}} \cup \overline{S}_{\{1,2\}},$$

where the pieces are glued together along the strata of $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ of codimension ≥ 2. The product structures (2.9) and (2.10) for this case can be given directly as follows.

(1) The stratum $\overline{S}_{\{1,2,\infty\}} = \overline{C}_3^*(T_\infty X)$ is the blow-up of $\partial\overline{C}_2^{(3)}(S^d;\infty) = S^{2d-1} = \{(y_1,y_2) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^2 \mid |y_1|^2+|y_2|^2 = 1\}$ along the codimension d submanifold $D = (\{y_1=0\}\cup\{y_2=0\}\cup\{y_1=y_2\})\cap S^{2d-1}$.
(2) The stratum $\overline{S}_{\{1,\infty\}}$ is $\partial B\ell_{\{0\}}(T_\infty X)\times\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty) = \overline{C}_2^*(T_\infty X)\times\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)$.
(3) The stratum $\overline{S}_{\{2,\infty\}}$ is $\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)\times\partial B\ell_{\{0\}}(T_\infty X) = \overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)\times\overline{C}_2^*(T_\infty X)$.
(4) The stratum $\overline{S}_{\{1,2\}}$ is $\Delta_{\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)}\times\partial B\ell_{\{(0,0)\}}((T_{(0,0)}\Delta_{\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)})^\perp) = \Delta_{\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)}\times \overline{C}_2^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$, where we denote by $\Delta_{\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)}$ the closure of $\Delta_{S^d-\{\infty\}}$ in $B\ell_{\{(\infty,\infty)\}}(X^2)$, by the canonical identification $(T_{(0,0)}\Delta_{\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)})^\perp = T_0\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty) = \mathbb{R}^d$. Recall the identification $N\Delta_X = (T\Delta_X)^\perp$ with TX from §1.5 (a).

Lemma 2.10 ([BTa, p.5266–5267], [Les1, §3.2])**.** *The smooth map $\phi\colon C_2(\mathbb{R}^d)\to S^{d-1}$ defined by*

$$\phi(x_1,x_2) = \frac{x_2-x_1}{|x_2-x_1|}$$

extends to a smooth map $\overline{\phi}\colon \overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)\to S^{d-1}$. The extension $\overline{\phi}$ on the boundary of $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ is explicitly given as follows[‡‡]*:*

(1) *On the stratum $\overline{S}_{\{1,2,\infty\}} = B\ell_D(\{(y_1,y_2)\in(\mathbb{R}^d)^2 \mid |y_1|^2+|y_2|^2=1\})$, $\overline{\phi} = \phi'\circ\overline{i}$, where $\overline{i}\colon \overline{S}_{\{1,2,\infty\}}\to\overline{C}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is the map induced by the embedding $i: S_{\{1,2,\infty\}} = C_3^*(T_\infty X)\to C_2(\mathbb{R}^d-\{0\})$ given by (2.11), and $\phi'\colon\overline{C}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)\to S^{d-1}$ is the smooth extension of ϕ defined by the coordinates of the blow-up (Lemma B.2(3)).*
(2) *On the stratum $\overline{S}_{\{1,\infty\}}$, $\overline{\phi}$ is the composition*

$$\overline{S}_{\{1,\infty\}} = \overline{C}_2^*(T_\infty X)\times\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty) \xrightarrow{p_1} \overline{C}_2^*(T_\infty X) \xrightarrow[\cong]{-\phi'} S^{d-1}. \tag{2.13}$$

(3) *On the stratum $\overline{S}_{\{2,\infty\}}$, $\overline{\phi}$ is the composition*

$$\overline{S}_{\{2,\infty\}} = \overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)\times\overline{C}_2^*(T_\infty X) \xrightarrow{p_2} \overline{C}_2^*(T_\infty X) \xrightarrow[\cong]{\phi'} S^{d-1}. \tag{2.14}$$

(4) *On the stratum $\overline{S}_{\{1,2\}}$, $\overline{\phi}$ is the composition*

$$\overline{S}_{\{1,2\}} = \Delta_{\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)}\times\overline{C}_2^*(\mathbb{R}^d) \xrightarrow{p_2} \overline{C}_2^*(\mathbb{R}^d) \xrightarrow[\cong]{\phi'} S^{d-1}. \tag{2.15}$$

In each case of (1)–(4), we take a projection to the space of ‘limit configurations’: $\overline{C}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $\overline{C}_2^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ etc., that is a subspace of $\overline{C}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, then take the relative direction from the first point y_1 to the second point y_2. In (2), y_2 (in the limit configuration of $\overline{C}_2^*(T_\infty X)$) is assumed to be at the origin, so the relative direction from y_1 to $y_2=0$ agrees with $-\phi'$. In (3), y_1 is assumed to be at the origin, so the relative direction from $y_1=0$ to y_2 agrees with ϕ'. In (4), the orthogonal projection $T_xX\times T_xX\to N_{(x,x)}\Delta_X\to\mathbb{R}^d$ is the limit of $(x_1,x_2)\mapsto(\frac{x_1-x_2}{2},\frac{x_2-x_1}{2})\mapsto\frac{x_2-x_1}{2}$ as in (E.11), the relative direction for the limit configuration agrees with ϕ'.

2.4. **Propagator.** We need to fix a certain closed form on the configuration space called a propagator to define the configuration space integrals.

[‡‡] One can observe that the signs of $\pm\phi'$ are correct by drawing a picture for $d=1$. Note that we have chosen unusual coordinates on $C_r^*(T_\infty X)$ as in §2.3.3.

2.4.1. *de Rham Cohomology of* $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$. Throughout this subsection, we assume $d>1$. Since $\overline{\phi}\colon \overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)\to S^{d-1}$ is a homotopy equivalence, it follows that

$$H^*(\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)) = H^*(S^{d-1}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{R} & (*=0,d-1), \\ 0 & (\text{otherwise}). \end{cases}$$

In particular, $H^{d-1}(\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty))$ is generated by $[\bar{\phi}^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}]$, where

$$\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}} = \frac{1}{\mathrm{vol}(S^{d-1})}\sum_{i=1}^{d}(-1)^{i-1}x_i dx_1\wedge\cdots\wedge dx_{i-1}\wedge dx_{i+1}\wedge\cdots\wedge dx_d, \quad (2.16)$$

and $\mathrm{vol}(S^{d-1})$ is the volume of the unit sphere S^{d-1} in $\mathbb{R}^d$, so that $\int_{S^{d-1}}\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}} = 1$. By Poincaré–Lefschetz duality,

$$H^*(\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty),\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)) \cong H_{2d-*}(S^{d-1}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{R} & (*=d+1,2d), \\ 0 & (\text{otherwise}). \end{cases}$$

The following lemma is evident from the explicit formula (2.16).

Lemma 2.11. *Let* $\iota\colon S^{d-1}\to S^{d-1}$ *be the involution* $\iota(x)=-x$. *Then we have*

$$\iota^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}} = (-1)^d\,\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}.$$

2.4.2. *Propagator in a fiber.* Suppose we are given a framing $\tau\colon T(S^d-\{\infty\})\xrightarrow{\cong}(S^d-\{\infty\})\times\mathbb{R}^d$ on $S^d-\{\infty\}=\mathbb{R}^d$ that agrees with the standard framing τ_0 of $\mathbb{R}^d$ outside a d-ball of finite radius about the origin. Then τ induces a smooth map

$$p(\tau)\colon \partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)\to S^{d-1},$$

which extends the map obtained by restricting $\bar{\phi}$ of Lemma 2.10 to $\overline{S}_{\{1,2,\infty\}}\cup\overline{S}_{\{1,\infty\}}\cup\overline{S}_{\{2,\infty\}}$ and agrees on $\overline{S}_{\{1,2\}}$ with the composition

$$\overline{S}_{\{1,2\}}\xrightarrow{\cong}\Delta_{\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)}\times S^{d-1}\xrightarrow{p_2}S^{d-1},$$

where the first map is induced by τ.

Lemma 2.12 (Propagator in fiber)**.** *Let* τ *be a framing of* $T(S^d-\{\infty\})$ *that is standard near* ∞.

1. *The closed* $(d-1)$*-form* $p(\tau)^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$ *on* $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ *can be extended to a closed form* ω *on* $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ *so that its cohomology class* $[\omega]$ *agrees with* $[\bar{\phi}^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}]$.
2. *For a fixed framing* τ, *the extension* ω *is unique in the sense that for two such extensions* ω *and* ω', *there is a* $(d-2)$*-form* μ *on* $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ *that vanishes on* $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ *such that*

$$\omega'-\omega = d\mu.$$

We call such an extended form a propagator *for* τ.

Proof. The proof is an analogue of [Tau, Lemma 2.1], [BC2, p.2], or [Les1, Lemmas 2.3, 2.4]. The assertion (1) follows immediately from the long exact sequence of the pair

$$0 = H^{d-1}(\overline{C},\partial\overline{C})\to H^{d-1}(\overline{C})\to H^{d-1}(\partial\overline{C})\to H^d(\overline{C},\partial\overline{C}) = 0,$$

where we abbreviate as $\overline{C} = \overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$. Here both $[\omega]$ and $[\bar{\phi}^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}]$ restrict to the same generator of the de Rham cohomology of $* \times S^{d-1} \subset SN\Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}$, their cohomology classes agree. The assertion (2) follows since the difference $\omega' - \omega$ vanishes on $\partial\overline{C}$ and represents 0 of $H^{d-1}(\overline{C}, \partial\overline{C})$, which is the cohomology of the subcomplex of the de Rham complex $\Omega^*_{\mathrm{dR}}(\overline{C})$ of forms that vanish on $\partial\overline{C}$. □

2.4.3. *Propagator in family.* The group $\mathrm{Diff}(S^d, U_\infty)$ acts on $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty) \subset \overline{C}_{n+1}(S^d)$ by extending the diagonal action $g \cdot (x_1, \ldots, x_n) = (g \cdot x_1, \ldots, g \cdot x_n)$ on $C_n(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Namely, $\mathrm{Diff}(S^d, U_\infty)$ acts diagonally on the target space of the embedding ι of (2.6) which induces an automorphism of the subspace $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty) = \mathrm{Closure}\,(\mathrm{Im}\,\iota|_{C_n(\mathbb{R}^d)\times\{\infty\}})$. For a (D^d, ∂)-bundle $\pi\colon E \to B$, we consider the associated $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$-bundle

$$\overline{C}_n(\pi)\colon E\overline{C}_n(\pi) \to B.$$

Its fiberwise restriction to the boundary of the fiber gives the subbundle

$$\overline{C}_n^{\partial}(\pi)\colon \partial^v E\overline{C}_n(\pi) \to B.$$

A vertical framing $\tau_E\colon T^vE \xrightarrow{\cong} E \times \mathbb{R}^d$ induces a smooth map

$$p(\tau_E)\colon \partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi) \to S^{d-1}$$

by applying a similar construction as above in each fiber.

Lemma 2.13 (Propagator in family)**.** *Suppose that B is a manifold.*

(1) *The closed $(d-1)$-form $p(\tau_E)^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$ on $\partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$ can be extended to a closed form ω on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$.*

(2) *For a fixed framing τ_E, the extension ω is unique in the sense that for two such extensions ω and ω', there is a $(d-2)$-form μ on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$ that vanishes on $\partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$ such that*

$$\omega' - \omega = d\mu.$$

We call such an extended form a propagator (in family) *for τ_E.*

Proof. The Leray–Serre spectral sequence of the relative fibration

$$(\overline{C}, \partial\overline{C}) \to (E\overline{C}_2(\pi), \partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)) \to B,$$

has E_2-term $E_2^{p,q} \cong H^p(B; \{H^q(\overline{C}_b, \partial\overline{C}_b)\}_{b\in B})$, where $\{H^q(\overline{C}_b, \partial\overline{C}_b)\}_{b\in B}$ is the local coefficient system on B given by the cohomology of the fiber. Also, we know that $H^q(\overline{C}, \partial\overline{C}) = 0$ for $q < d+1$. Hence we have

$$H^n(E\overline{C}_2(\pi), \partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)) = 0 \text{ for } n < d+1,$$

and the natural map $H^{d-1}(E\overline{C}_2(\pi)) \to H^{d-1}(\partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi))$ is an isomorphism. This implies the assertion (1). The proof of the assertion (2) is the same as Lemma 2.12(2). □

Corollary 2.14. *Suppose that $(\pi\colon E \to B, \tau_E)$ is a framed (D^d, ∂)-bundle over a cobordism B between closed manifolds A_0 and A_1. Suppose given propagators ω_0 and ω_1 for τ_E on $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_0)$ and $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_1)$, respectively. Then there exists a propagator ω for τ_E on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$ that restricts to ω_0 and ω_1 on $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_0)$ and $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_1)$, respectively.*

Proof. We identify a collar neighborhood of B with $A_0\times[0,\varepsilon]\cup A_1\times[1-\varepsilon,1]$ and accordingly identify as $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_0\times[0,\varepsilon])=\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_0)\times[0,\varepsilon]$ and $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_1\times[1-\varepsilon,1])=\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_0)\times[1-\varepsilon,1]$. Then we may pull back ω_0 and ω_1 to $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_0)\times[0,\varepsilon]$ and $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_1)\times[1-\varepsilon,1]$, respectively. Moreover, we assume without loss of generality that τ_E is compatible with these product structures. Let

$$B'=B-\big((A_0\times[0,\varepsilon))\cup(A_1\times(1-\varepsilon,1])\big).$$

By Lemma 2.13(1), there exists a propagator ω_a on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$ for τ_E. By Lemma 2.13(2), there are $(d-2)$-forms μ_0 and μ_1 on the collar neighborhoods such that they vanish on $\partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$, and

$$\omega_0-\omega_a=d\mu_0,\quad \omega_1-\omega_a=d\mu_1$$

where they make sense. We take a smooth function $\chi\colon E\overline{C}_2(\pi)\to[0,1]$ that takes the value 1 on $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(\partial B)$ and takes the value 0 on $\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(B')$. Let μ' be a $(d-2)$-form on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$ extending μ_0 and μ_1, which vanish on $\partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$. We set

$$\omega=\omega_a+d(\chi\mu'),$$

which is well-defined as a smooth closed $(d-1)$-form on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$. As $\chi\mu'$ vanishes on $\partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$, we have $\omega|_{\partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)}=\omega_a|_{\partial^v E\overline{C}_2(\pi)}$ and

$$\omega|_{\overline{C}_2(\pi)^{-1}(A_i)}=\omega_i\quad\text{ for } i=0,1.$$

This completes the proof. □

2.5. **Configuration space integrals.**

2.5.1. *Kontsevich's integral.* Now we assume that d is even and $d\geq 4$. Let $\pi\colon E\to B$ be a (D^d,∂)-bundle over a closed oriented manifold B, equipped with a vertical framing τ_E. Let $\overline{C}_n(\pi)\colon E\overline{C}_n(\pi)\to B$ be the $\overline{C}_n(S^d;\infty)$-bundle associated to π. We take a propagator ω in family $E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$ for τ_E as in Lemma 2.13. Let $\Gamma=(\Gamma,\nu,\mu)\in\mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{even}}_{v,e}$ be a labelled graph with v vertices and e edges. We choose orientations on edges of Γ, namely, make a choice of the order of the two boundary vertices of each edge, or equivalently a choice of orientations of $\mathbb{R}^{\partial e}=\mathbb{R}^{\{v_+,v_-\}}$ for each edge e with boundary vertices v_+,v_-. This choice ρ, which is independent of the labels (ν,μ), determines the projection map

$$\phi_{\rho,i}\colon E\overline{C}_v(\pi)\to E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$$

defined by forgetting the points other than the two points for the labels of the boundary vertices of the edge i, which is smooth by Proposition 2.2.

Definition 2.15. Let d be an even integer such that $d\geq 4$. We set

$$\begin{aligned}\omega(\Gamma,\rho)&:=\bigwedge_{\substack{i\colon\text{edge}\\ \text{of }\Gamma}}\phi_{\rho,i}^*\omega\in\Omega_{\mathrm{dR}}^{(d-1)e}(E\overline{C}_v(\pi)),\\ \omega(\Gamma)&:=\frac{1}{2^e}\sum_\rho\omega(\Gamma,\rho),\\ I(\Gamma)&:=\overline{C}_v(\pi)_*\,\omega(\Gamma)\in\Omega_{\mathrm{dR}}^{(d-1)e-dv}(B),\end{aligned}\tag{2.17}$$

where the sum $\sum_\rho$ is over all possible edge orientations on Γ, and $\overline{C}_v(\pi)_*\colon \Omega_{\mathrm{dR}}^{(d-1)e}(E\overline{C}_v(\pi)) \to \Omega_{\mathrm{dR}}^{(d-1)e-dv}(B)$ denotes the pushforward or integration along the fibers ([BTu, p.61], [GHV, Ch.VII], see also §E.1). This extends linearly to the linear map

$$I\colon \mathscr{G}_{\ell,k}^{\mathrm{even}} \to \Omega_{\mathrm{dR}}^{(d-3)k+\ell}(B),$$

where $k = e - v$, $\ell = 2e - 3v$ as in §2.2.2.

Note that the integral along the fibers (2.17) is convergent since the fiber $\overline{C}_v(S^d;\infty)$ is compact. If the propagator ω happens to be symmetric with respect to the fiber-wise swapping map $E\overline{C}_2(\pi) \to E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$, which exchanges two points in a fiber, then we have $\omega(\Gamma) = \omega(\Gamma,\rho)$ for any choice of ρ.

Theorem 2.16 (Kontsevich [Kon]. Proof in §E)**.** *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$.*

(1) *I is a chain map up to sign, namely,*

$$dI(\Gamma) = (-1)^{(d-3)k+\ell+1} I(\delta\Gamma)$$

for $\Gamma \in \mathscr{G}_{\ell,k}^{\mathrm{even}}$. In particular, if $\gamma \in \mathscr{G}_{\ell,k}^{\mathrm{even}}$ is such that $\delta\gamma = 0$, then $dI(\gamma) = 0$. If γ is such that $\gamma = \delta\eta$, then $I(\gamma) = (-1)^{(d-3)k+\ell+1} dI(\eta)$. Hence I induces a linear map $I_*\colon H^{\ell,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}};\mathbb{Q}) \to H^{(d-3)k+\ell}(B;\mathbb{R})$.

(2) *I_* does not depend on the choice of propagator ω in family for τ_E.*

(3) *I_* is invariant under a homotopy of τ_E.*

(4) *I_* gives characteristic classes of framed (D^d,∂)-bundles, that is, I_* is natural with respect to bundle morphisms of framed (D^d,∂)-bundles, in the sense that the following diagram for a framed bundle map over $f\colon B \to B'$ commutes.*

$$\begin{tikzcd} H^{\ell,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}};\mathbb{Q}) \arrow[r, "I_*"] \arrow[dr, "I_*"'] & H^{(d-3)k+\ell}(B;\mathbb{R}) \\ & H^{(d-3)k+\ell}(B';\mathbb{R}) \arrow[u, "f^*"'] \end{tikzcd}$$

Remark 2.17. When d is odd and at least 3, the construction in Definition 2.15 is also valid if $\mathscr{G}_\ell^{\mathrm{even}}$ is replaced by another version $\mathscr{G}_\ell^{\mathrm{odd}}$, which is defined similarly as $\mathscr{G}_\ell^{\mathrm{even}}$, except that $\mathbb{R}^{\{\text{edges of }\Gamma\}}$ is replaced by $\mathbb{R}^{\{\text{edges of }\Gamma\}} \oplus H^1(\Gamma;\mathbb{R})$ and that the "induced ori" in the definition of δ (§2.2.2) is defined suitably, as in [Kon, p.109]. Theorem 2.16 is true also for d odd. The odd case was studied in [Wa1, Wa2].

Since the universal class $\widetilde{\zeta}_k \in H_{0,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}) \otimes \mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}}$ in (2.5) satisfies $(\mathrm{id}\otimes\delta)\widetilde{\zeta}_k = 0$, it follows from Theorem 2.16 (1) that it gives a class

$$I_*([\widetilde{\zeta}_k]) = \frac{1}{(2k)!(3k)!} \sum_{\Gamma \in \mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}} I(\Gamma)[\Gamma] \in H^{(d-3)k}(B;\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R}). \tag{2.18}$$

Recall that $\mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$ is the set of all labelled trivalent graphs with $2k$ vertices with no multiple edges and no self-loops. When $\dim B = (d-3)k$, the evaluation of this class at the fundamental class of B produces an element of $\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R}$.

Corollary 2.18. *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$. The evaluation of $I_*([\widetilde{\zeta}_k])$ for bundles over closed oriented manifold B of dimension $(d-3)k$ gives well-defined linear maps*

$$Z_k \colon \pi_{(d-3)k}(\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d, \partial; \tau_0)) \otimes \mathbb{R} \to \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R},$$
$$Z_k^{\Omega} \colon \Omega^{SO}_{(d-3)k}(\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d, \partial; \tau_0)) \otimes \mathbb{R} \to \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R}.$$

Furthermore, the real homotopy group $\pi_{(d-3)k}(\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d, \partial; \tau_0)) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ can be replaced with $\pi_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ in the sense that the natural map $\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d, \partial; \tau_0) \to B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)$ induces an isomorphism in $\pi_{(d-3)k}(-) \otimes \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. We consider a framed (D^d, ∂)-bundle over an oriented cobordism B between $(d-3)k$-dimensional manifolds A_0 and A_1. Let $i_q \colon A_q \to B$, $q = 0, 1$, be the inclusion. Since $\zeta = I([\widetilde{\zeta}_k])$ gives a closed $(d-3)k$-form on B with coefficients in $\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$, we have

$$\int_{A_1} i_1^*\zeta - \int_{A_0} i_0^*\zeta = \int_{\partial B} \zeta = \int_B d\zeta = 0$$

by Theorem 2.16 and the Stokes Theorem. This shows the well-definedness of the map. The linearity follows from the linearity of the integrals.

That $\pi_{(d-3)k}(\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d, \partial; \tau_0)) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ can be replaced with $\pi_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ follows since in the long exact sequence for the fibration (2.2) the term $\pi_i(\Omega^d SO_d) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ is zero for $i = (d-3)k, (d-3)k-1$ when d is even, $d \geq 4$, and $k \geq 1$. Indeed, the rational homotopy groups of SO_d for d even are well-known (e.g. [FHT, p.220]):

$$\pi_*(SO_4) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \pi_*(S^3 \times S^3) \otimes \mathbb{Q},$$
$$\pi_*(SO_{2n}) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \pi_*(S^3 \times S^7 \times \cdots \times S^{4n-5} \times S^{2n-1}) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \quad (\text{for } n \geq 3).$$

In particular, the highest i such that $\pi_i(SO_d) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \neq 0$ for d even is $2d-5$ and we have $\{(d-3)k - 1 + d\} - (2d-5) = (d-3)(k-1) + 1 > 0$. $\square$

Remark 2.19. The connecting homomorphism

$$\pi_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)) \otimes \mathbb{R} \to \pi_{(d-3)k-1}(\Omega^d SO_d) \otimes \mathbb{R}$$

is zero when d is even, $d \geq 4$, and $k \geq 1$. On the other hand, without tensoring with $\mathbb{R}$, the group $\pi_i(\Omega^d SO_d)$ may be nontrivial for many i. Thus, it would be natural to ask what the homomorphism

$$\pi_i(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^d, \partial)) \to \pi_{i-1+d}(SO_d)$$

is. Since the elements constructed by graph clasper surgery in §3 admit vertical framings, they are in the kernel of this map. As in earlier versions of this paper, one could define configuration space integrals over $\mathbb{Z}$ or $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{M_k}]$ for some explicit integer M_k in terms of piecewise smooth chains in the infinitesimal configuration spaces $\overline{C}^*_{2k}(V)$ or its quotient by $\mathfrak{S}_{2k}$ associated to a vector bundle V. They might be related to the above question. Nontriviality of the corresponding homomorphism for $\pi_6(B\mathrm{Diff}(D^{11}, \partial))$ is proved in [CSS].

Proof of Proposition 1.4. Let $\pi \colon E \to S^{(d-3)k}$ and $\pi' \colon E' \to S^{(d-3)k}$ be the (D^d, ∂)-bundles corresponding to ξ and ξ', respectively. The involution r induces an isomorphism $r \colon E\overline{C}_n(\pi') \to E\overline{C}_n(\pi)$. For a propagator ω on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$, the pullback

$r^*\omega$ is -1 times a propagator on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi')$ since the restriction of r to a single normal $(d-1)$-sphere over a point of the diagonal Δ_E is orientation reversing. Also, $r_* o(E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi')) = (-1)^{2k} o(E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi))$. Hence we have

$$\int_{E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi')} \omega(\Gamma')_{\pi'} = (-1)^{3k} \int_{E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi')} r^*\omega(\Gamma')_{\pi} = (-1)^{2k}(-1)^{3k} \int_{E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi)} \omega(\Gamma')_{\pi}.$$

□

3. Surgery on graph claspers

In this section, we construct (D^d, ∂)-bundles by an analogue of Goussarov–Habiro's graph-clasper surgery that will be detected by Z_k of Corollary 2.14, and review some fundamental properties of the surgery.

3.1. **Hopf link and Borromean link (e.g.,** [Ma, §3]**).** Graph-clasper surgery is constructed by combining Hopf links and Borromean links. If d is a positive integer and if p, q are integers such that $0 < p, q < d-1$ and $p + q = d - 1$, then the Hopf link is defined as the two-component link $H(p,q)_d \colon S^p \cup S^q \to \mathbb{R}^d$, whose components are given by the inclusions of the following submanifolds

$$\{(t,u,v) \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid |t|^2 + |u|^2 = 1,\ v = 0\},$$
$$\{(t,u,v) \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid |t-1|^2 + |v|^2 = 1,\ u = 0\},$$

where we consider $\mathbb{R}^d = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}^q$. A standard (normal) framing for the Hopf link is given as follows. Let n_1, n_2 be the outward unit normal vector field on the two components $H(p,q)_d(S^p) \subset \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^p \times \{0\}$ and $H(p,q)_d(S^q) \subset \mathbb{R} \times \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^q$, respectively, both codimension 1. Then the normal framings on the two components in $\mathbb{R}^d$ are given by $(n_1, \partial v_1, \ldots, \partial v_q)$, $(n_2, \partial u_1, \ldots, \partial u_p)$, respectively. See §1.4(g) for the convention of normal framing.

If d is a positive integer and if p, q, r are integers such that $0 < p, q, r < d-1, p + q + r = 2d - 3$, then the Borromean link is defined as the three-component link $S^p \cup S^q \cup S^r \to \mathbb{R}^d$, whose components are given by the inclusions of the following submanifolds

$$\begin{aligned} L_1 &= \{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid \tfrac{|y|^2}{4} + |z|^2 = 1,\ x = 0\},\\ L_2 &= \{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid \tfrac{|z|^2}{4} + |x|^2 = 1,\ y = 0\},\\ L_3 &= \{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid \tfrac{|x|^2}{4} + |y|^2 = 1,\ z = 0\},\end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

where we consider $\mathbb{R}^d = \mathbb{R}^{d-p-1} \times \mathbb{R}^{d-q-1} \times \mathbb{R}^{d-r-1}$. We denote by $B(p,q,r)_d$ this link. A standard (normal) framing for the Borromean link is given as follows. Let n_1, n_2, n_3 be the outward unit normal vector field on the three components $L_1 \subset \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{p+1}$, $L_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^{d-p-1} \times \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{d-r-1}$, $L_3 \subset \mathbb{R}^{r+1} \times \{0\}$, respectively. Then the normal framings on the three components in $\mathbb{R}^d$ are given by $(n_1, \partial x_1, \ldots, \partial x_{d-p-1})$, $(n_2, \partial y_1, \ldots, \partial y_{d-q-1})$, $(n_3, \partial z_1, \ldots, \partial z_{d-r-1})$, respectively. The Borromean links have the following significant feature, which is well-known, or can be checked easily from the coordinate description (3.1).

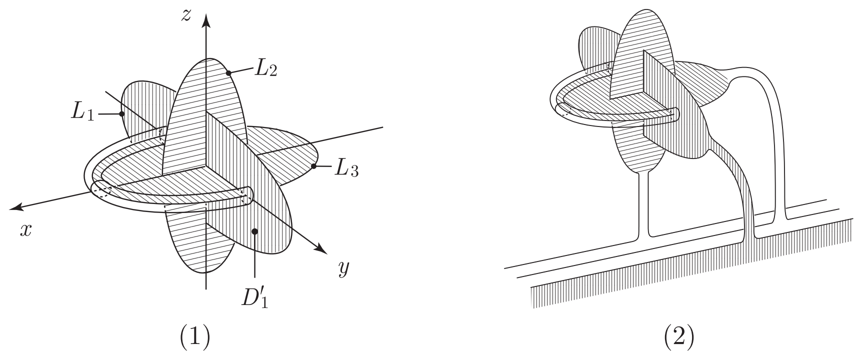


FIGURE 4. (1) The spanning surface D_1' of L_1. (2) Long Borromean link and the spanning surface $\underline{D_1'}$.

Lemma 3.1. *If one of the three components in a Borromean link is removed, then the link consisting of the remaining components can be isotoped into an unlink. Here, the trivializing isotopy can be taken so that it fixes neighborhoods of the points* $0\times(0,\ldots,0,-2)\times 0$, $0\times 0\times(0,\ldots,0,-2)$, $(0,\ldots,0,-2)\times 0\times 0$ *in* $\mathbb{R}^{d-p-1}\times\mathbb{R}^{d-q-1}\times\mathbb{R}^{d-r-1}$ *on the components* L_1, L_2, L_3*, respectively.*

Remark 3.2. (1) We will also call a link that is isotopic to $H(p,q)_d$ (resp. $B(p,q,r)_d$) a Hopf link (resp. a Borromean link). We will use the same symbol $H(p,q)_d$ (resp. $B(p,q,r)_d$) for its isotopic alternative, abusing of notation (like $T(p,q)$, $\Sigma(p,q,r)$ in low-dimensional topology). Similar convention applies to $B(\underline{p},\underline{q},\underline{r})_d$ etc. in Definition 3.6 below.

(2) For each component L_i in the Borromean link, let D_i be the standard spanning disk defined by replacing the '$= 1$' by '≤ 1' in (3.1). The spanning disks D_i have natural coorientations $\partial x_1\wedge\cdots\wedge\partial x_{d-p-1}$, $\partial y_1\wedge\cdots\wedge\partial y_{d-q-1}$, $\partial z_1\wedge\cdots\wedge\partial z_{d-r-1}$, respectively. They determine the orientations of the components of $B(p,q,r)_d$ by the rule (1.1) in §1.4 (l).

The spanning disks D_i have triple intersection at the origin and its intersection number is $+1$. We consider the indices of L_1, L_2, and L_3 are in $\mathbb{Z}_3$. We see that $D_i\cap L_{i+1}=\emptyset$, and $D_i\cap L_{i-1}$ is a sphere, which bounds a disk $\widetilde{D}_{i-1}$ in L_{i-1}. We replace the normal disk bundle to $D_i\cap L_{i-1}$ in D_i with the normal sphere bundle to L_{i-1} restricted to $\widetilde{D}_{i-1}$. This surgery of D_i transforms D_i to a manifold D_i' (Figure 4 (1). See [Tak, §3.3] for a detail). Note that the choice of $\widetilde{D}_{i-1}$ may not be unique, and D_i' may not be uniquely determined, too. Nevertheless, the property of D_i' we use is the following lemma, which is evident from the definition of the Borromean link by (3.1).

Lemma 3.3. (1) *D_i' is a compact submanifold of $\mathbb{R}^d$ bounded by L_i, disjoint from other two link components, and diffeomorphic to $D_i\#(S^u\times S^v)$ for some u,v such that $u+v=\dim L_i+1$. More explicitly,*

$$D_1'\cong D_1\#(S^{d-q-1}\times S^{d-r-1}),\quad D_2'\cong D_2\#(S^{d-p-1}\times S^{d-r-1}),$$
$$D_3'\cong D_3\#(S^{d-p-1}\times S^{d-q-1}).$$

(2) *The normal bundle of* D'_i *is trivial.*
(3) $D'_1 \cap D'_2 \cap D'_3 = D_1 \cap D_2 \cap D_3$ *and the triple intersection number of* D'_1, D'_2, D'_3*, counted with sign, is* $+1$.

Definition 3.4 (Suspension of the Borromean link)**.** The *suspension* of the Borromean link $B(p,q,r)_d$ is the link in $\mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ defined by replacing $z \in \mathbb{R}^{d-r-1}$ in the equations (3.1) for the three components with $z' = (z,t) \in \mathbb{R}^{d-r-1} \times \mathbb{R}$, which is $B(p+1,q+1,r)_{d+1}$ and its intersection with $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{0\}$ is $B(p,q,r)_d$. The normal framing of $B(p,q,r)_d$ extends naturally to $B(p+1,q+1,r)_{d+1}$ by extending the outward unit normal vector fields. By symmetry of the equations (3.1), suspensions for other variables x, y are defined similarly.

Also, the explicit conditions in (3.1) suggest that the "desuspension" is possible whenever two of the p,q,r are at least 2. For example, if $p,q \geq 2$, then that $B(p,q,r)_d$ is the suspension of $B(p-1,q-1,r)_{d-1}$ can be seen by restricting $z = (z',t) \in \mathbb{R}^{d-r-1} = \mathbb{R}^{(d-1)-r-1} \times \mathbb{R}$ to $(z',0)$.

3.2. **Long Borromean link.**

Definition 3.5. For $0 < p,q,r < d$, let $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r, I^d)$ denote the space of strata preserving (Appendix A), normally framed embeddings $f\colon I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r \to I^d$ such that

(1) $f^{-1}(\partial I^d) = \partial(I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r)$, and
(2) f is transversal to the boundary.

We allow components and normal framings on them to be non standard near the boundary, though what we will need later is the subspace of $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r, I^d)$ defined by imposing some boundary conditions. We call an affine embedding $f\colon \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}^d$ or its restriction to $f^{-1}(I^d)$, suitably affine linearly reparametrized so that the restriction is an embedding from $I^p = f^{-1}(I^d)$, a *standard inclusion.* We call an element of $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r, I^d)$ a *(framed) string link*, and call a path in $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r, I^d)$ a *(framed) isotopy* of framed long embeddings.

The subspace of $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r, I^d)$ of framed embeddings such that some framed components are standard near the boundaries, i.e., agree with standard inclusions near the boundaries, is denoted like $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup I^q \cup I^r, I^d)$, where the underlined component(s) is (are) standard near the boundary. Here, we fix a standard inclusion $L_{\mathrm{st}}\colon I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r \to I^d$ given by

$$I^p \overset{\subsetneq}{\to} I^{d-1} \overset{\equiv}{\to} \{p_1\} \times I^{d-1}, I^q \overset{\subsetneq}{\to} I^{d-1} \overset{\equiv}{\to} \{p_2\} \times I^{d-1}, I^r \overset{\subsetneq}{\to} I^{d-1} \overset{\equiv}{\to} \{p_3\} \times I^{d-1}$$

for fixed distinct points $p_1,p_2,p_3 \in (0,1)$, where the inclusion $I^p \overset{\subsetneq}{\to} I^{d-1}$ etc. is given by $(x_1,\ldots,x_p) \mapsto (x_1,\ldots,x_p,\frac{1}{2},\ldots,\frac{1}{2})$ etc. We equip the standard inclusion with the standard normal framing given by the euclidean coordinates. The subspace of $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$ consisting of framed embeddings that are relatively isotopic to the standard inclusion is denoted by $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$.

Definition 3.6 (Long Borromean link)**.** Given a link $L\colon \mathbb{R}^p \cup \mathbb{R}^q \cup \mathbb{R}^r \to \mathbb{R}^d$ consisting of disjoint standard inclusions, and a Borromean link $B(p,q,r)_d$ that is disjoint from L, we join the images of $\mathbb{R}^p$ and S^p, $\mathbb{R}^q$ and S^q, $\mathbb{R}^r$ and S^r, by three mutually disjoint arcs that are also disjoint from components of the links L and of the spanning disks D_i of $B(p,q,r)_d$ except their endpoints. Then replace the arcs with thin tubes $S^{p-1}\times I$, $S^{q-1}\times I$, $S^{r-1}\times I$ to construct connected sums. The result is a long link $B(\underline{p},\underline{q},\underline{r})_d\colon \mathbb{R}^p\cup\mathbb{R}^q\cup\mathbb{R}^r\to\mathbb{R}^d$ with a natural framing F_D in the sense of connected sum of framed submanifolds (e.g., [Kos, Ch.IX,2]).

One may also consider partial connected sum, which joins $B(p,q,r)_d$ to the link L of standard inclusions with less components and denote the resulting embedding by $B(\underline{p},\underline{q},r)_d$ etc. Long Borromean embeddings $I^p\cup I^q\cup I^r\to I^d$ such that the preimage of ∂I^d is $\partial I^p\cup\partial I^q\cup\partial I^r$ can also be defined similarly and we denote them by the same symbols as above. A natural analogue of Lemma 3.1 for the long Borromean link holds. Also a natural analogue of Lemma 3.3 for the long Borromean link holds: For each component $\underline{L_i}$ in the long Borromean link, let $\underline{D_i}$ be the standard spanning disk obtained from D_i by boundary connect-summing the half-cubes

$$\begin{aligned}&\{p_1\}\times I^p\times[0,\tfrac{1}{2}]\times\{(\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2},\dots,\tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-2-p})\},\quad \{p_2\}\times I^q\times[0,\tfrac{1}{2}]\times\{(\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2},\dots,\tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-2-q})\},\\ &\{p_3\}\times I^r\times[0,\tfrac{1}{2}]\times\{(\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2},\dots,\tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-2-r})\}.\end{aligned}\tag{3.2}$$

The intersection of the spanning disk $\underline{D_i}$ of $\underline{L_i}$ with an other component $\underline{L_j}$, which is a sphere or empty, can be resolved by a surgery as before. Let $\underline{D_i'}$ be the result of the surgery for $\underline{D_i}$ (Figure 4 (2)).

Lemma 3.7. (1) *$\underline{D_i'}$ is a compact submanifold of I^d whose boundary agrees with that of the i-th half-cube in (3.2), which is disjoint from other two string link components and is diffeomorphic to $\underline{D_i}\#(S^u\times S^v)$ for some u,v such that $u+v=\dim L_i+1$.*
(2) *The normal bundle of $\underline{D_i'}$ is trivial.*
(3) *$\underline{D_1'}\cap\underline{D_2'}\cap\underline{D_3'}=D_1\cap D_2\cap D_3$ and the triple intersection number of $\underline{D_1'},\underline{D_2'},\underline{D_3'}$ counted with sign is $+1$.*

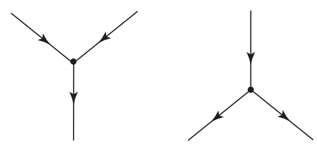
A suspension of the long string link $B(\underline{p},\underline{q},\underline{r})_d$ can be defined analogously to that of $B(p,q,r)_d$. In fact, a suspension can be defined for more general string links. A precise definition of a suspension L' of a string link L is given in Definition 5.2 later, which is slightly complicated. What will be important below is the following lemma, which can be seen from Definition 5.2.

Lemma 3.8. *The following procedures yield the same result up to relative isotopy:*

(1) $B(p,q,r)_d\xrightarrow{\substack{\text{connected}\\ \text{sum}}}B(\underline{p},\underline{q},\underline{r})_d\xrightarrow{\text{suspension}}\{B(\underline{p},\underline{q},\underline{r})_d\}'$.
(2) $B(p,q,r)_d\xrightarrow{\text{suspension}}B(p+1,q+1,r)_{d+1}\xrightarrow{\substack{\text{connected}\\ \text{sum}}}B(\underline{p+1},\underline{q+1},\underline{r})_{d+1}$.

3.3. **Vertex quasi-oriented arrow graph.** We impose extra combinatorial structures on a labelled trivalent graph: an arrow orientation and a vertex quasi-orientation. They are used to decompose the graph into two types of vertices, each equipped with an orientation.

3.3.1. *Arrow graph.* We orient each edge of a trivalent graph such that each vertex has both input and output incident edges. That any trivalent graph without self-loop admits such an orientation follows by induction on the number of edges: there is an edge e in a trivalent graph without self-loop such that removing e yields a graph with two bivalent vertices. Then merging the two edges incident to each bivalent vertex gives a trivalent graph with less edges. We call a trivalent graph without self-loop equipped with such an orientation an *arrow graph.* Possible status of input/output of the three incident edges at a vertex of an arrow graph are as shown in the following picture:



Type I Type II

Note that it is possible to include graphs with self-loops in the following constructions though we exclude these for simplicity.

3.3.2. *Vertex quasi-orientation.* To define vertex quasi-orientation, we decompose each edge e of an arrow graph Γ into half-edges $H(e) = \{e_-, e_+\}$ ordered according to the arrow orientation of e, namely, so that e_- includes the input vertex and e_+ includes the output vertex. We denote by $HE(\Gamma)$ the set of all half-edges in Γ. Then we define a *vertex quasi-orientation* of a vertex v of Γ to be a choice of "linear" ordering* of the three half-edges $e_{p\pm}, e_{q\pm}, e_{r\pm}$ meeting at v. If a vertex quasi-orientation of v is given by the order $e_{p\pm} < e_{q\pm} < e_{r\pm}$, it defines the exterior product $e_{p\pm} \wedge e_{q\pm} \wedge e_{r\pm}$. We consider that two vertex quasi-orientations are equivalent if their associated exterior products agree. For our trivalent vertex of type I or II, the equivalence class is determined by the relative order of the degree 1 half-edges in the vertex quasi-orientation.

3.3.3. *Half-edge orientation.* Given a vertex-labelled arrow graph, the following notions of orientations are canonically equivalent:

(a) An orientation of $\mathbb{R}^{\mathrm{Edges}(\Gamma)}$ (as in §2.2.2).
(b) An orientation of $\mathbb{R}^{HE(\Gamma)} := \bigoplus_{i \in HE(\Gamma)} L^{\{i\}}$, where $L^{\{e_+\}} := \mathbb{R}$ and $L^{\{e_-\}} := \mathbb{R}^{d-2}$ ($H(e) = \{e_+, e_-\}$) with the standard orientations, and we represent an orientation of $\mathbb{R}^{HE(\Gamma)}$ by an exterior product of elements in $HE(\Gamma)$, where we define the degrees of the half-edges in $H(e) = \{e_-, e_+\}$ as $\deg e_+ = 1$, $\deg e_- = d - 2$ for each edge e.

The correspondence between them is canonically given using the arrow orientation by

$$e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{3k} \leftrightarrow (e_{1+} \wedge e_{1-}) \wedge \cdots \wedge (e_{3k+} \wedge e_{3k-}) \quad (H(e_i) = \{e_{i-}, e_{i+}\}).$$

*If we consider the equivalence class, the vertex quasi-orientation introduced here agrees with the "cyclic" one in [CV] when $d = 3$.

3.3.4. *Vertex-labelled, vertex-quasi-oriented arrow graph compatible with (a)-orientation.* If a vertex-labelled, vertex-quasi-oriented arrow graph is given, then an orientation in the sense of (b) above is given by

$$\upsilon_1 \wedge \upsilon_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge \upsilon_{2k}, \quad \upsilon_i = e_{p\pm} \wedge e_{q\pm} \wedge e_{r\pm},$$

where $e_{p\pm}, e_{q\pm}, e_{r\pm}$ are the half-edges meeting at the i-th vertex ($\pm$ are determined by the arrow orientation). When d is even, the term υ_i determines the equivalence class of a vertex quasi-orientation of the i-th vertex.

In this section, we fix one choice of vertex quasi-orientation and arrow orientations for a given labelled trivalent graph so that they give a compatible orientation in the sense of (b) determined by the edge labels. The choice of vertex quasi-orientation will be used in §3.6.2 to fix an identification of a vertex surgery (§3.5) with a standard model.

3.4. **Y-link associated to trivalent graph.** Let X be a compact d-manifold. Given a framed embedding $f\colon \Gamma \to \mathrm{Int}\, X$ of a vertex-labelled, vertex-quasi-oriented arrow graph Γ whose restriction to each edge is smooth, we associate a Y-link $G = G_1 \cup \cdots \cup G_{2k}$ in X as follows (Figure 5).

(1) For each edge e of Γ, let $P(e) \subset \mathrm{Int}\, X$ be a small closed d-ball centered at the middle point of $f(e)$ such that $P(e)$ is disjoint from vertices and other edges of $f(\Gamma)$. Further, we assume that $P(e) \cap P(e') = \emptyset$ if $e \neq e'$, and that $P(e) \cap f(e)$ is diffeomorphic to a closed interval.
(2) We decompose the closed interval $P(e)\cap f(e)$ into three subintervals: $P(e)\cap f(e) = [a,b] \cup [b,c] \cup [c,d]$, so that the image of the input (resp. output) vertex under f is a (resp. d). Then we remove the middle one $[b,c]$ and attach a suitably rescaled standard Hopf link $S^1 \cup S^{d-2} \to \mathrm{Int}\, P(e)$ instead, so that the image of S^{d-2} is attached to $b \in [a,b]$ and the image of S^1 is attached to $c \in [c,d]$. (See Figure 5.)
(3) We orient the components of the Hopf link by ∂u_1 at $(1,0,\ldots,0) \in H(1,d-2)_d(S^1)$ and by $\partial v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial v_{d-2}$ at $(0,0,\ldots,0) \in H(1,d-2)_d(S^{d-2})$ in the coordinates of §3.1[†]. These are chosen so that their linking number is $+1$. Note that such a choice of orienations of the components is not unique.

Here, the linking number of a two component link $a \cup b\colon S^p \cup S^q \to \mathrm{Int}\, P(e)$ with $p+q = d-1$ is defined by the formula:

$$\mathrm{Lk}(a,b) = \int_{S^p\times S^q} \phi^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}, \quad \phi\colon S^p \times S^q \to S^{d-1};\ \phi(x,y) = \frac{b(y)-a(x)}{|b(y)-a(x)|}, \tag{3.3}$$

where we identify $\mathrm{Int}\, P(e)$ with an open set of $\mathbb{R}^d$, $\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$ is the unit volume form in (2.16), and we orient $S^p \times S^q$ by $o(S^p) \wedge o(S^q)$ (as in §D.2).

The above procedure gives a disjoint union $G_1 \cup G_2 \cup \cdots \cup G_{2k}$ of path-connected objects with $2k = |V(\Gamma)|$ components. We call each component G_i a *Y-graph*, and $G = G_1 \cup G_2 \cup \cdots \cup G_{2k}$ a *Y-link* (or a *graph clasper*). There are two types of

[†]Note that the latter is opposite to the usual one induced from the standard orientation of the tv-plane $\mathbb{R} \times \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^q$.

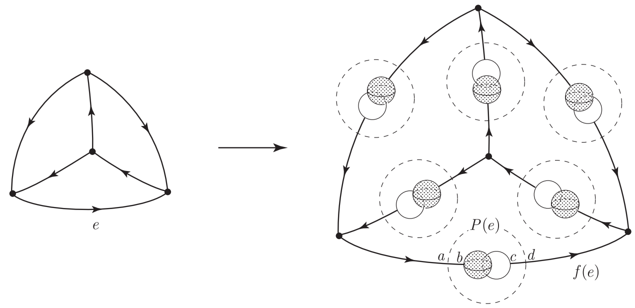
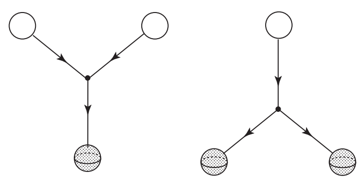


FIGURE 5. An embedded arrow graph to a Y-link

Y-graph components, according to whether the corresponding vertex is of type I or II in the following figure:



By taking a small smooth closed regular neighborhood $V_i \subset \mathrm{Int}\, X$ for each component G_i, we obtain a tuple $\vec{V}_G = (V_1, \ldots, V_{2k})$ of mutually disjoint handlebodies in $\mathrm{Int}\, X$. Here, by a small closed regular neighborhood of G_i, we mean the union of piecewise small tubular neighborhoods, where we consider G_i consists of three oriented spheres (consisting of S^1 and S^{d-2}), a trivalent vertex, and three edges connecting them. We take the radii of the tubular neighborhoods of edges to be less than half the radii of the tubular neighborhoods of the vertex components and we smooth the corners.

3.5. **Surgery along Y-links.** The surgery on a Y-graph will be defined by a parametrized Borromean surgery, which roughly replaces the exterior of a trivial string link with the exterior of a Borromean string link. We shall construct a (X, ∂)-bundle by a family of surgeries along $\vec{V}_G = (V_1, \ldots, V_{2k})$. We take a smooth family $\alpha_i \colon K \to \mathrm{Diff}(\partial V_i)$ of diffeomorphisms parametrized by a compact manifold K with $\partial K = \emptyset$. This defines a bundle automorphism $\bar{\alpha}_i \colon K \times \partial V_i \to K \times \partial V_i$ of the trivial ∂V_i-bundle over K by $\bar{\alpha}_i(t, x) = (t, \alpha_i(t)x)$. We put

$$(K \times X)^{V_i, \alpha_i} := (K \times (X - \mathrm{Int}\, V_i)) \cup_{\bar{\alpha}_i} (K \times V_i), \tag{3.4}$$

where the fiberwise boundaries are glued together by $\bar{\alpha}_i$ in a way that $(t, x) \in K \times \partial V_i \subset K \times V_i$ is identified with $\bar{\alpha}_i(t, x) \in K \times \partial V_i \subset K \times (X - \mathrm{Int}\, V_i)$. This defines a surgery along V_i with respect to α_i, which yields a smooth fiber bundle over K. The product structures on the two parts induce a bundle projection $\pi(\alpha_i) \colon (K \times X)^{V_i, \alpha_i} \to K$.

Since the handlebodies V_i are mutually disjoint, the surgery can be done for every V_i simultaneously. Namely, taking $\vec{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{2k})$, $\alpha_i \colon K_i \to \mathrm{Diff}(\partial V_i)$, we do surgery at each V_i by using α_i, and then we obtain a family of surgeries parametrized by $K_1\times\cdots\times K_{2k}$ and a bundle projection

$$\pi(\vec{\alpha})\colon \big(K_1\times\cdots\times K_{2k}\times X\big)^{\vec{V}_G,\vec{\alpha}}\to K_1\times\cdots\times K_{2k}.$$

More precisely, let

$$V_\infty = X-\mathrm{Int}\,(V_1\cup\cdots\cup V_{2k})$$

and we define $((\prod_{i=1}^{2k}K_i)\times X)^{\vec{V}_G,\vec{\alpha}}$ by the parametrized gluing of the two trivial bundles

$$\Big(\prod_{i=1}^{2k}K_i\Big)\times V_\infty \quad\text{and}\quad \Big(\prod_{i=1}^{2k}K_i\Big)\times (V_1\cup\cdots\cup V_{2k})$$

along the fiberwise boundary $(\prod_{i=1}^{2k}K_i)\times(\partial V_1\cup\cdots\cup\partial V_{2k})$ by the map

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\alpha}'\colon \Big(\prod_{i=1}^{2k}K_i\Big)\times(\partial V_1\cup\cdots\cup\partial V_{2k})&\to\Big(\prod_{i=1}^{2k}K_i\Big)\times(\partial V_1\cup\cdots\cup\partial V_{2k});\\ (t_1,\ldots,t_{2k},x)&\mapsto(t_1,\ldots,t_{2k},\alpha_i(t_i)x)\quad(\text{for } x\in\partial V_i).\end{aligned}$$

This defines a surgery along a Y-link with respect to $\vec{\alpha}$, and this yields a smooth fiber bundle over $\prod_i K_i$.

In the following, we take $\alpha_i=\alpha_{\mathrm{I}}$ or α_{II} defined below for each i. We write $V=V_i$ for simplicity.

(1) If V is of type I, we take $K=S^0=\{-1,1\}$, and we let $\alpha_{\mathrm{I}}\colon S^0\to\mathrm{Diff}(\partial V)$ map (-1) to the identity map of ∂V, and $\alpha_{\mathrm{I}}(1)$ be a "Borromean twist associated to $B(\underline{d-2},\,\underline{d-2},\,\underline{1})_d$" constructed in §3.7.
(2) If V is of type II, we take $K=S^{d-3}$ and we let $\alpha_{\mathrm{II}}\colon S^{d-3}\to\mathrm{Diff}(\partial V)$ be a "parametrized Borromean twist associated to $B(\underline{d-2},\,\underline{d-2},\,\underline{1})_d$" constructed in §3.8.

In both cases, we denote $\widetilde{V}_i=(K\times X)^{V_i,\alpha_i}$.

We now consider the special case $X=D^d$ and define the main construction.

Definition 3.9. Let Γ be a vertex-quasi-oriented, vertex-labelled arrow graph with $2k$ vertices without self-loop. Fix a framed embedding $f\colon\Gamma\to\mathrm{Int}\,D^d$. We use the framing from f and the vertex quasi-orientation of §3.3 to associate the components in the Borromean string link $B(\underline{d-2},\,\underline{d-2},\,\underline{1})_d$ to the three handles of a handlebody V_i at each vertex. According to the type of the i-th vertex of Γ, we put $\alpha_i=\alpha_{\mathrm{I}}$ or α_{II}, and let $\vec{\alpha}=(\alpha_1,\ldots,\alpha_{2k})$. Then we define a smooth fiber bundle $\pi^\Gamma\colon E^\Gamma\to B_\Gamma$ by

$$\pi^\Gamma=\pi(\vec{\alpha}),\quad B_\Gamma=\prod_{i=1}^{2k}K_i,\quad E^\Gamma=(B_\Gamma\times D^d)^{\vec{V}_G,\vec{\alpha}}.$$

We orient B_Γ by $o(K_1)\wedge\cdots\wedge o(K_{2k})$. We also consider the straightforward analogue of this surgery for (S^d,U_∞)-bundles which is given by replacing D^d with S^d in the definition above, to compute invariants in §4.

In a joint work with Botvinnik ([BW, §3]), we give another interpretation of π^Γ in terms of surgeries on families of framed links in D^d, which would be simpler, though Definition 3.9 is suitable for proving the main theorem of this paper.

Theorem 3.10 (Proof in §3.9 for (1), (2) and in §4 for (3))**.** *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$. Let Γ be as in Definition 3.9.*

(1) *$\pi^\Gamma \colon E^\Gamma \to B_\Gamma$ is a (D^d, ∂)-bundle and admits a canonical vertical framing τ^Γ.*

(2) *The framed (D^d, ∂)-bundle bordism class of $(\pi^\Gamma \colon E^\Gamma \to B_\Gamma, \tau^\Gamma)$ is contained in the image of the natural map*

$$H \colon \pi_{(d-3)k}(\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d, \partial)) \to \Omega^{SO}_{(d-3)k}(\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d, \partial)).$$

(3) *We have*

$$Z_k^\Omega(\pi^\Gamma; \tau^\Gamma) = \pm[\Gamma],$$

where the sign depends only on k (not on Γ in $\mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}}$).

Theorem 1.1 follows immediately from Theorem 3.10. Namely, let

$$\Psi_k \colon \mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}} \to \mathrm{Im}\, H \otimes \mathbb{Q}$$

be a $\mathbb{Q}$-linear function defined by $\Psi_k(\Gamma) = [\pi^\Gamma \colon E^\Gamma \to B_\Gamma]$ by fixing labels and arrows on Γ arbitrarily for each class. Recall that $\mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}}$ is the subspace of $\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}$ spanned by trivalent graphs of degree k. Then by Theorem 3.10(3), the composition

$$\mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\Psi_k \otimes \mathrm{id}} \mathrm{Im}\, H \otimes \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\pm Z_k^\Omega} H_{0,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}; \mathbb{R}) = \mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R}$$

agrees with the quotient map $\mathscr{G}_{0,k}^{\mathrm{even}} \otimes \mathbb{R} \to H_{0,k}(\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}; \mathbb{R})$. Hence $Z_k = Z_k^\Omega \circ H$ is surjective over $\mathbb{R}$ and Theorem 1.1 follows.

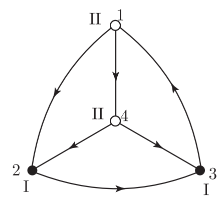
Remark 3.11. We have chosen the framed embedding f, the labels, vertex quasi-orientation, and arrow orientations on graphs to define Ψ_k as an auxiliary data. We do not know whether the bordism class of $\Psi_k(\Gamma)$ changes under a change of the choice of the vertex quasi-orientation and the arrow orientations which preserves graph orientation. Although it would not be hard to determine the effect of different choices in the bordism group, it is not necessary for our purpose.

Let X be a compact d-manifold. For a framed embedding $f \colon \Gamma \to X$ of a vertex quasi-oriented labelled arrow graph Γ with $2k$ vertices, one may also consider the (X, ∂)-bundle $\pi^f \colon E^f \to B_\Gamma$ by surgery on f given by replacing D^d in Definition 3.9 with X. The following theorem can be proved just by replacing D^d with X in the proof of Theorem 3.10 (1), (2).

Theorem 3.12. *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$. The relative bundle bordism class of π^f represents an element of $\Omega^{SO}_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(X, \partial))$, which is contained in the image of the natural map $H \colon \pi_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(X, \partial)) \to \Omega^{SO}_{(d-3)k}(B\mathrm{Diff}(X, \partial))$.*

The class of π^f does not change if f is replaced within the same homotopy class = isotopy class, which can be described by Γ as above with edges decorated by elements of $\pi_1(X)$, considered modulo certain relations as in [GL, p.566]. Note that the same remark as Remark 3.11 applies to this case.

Example 3.13 ($k=2$, $\Gamma=W_4$)**.** Now we consider the complete graph W_4, edge-oriented as in the following picture:



In this case, $B_{W_4}=K_1\times K_2\times K_3\times K_4$, where $K_1=K_4=S^{d-3}$ and $K_2=K_3=S^0$. Hence B_{W_4} is the disjoint union of four components $B_{t_2,t_3}=K_1\times\{(t_2,t_3)\}\times K_4$, $t_2,t_3=\pm1$, each canonically diffeomorphic to $S^{d-3}\times S^{d-3}$. It will follow from Lemma 3.23 that the restriction of the (D^d,∂)-bundle $\pi^{W_4}\colon E^{W_4}\to B_{W_4}$ over B_{t_2,t_3}, $(t_2,t_3)\neq(1,1)$, is a trivial (D^d,∂)-bundle. Let us focus on the restriction of π^{W_4} to the only component $E^{W_4}_{1,1}:=(\pi^{W_4})^{-1}(B_{1,1})$ that may be nontrivial. This is constructed by gluing the pieces

$$B_{1,1}\times V_\infty,\quad \widetilde{V}_1'=\widetilde{V}_1\times K_4,\quad \widetilde{V}_4'=K_1\times\widetilde{V}_4,\quad B_{1,1}\times V_2(1),\quad B_{1,1}\times V_3(1)$$

(recall $\widetilde{V}_i=(K_i\times V_i)^{V_i,\alpha_i}$) along their boundaries

$$\begin{aligned}&B_{1,1}\times(\partial V_1\cup\partial V_2\cup\partial V_3\cup\partial V_4\cup\partial D^d),\quad B_{1,1}\times\partial V_1,\quad B_{1,1}\times\partial V_4,\\&B_{1,1}\times\partial V_2,\quad B_{1,1}\times\partial V_3.\end{aligned}$$

The identifications are given by using the trivializations $\partial\widetilde{V}_\lambda=K_\lambda\times\partial V_\lambda$.

Let us look at the restrictions of $\pi^{W_4}|_{E^{W_4}_{1,1}}$ to the preimages of the two submanifold cycles $\gamma_1=S^{d-3}\times\{t_4^0\}$ and $\gamma_2=\{t_1^0\}\times S^{d-3}$ in $B_{1,1}$, where t_λ^0 is a basepoint of K_λ. The restricted bundle over γ_1 does not depend on the parameter $t_1\in\gamma_1$ outside $\widetilde{V}_1\times\{t_4^0\}$. The restricted bundle over γ_2 does not depend on the parameter t_2 outside $\{t_1^0\}\times\widetilde{V}_4$. Again it will turn out that these restricted bundles are both trivial by Lemma 3.23 and there is a trivialization of the bundle over the $(d-3)$-skeleton $\gamma_1\cup\gamma_2$ of $B_{1,1}$. Moreover, it will turn out that this trivialization cannot be extended to the bundle over $B_{1,1}$. The obstruction can be detected by Z_2 (Theorem 3.10).

3.6. Standard coordinates on V_i.

3.6.1. *Standard model in a cube.* As a preliminary to define the Borromean surgeries, we fix coordinates on V_i using the vertex quasi-orientation fixed as in §3.3. Let T be a handlebody obtained from a $(d-1)$-disk by removing several $(d-3)$-handles and 0-handles, and we put

$$V=T\times I.$$

We fix explicit coordinates on T as follows. We fix three distinct points $p_1,p_2,p_3\in(0,1)$ and let $T_0=I^{d-1}$, and for $n=1,2,3$ and small $\varepsilon>0$, we define T as follows

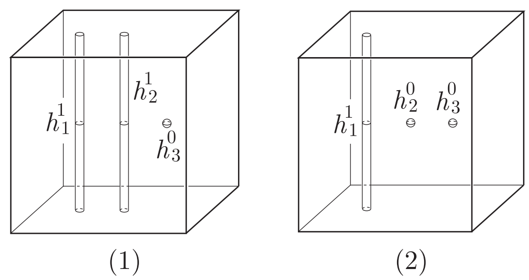


FIGURE 6. (1) T in V of type I. (2) T in V of type II.

(Figure 6).

$$h_n^1 = \{(x_1,x_2)\in\mathbb{R}^2 \mid (x_1-p_n)^2+(x_2-\tfrac{1}{2})^2<\varepsilon^2\}\times I^{d-3},$$
$$h_n^0 = \{(x_1,\ldots,x_{d-1})\in\mathbb{R}^{d-1} \mid (x_1-p_n)^2+(x_2-\tfrac{1}{2})^2+\cdots+(x_{d-1}-\tfrac{1}{2})^2<\varepsilon^2\},$$
$$T = T_0-(h_1^{e_1}\cup h_2^{e_2}\cup h_3^{e_3}),\qquad (e_1,e_2,e_3)=\begin{cases}(1,1,0) & (V\colon \text{type I})\\ (1,0,0) & (V\colon \text{type II})\end{cases}$$

Let $H_n^e = h_n^e\times I$.

We take standard cycles b_1,b_2,b_3 of V that generates the reduced integral homology of V. When V is of type I, we let $b_1,b_2,b_3\subset T\times\{1\}\subset\partial V$ be defined by

$$b_1 = S^1_{2\varepsilon}(p_1,\tfrac{1}{2})\times\{(\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2},\ldots,\tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-3})\},\quad b_2 = S^1_{2\varepsilon}(p_2,\tfrac{1}{2})\times\{(\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2},\ldots,\tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-3})\},$$
$$b_3 = S^{d-2}_{2\varepsilon}(p_3,\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2},\ldots,\tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-2}).$$

Here, we denote by $S^1_\delta(a,b)\subset\mathbb{R}^2$, $S^{d-2}_\delta(a,\boldsymbol{b},c)\subset\mathbb{R}^{d-1}$, the codimension 1 round spheres of radius δ, centered at $(a,b)\in\mathbb{R}^2$, $(a,\boldsymbol{b},c)\in\mathbb{R}^{d-1}=\mathbb{R}\times\mathbb{R}^{d-3}\times\mathbb{R}$ respectively. When V is of type II, we replace b_2 for type I with

$$b_2 = S^{d-2}_{2\varepsilon}(p_2,\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2},\ldots,\tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-2}).$$

For each i, we consider b_i as a cycle by inducing an orientation from a ball of radius 2ε in $\mathbb{R}^2$ or $\mathbb{R}^{d-1}$ by the outward-normal-first convention.

3.6.2. *Identifying V_i with the standard model.* Now we use the vertex quasi-orientation introduced in §3.3.2 to fix the correspondence between handles of V and components of the link. Namely, we rearrange the order of the three half-edges within its class of vertex quasi-orientation at the i-th vertex so that the first one or two are of degree 1 (or incoming) and the rest are of degree $d-2$ (or outgoing). Then this order of half-edges determines a correspondence between the half-edges of that trivalent vertex and the three components $h_1^{e_1},h_2^{e_2},h_3^{e_3}$. We choose an identification $V_i=V$ so that the homology classes of the cycles b_1,b_2,b_3 correspond to those of the oriented sphere components from the Hopf links introduced in §3.4. Namely, the identifications $V_i = V$ are fixed so that the orientations of b_1^i, b_2^i, b_3^i fixed in §3.6.1 give $\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^i, b_m^j) = 1$ when the spheres b_ℓ^i in V_i and b_m^j in V_j form a Hopf link.

3.7. **Borromean surgery of type I.**

3.7.1. *Twisted handlebody V' of type I.* We shall define "Borromean twist" α_{I} as announced before Definition 3.9. According to the coordinates fixed in §3.6, the handlebody V of type I is the complement in $T_0 \times I = I^{d-1} \times I$ of two open $(d-2)$-handles H_1^1 and H_2^1 and one 1-handle H_3^0, which are thin. We now define another handlebody V', which is obtained from V by changing the thin handles as follows. We represent the relative isotopy class of the thin handles in I^d by a framed string link relative to the attaching region, in the sense that the map

$$\mathrm{res}\colon \mathrm{Emb}(\underline{H}_1^1 \cup \underline{H}_2^1 \cup \underline{H}_3^0, I^d) \to \mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$$

induced by restriction is a homotopy equivalence. Since framed string links here are assumed to be standard near the boundary, a framed string link induces a trivialization of the sides of the closed handles $\overline{H}_n^e$ as sphere bundles over the cores, which is canonically extended to a parametrization of the boundary of the complement of the images of the embeddings of the open handles H_n^e in I^d. Then we have a natural map

$$c_*\colon \pi_0(\mathrm{Emb}(\underline{H}_1^1 \cup \underline{H}_2^1 \cup \underline{H}_3^0, I^d)) \to \mathscr{S}^H(V, \partial V), \tag{3.5}$$

given by taking the complement, where the right hand side is the set of relative diffeomorphism classes of the pairs $(W, \partial W)$ of compact d-manifolds with $\partial W = \partial(T \times I)$ such that $H_*(W;\mathbb{Z}) \cong H_*(T \times I;\mathbb{Z})$. The image of the class of the standard embedding under the map c_* gives $(V, \partial V)$. The image of the framed Borromean string link $B(\underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{1})_d$ under c_* gives another relative diffeomorphism class, which we denote by $(V', \partial V')$. We identify the boundary $\partial V'$, which is the union of $T \times \{0,1\}$ and the sides of the handles, with ∂V by using the parametrization of embeddings of the handles.

Remark 3.14. Although the relative diffeomorphism class of $(V', \partial V' = \partial V)$ suffices to define the surgery of type I in Definition 3.9, we describe below a further property of the surgery. Namely, that the surgery can be obtained by attaching the standard handlebody along its boundary by a twisting map.

3.7.2. *Mapping cylinder structure on V'.* For the type I handlebody V, we will see that the handlebody V' thus obtained can be realized as the mapping cylinder of a relative diffeomorphism $\varphi_0\colon (T, \partial T) \to (T, \partial T)$, which is defined by

$$C(\varphi_0) = (T \times I) \cup_{\varphi_0} (T \times \{0\}), \tag{3.6}$$

where we consider the $T \times \{0\}$ on the right as a copy of the original one T, and identify each $(x, 0) \in T \times \{0\} \subset T \times I$ on the left term with $(\varphi_0(x), 0) \in T \times \{0\}$ on the right term. Note that the boundary of $C(\varphi_0)$ is $(T \times \{1\}) \cup (\partial T \times I) \cup_{\partial\varphi_0} (T \times \{0\}) = (T \times \{0,1\}) \cup_{\mathrm{id}_{\partial T \times \{0,1\}}} (\partial T \times I) = \partial V$ and we fix the canonical identification $\partial C(\varphi_0) = \partial V$, whose restriction to $T \times \{0\}$ from the right term of the sum in (3.6) is not φ_0 but the identity.

Proposition 3.15 (Proof in §5.2)**.** *For a handlebody V of type I, there exists a relative diffeomorphism $\varphi_0\colon (T,\partial T)\to(T,\partial T)$ and a relative diffeomorphism $(V',\partial V)\to(C(\varphi_0),\partial V)$ that restricts to* id *on ∂V.*

The relative diffeomorphism $\varphi_0\colon (T,\partial T)\to(T,\partial T)$ of Proposition 3.15 extends to a self-diffeomorphism φ_{I} of $\partial V=(T\times\{0,1\})\cup(\partial T\times I)$ by setting φ_0 on $T\times\{0\}$ and id otherwise.

Definition 3.16 (Type I Borromean twist)**.** We define the map $\alpha_{\mathrm{I}}\colon S^0\to\mathrm{Diff}(\partial V)$ by $\alpha_{\mathrm{I}}(-1)=\mathrm{id}$, $\alpha_{\mathrm{I}}(1)=\varphi_{\mathrm{I}}$. Let $\widetilde{V}$ be the total space of the bundle $\pi_V\colon V'\cup(-V)\to S^0$ that is the disjoint union of $V'\to\{1\}$ and $-V\to\{-1\}$.

Remark 3.17.
1. We assume that the corners arose in the construction above are all smoothed (in the sense of [Wal, Ch.2,2.6] or [Tam, Ch.3,3.3]).
2. When $d=3$, the surgery on Y-graph in [Gou, Hab] is given by surgery for α_{I} of Definition 3.16.

3.8. **Parametrized Borromean surgery of type II.**

3.8.1. *Family $\widetilde{V}$ of twisted handlebodies of type II.* We define the "parametrized Borromean twist" $\alpha_{\mathrm{II}}\in\Omega^{d-3}\mathrm{Diff}(\partial V)$, announced before Definition 3.9. The handlebody V of type II is diffeomorphic to a handlebody obtained from I^d by removing one $(d-2)$-handle and two 1-handles, which are thin. We now define a (V,∂)-bundle $\pi_V\colon\widetilde{V}\to S^{d-3}$, which is obtained from a trivial V-bundle over S^{d-3} by changing the trivial family of thin handles as follows. We construct $\widetilde{V}$ by taking the image under the map

$$c_*\colon \pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1,I^d))\to\pi_{d-3}(B\mathrm{Diff}(V,\partial)),$$

which is given by taking the complement, of the class of a certain loop

$$\beta\in\Omega^{d-3}\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1,I^d)$$

corresponding to a framed Borromean link $B(\underline{d-2},\,\underline{d-2},\,\underline{1})_d$, based at the standard inclusion. We will define β later in §5.3. Roughly, the loop β is constructed by replacing the second component in $B(\underline{d-2},\,\underline{d-2},\,\underline{1})_d$ with a $(d-3)$-parameter family of 1-disks with framing, so that the locus of the family of 1-disks recovers the original $(d-2)$-disk component after a small change on the boundary. Then the image of the homotopy class of β under c_* gives a (V,∂)-bundle $\pi_V\colon\widetilde{V}\to S^{d-3}$.

3.8.2. *Mapping cylinder structure on the bundle $\widetilde{V}$.* We will show that thus obtained (V,∂)-bundle $\widetilde{V}$ is a $(d-3)$-parameter family of mapping cylinders for an element of $\pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Diff}(T,\partial T))$. For a given smooth family of relative diffeomorphisms $\varphi_{0,t}\colon(T,\partial T)\to(T,\partial T)$ $(t\in S^{d-3})$, let $\bar\varphi\colon S^{d-3}\times T\to S^{d-3}\times T$ be the map defined by $\bar\varphi(t,x)=(t,\varphi_{0,t}(x))$. Here we say that an S^{d-3}-family of diffeomorphisms $\varphi_{0,t}$ in $\mathrm{Diff}(T,\partial)$ is smooth if the associated map $\bar\varphi$ is smooth, as usual. Now we set

$$\widetilde{C}(\{\varphi_{0,t}\})=(S^{d-3}\times T\times I)\cup_{\bar\varphi}(S^{d-3}\times T\times\{0\}),$$

where we consider $S^{d-3}\times T\times\{0\}$ on the right as a copy of $S^{d-3}\times T$, and identify each $(t,x,0)\in S^{d-3}\times T\times\{0\}\subset S^{d-3}\times T\times I$ with $(\bar\varphi(t,x),0)\in S^{d-3}\times T\times\{0\}$. This has a natural structure of a (V,∂)-bundle over S^{d-3} whose boundary is $S^{d-3}\times\partial V$.

Proposition 3.18 (Proof in §5.4)**.** *For a handlebody V of type II, there exist a smooth family of relative diffeomorphisms $\varphi_{0,t}\colon (T,\partial T)\to(T,\partial T)$ $(t\in S^{d-3})$ with $\varphi_{0,*}=\mathrm{id}$ for the basepoint $*\in S^{d-3}$, and a relative bundle isomorphism*

$$(\widetilde{V}, S^{d-3}\times\partial V)\to(\widetilde{C}(\{\varphi_{0,t}\}), S^{d-3}\times\partial V)$$

that restricts to id *on the boundary $S^{d-3}\times\partial V$.*

Definition 3.19 (Type II Borromean twist)**.** We define the map $\alpha_{\mathrm{II}}\colon S^{d-3}\to \mathrm{Diff}(\partial V)$ by extending $\{\varphi_{0,t}\}$ to a $(d-3)$-parameter family of diffeomorphisms of ∂V by id on the complement of $T\times\{0\}$ in ∂V.

There is a natural "graphing" map

$$\Psi\colon \pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1, I^d))\to\pi_0(\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{2d-5}\cup\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^{d-2}, I^{2d-3})),$$

which is obtained by representing a $(d-3)$-parameter family of framed long embeddings in $\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1, I^d)$ by a single map $(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1)\times I^{d-3}\to I^d\times I^{d-3}$ with the corresponding framing. The following lemma will be used in Lemma 4.2.

Lemma 3.20 (Proof in §5.5)**.** *The image of $[\beta]\in\pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1, I^d))$ under Ψ is the class of $B(\underline{2d-5},\underline{d-2},\underline{d-2})_{2d-3}$ with the normal framing F_D given in §3.1 and Definition 3.6.*

3.9. **Framed handlebody replacement.** We shall see that the surgery of type I or II is compatible with framing and that surgery along a graph clasper gives an element of the homotopy group of $\widetilde{B\mathrm{Diff}}(D^d,\partial)$. Let V be the standard model in §3.6 of the handlebody of type I or II.

Proposition 3.21. *Let $K=S^0$ or S^{d-3}, $\bar\alpha=\bar\alpha_{\mathrm{I}}$ or $\bar\alpha_{\mathrm{II}}$. Identify $\partial\widetilde{V}$ with $K\times\partial V$ via the trivialization given by the mapping cylinder construction of Proposition 3.15 or 3.18.*

1. *There is a bundle isomorphism*
$$\widetilde{\varphi}\colon\widetilde{V}\to K\times V$$
that induces $\bar\alpha\colon K\times\partial V=\partial\widetilde{V}\to K\times\partial V$.
2. *The vertical framing on $\widetilde{V}$ induced from the standard framing* st *on $T_0\times I\subset\mathbb{R}^d$ has the property that it can be modified by a homotopy supported in a small neighborhood of ∂V into one whose restriction to $\partial\widetilde{V}$ agrees with $(d\widetilde{\varphi})^{-1}(\mathrm{st}|_{\partial V})$.*

Proof. The assertion (1) follows from Proposition 3.15 or 3.18. The assertion (2) follows from [Wa3, Lemma A]. □

That the homotopy of (2) is supported in a small neighborhood of ∂V will be used in the proof of Lemma 7.15. Proposition 3.21 gives a trivialization of the bundle $\widetilde{V}$ as a V-bundle, but not as a (V,∂)-bundle. Propositions 3.21 shows that the surgeries of type I and II are framed ones, in the sense of the following corollary.

Corollary 3.22. *If X is framed, then the surgery of X on $(V,\alpha\colon K\to\mathrm{Diff}(\partial V))$ of type I or II gives a framed bundle $\pi(\alpha)\colon(K\times X)^{V,\alpha}\to K$, $K=S^0$ or S^{d-3}, on which the framing agrees with the original framing outside V. In other words, the* *vertical framing on $K \times (X - \operatorname{Int} V)$ canonically induced from the original one on $X - \operatorname{Int} V$ extends to that on $(K \times X)^{V,\alpha}$.*

For $\ell \in \{1,2,3\}$, let $V_{[\ell]}$ denote the handlebody constructed in the same way as V except we forget the ℓ-th component in $H_1^{e_1} \cup H_2^{e_2} \cup H_3^{e_3}$.

Lemma 3.23 ([Wa3, Lemma A and Remark 7]). *Let $\pi(\alpha)\colon \widetilde{V} \to K$ be the bundle obtained by twists $\alpha\colon K \to \mathrm{Diff}(\partial V)$ of type I or II. Let $\pi(\alpha)_{[\ell]}\colon \widetilde{V}_{[\ell]} \to K$ be the bundle obtained from $\pi(\alpha)$ by extension by filling a trivial framed family into the ℓ-th complementary handle. Then $\pi(\alpha)$*

(1) *admits a vertical framing that extends the standard one on the boundary induced from the given one on V, and*
(2) *becomes trivial as a framed relative bundle if $\widetilde{V}$ is extended to $\widetilde{V}_{[\ell]}$.*

Remark 3.24. Although Lemma 3.23 is the statement for the standard model, it is also true for any other handlebody V in a framed d-manifold X that is obtained from the standard model in a small ball by an isotopy of the embedding $V \to X$ from the inclusion.

Proposition 3.25 (Theorem 3.10 (1),(2)). (1) *$\pi^\Gamma\colon E^\Gamma \to B_\Gamma$ is a (D^d,∂)-bundle and admits a vertical framing.*

(2) *There is a vertical framing τ^Γ on π^Γ such that the framed (D^d,∂)-bundle (π^Γ,τ^Γ) is oriented bundle bordant to a framed (D^d,∂)-bundle $\varpi^\Gamma\colon F^\Gamma \to S^{(d-3)k}$ over $S^{(d-3)k}$ with some vertical framing σ^Γ. Namely, there exist a compact oriented $(d-3)k+1$-dimensional cobordism $\widetilde{B}$ with $\partial\widetilde{B} = B_\Gamma \coprod (-S^{(d-3)k})$ and a framed (D^d,∂)-bundle $\widetilde{\pi}\colon \widetilde{E} \to \widetilde{B}$ such that the restriction of $\widetilde{\pi}$ on $\partial\widetilde{B}$ agrees with (π^Γ,τ^Γ) and $(\varpi^\Gamma,\sigma^\Gamma)$ (with the opposite orientation).*

Proof. (1) We see that if $\alpha = \alpha_{\mathrm{I}}$ or α_{II}, then the bundle $\pi^{V,\alpha}\colon (S^a \times D^d)^{V,\alpha} \to S^a$, $a = 0$ or $d-3$, obtained from the trivial (D^d,∂)-bundle $S^a \times D^d$ by surgery along V is a trivial (D^d,∂)-bundle. Indeed, V can be extended to $V_{[\ell]}$ in D^d and the surgery along V and $V_{[\ell]}$ produce equivalent results, where the surgery along $V_{[\ell]}$ is defined by replacing $S^a \times V_{[\ell]}$ with $\widetilde{V}_{[\ell]}$. By Lemma 3.23 (2), the result is a trivial D^d-bundle. By the definition of the surgery along $V_{[\ell]}$, the trivialization on the $(V_{[\ell]},\partial)$-bundle $\widetilde{V}_{[\ell]}$ obtained by Lemma 3.23 (2) can be extended to a trivialization of a (D^d,∂)-bundle. Also, by Lemma 3.23 (1), the restriction of the standard framing on $S^a \times D^d$ to $S^a \times (D^d - \operatorname{Int} V)$ extends over $(S^a \times D^d)^{V,\alpha}$.

By applying the above for type I surgeries, it follows that the restriction of π^Γ over $(S^0)^k \subset B_\Gamma$ has a trivialization as a (D^d,∂)-bundle. Now we have a trivialization of (D^d,∂)-bundle at the basepoint of each path-component of B_Γ, the whole bundle π^Γ must be a (D^d,∂)-bundle, by the definition of the type II surgery. The vertical framing on E^Γ can be obtained by doing the parametrized gluing in §3.5 with framing.

(2) The proof is parallel to that of [Wa3, Claim 3] (see also [Wa3, Remark 7]) for d even and with $(S^{k-1})^{\times 2n}$ replaced by a product $(S^0)^{\times k} \times (S^{d-3})^{\times k}$, and we do not repeat that here. We should remark that we used in [Wa3, Lemma B] the claim that $\Sigma A \to \Sigma X$ splits with cofiber $\Sigma(X/A)$, where X is a product of spheres and A is the

maximal skeleton of X of positive codimension for a certain cell decomposition. The splitting holds even for the products like $(S^0)^{\times\ell} \times (S^{d-3})^{\times m}$ (including 0-spheres), by the wedge decomposition of ΣX given in [Pu, Satz 20]. $\square$

4. Computation of the invariant

The strategy to compute the configuration space integrals here is a higher dimensional analogue of that taken in [KuTh, Les2]. Following these references, we reduce the computation of Z_k to homological (or combinatorial) one, like the linking number.

4.1. **Normal Thom class (η-form).** For a topologically closed oriented smooth submanifold A of an oriented manifold N, we denote by η_A a closed form representative of the Thom class of the normal bundle ν_A of A. We identify the total space of ν_A with a small tubular neighborhood N_A of $A \subset N$ and assume that η_A has support in N_A. It has the useful property that $[\eta_A]$ is the Poincaré–Lefschetz dual of $[A] \in H_*(N, \partial N)$, when both N and A are compact. For another oriented submanifold B of N with dim $B = \mathrm{codim}\, A$, the integral $\int_N \eta_A \wedge \eta_B = \int_B \eta_A$ gives the intersection pairing $A \cdot B$ in N (see §D.1 for more detail). A basic textbook reference is [BTu, Ch. I, Section 6].

4.2. **Standard cycles on ∂V.** Recall that $V_i \subset X$ is defined in §3.4 as a handlebody obtained by thickening a Y-graph G_i. In §3.6, we fixed a standard model V of V_i and we have taken cycles b_1, b_2, b_3 of ∂V. Recall from §3.6.1 and §3.6.2 that the orientations of b_1^i, b_2^i, b_3^i give $\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^i, b_m^j) = 1$ when the spheres b_ℓ^i in V_i and b_m^j in V_j form a Hopf link. Now we take more standard cycles a_1, a_2, a_3 of ∂V, which are null-homologous in V, as follows. Here we again use the standard coordinates of V fixed in §3.6.

We define disks $a_1^T, a_2^T, a_3^T \subset T$ by $a_1^T = \{p_1\} \times [0, \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon] \times I^{d-3}$, $a_2^T = \{p_2\} \times [0, \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon] \times I^{d-3}$, $a_3^T = \{p_3\} \times [0, \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon] \times \{(\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2}, \ldots, \tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-3})\}$, and put

$$a_\ell = (a_\ell^T \times \{1\}) \cup (\partial a_\ell^T \times I) \cup (a_\ell^T \times \{0\}) \subset \partial V$$

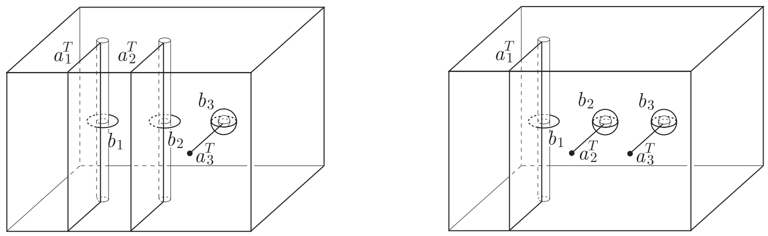
as a subspace. (See Figure 7 (1).) We orient a_ℓ so that

$$\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^-, a_\ell) = +1,$$

where b_ℓ^- is a copy of $b_\ell \subset T \times \{1\}$ in $T \times \{1 - \varepsilon\}$ obtained by shifting, and Lk is defined by using the Euclidean coordinates of $T_0 \times I$ of §3.6 and the formula (3.3). More explicit descriptions of the orientations of a_ℓ and b_ℓ can be found in the proof of Lemma D.1. The collection $(a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, a_3, b_3)$ of cycles gives a $\mathbb{Z}$-basis of $H_1(\partial V; \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H_{d-2}(\partial V; \mathbb{Z})$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}&\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^-, a_j) = \delta_{\ell j} \quad (\text{when } \dim b_\ell + \dim a_j = d-1), \text{ and}\\ &[a_j] \cdot_\partial [a_\ell] = [b_j] \cdot_\partial [b_\ell] = 0\\ &(\text{when } \dim a_j + \dim a_\ell = d-1 \text{ and } \dim b_j + \dim b_\ell = d-1),\end{aligned}$$

where $\cdot_\partial$ is the intersection pairing in ∂V.



(1) (2)

FIGURE 7. $a_1^T, a_2^T, a_3^T, b_1, b_2, b_3 \subset T$, (1) in the top face of V of type I, (2) in the top face of V of type II. (Not the pictures of the whole of V.)

When V is of type II, we replace b_2 and a_2^T for type I with

$$b_2 = S^{d-2}_{2\varepsilon}(p_2, \underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2}, \ldots, \tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-2}), \quad a_2^T = \{p_2\} \times [0, \tfrac{1}{2} - \varepsilon] \times \{(\underbrace{\tfrac{1}{2}, \ldots, \tfrac{1}{2}}_{d-3})\}.$$

We define the submanifolds $\widetilde{a}_\ell, \widetilde{b}_\ell$ of $S^{d-3} \times \partial V$ by

$$\widetilde{a}_\ell = S^{d-3} \times a_\ell, \quad \widetilde{b}_\ell = S^{d-3} \times b_\ell.$$

4.3. **Normalization of linking pairing of Y-link.** First, we consider the subspace $V_i \times V_j \subset \overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$, $i \neq j$, $i, j \neq \infty$, and see that a propagator can be described explicitly by means of the η forms. Let $a_\ell^\lambda, b_\ell^\lambda$, $\ell = 1, 2, 3$, be the generating cycles of $H_p(\partial V_\lambda; \mathbb{Z})$ for $p = 1, d-2$, corresponding to the standard cycles a_ℓ, b_ℓ in the standard model given in §3.6 and §4.2. The spherical cycle a_ℓ^λ bounds disk $S(a_\ell^\lambda)$ in V_λ, and moreover, by the construction of $\vec{V}_G = (V_1, \ldots, V_{2k})$, the spherical cycle b_ℓ^λ bounds disk $S(b_\ell^\lambda)$ in $X - \mathrm{Int}\, V_\lambda$, which intersects some other $V_{\lambda'}$, $\lambda' \neq \lambda$. Now we orient $S(a_\ell^\lambda)$ and $S(b_\ell^\lambda)$ by those induced from $o(a_\ell^\lambda)$ and $o(b_\ell^\lambda)$ by the outward-normal-first convention, and we take coorientations $o^*_{V_\lambda}(S(a_\ell^\lambda))$ and $o^*_{V_\lambda}(S(b_\ell^\lambda))$ obtained from $o(S(a_\ell^\lambda))$ and $o(S(b_\ell^\lambda))$ by the rule (1.1). Then we choose η-forms $\eta_{S(a_\ell^\lambda)}$ and $\eta_{S(b_\ell^\lambda)}$ so that it is compatible with the coorientations $o^*_{V_\lambda}(S(a_\ell^\lambda))$ and $o^*_{V_\lambda}(S(b_\ell^\lambda))$, respectively in terms of the duality of §1.4 (j). We see that $H^*(V_\lambda)$ is spanned by the classes of

$$1,\ \eta_{S(a_1^\lambda)},\ \eta_{S(a_2^\lambda)},\ \eta_{S(a_3^\lambda)}.$$

By the Künneth formula, it follows that $H^{d-1}(V_i \times V_j)$ is spanned by $[\eta_{S(a_\ell^i)}] \otimes [\eta_{S(a_m^j)}]$, where ℓ, m are such that $\dim a_\ell^i + \dim a_m^j = d-1$. Thus a propagator $\omega \in \Omega^{d-1}_{\mathrm{dR}}(\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty))$ satisfies

$$[\omega|_{V_i \times V_j}] = \sum_{\ell, m} L^{ij}_{\ell m}\, [\eta_{S(a_\ell^i)}] \otimes [\eta_{S(a_m^j)}] \tag{4.1}$$

in $H^{d-1}(V_i \times V_j)$ for some $L^{ij}_{\ell m} \in \mathbb{R}$, where the sum is over ℓ, m such that $\dim a_\ell^i + \dim a_m^j = d-1$. The definition of Lk (3.3) implies $\mathrm{Lk}(b, b') = \int_{b \times b'} \omega$ for a link $b \coprod b'$.

Lemma 4.1 (Proof in §D.3)**.** *We have the following identities.*

(1) $\displaystyle\int_{b_\ell^-} \eta_{S(a_\ell)} = (-1)^{kd+k+d-1}$, *where* $k = \dim a_\ell$.

(2) $\displaystyle\int_{a_\ell^+} \eta_{S(b_\ell)} = (-1)^{d+k}$, *where* $k = \dim a_\ell$.

(3) $L_{\ell m}^{ij} = (-1)^{d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^i, b_m^j)$ *for* i, j, ℓ, m *such that* $\dim b_\ell^i + \dim b_m^j = d-1$.

The identities (1) and (2) will be used later in §6.2. The integral of ω gives the linking pairing

$$\mathrm{Lk}\colon \bigoplus_{p+q=d-1} H_p(V_i)\otimes H_q(V_j)\to\mathbb{R}.$$

The right hand side of (4.1) has the following explicit closed form representative as a form on $V_i \times V_j$.

$$\sum_{\ell,m} L_{\ell m}^{ij}\, p_1^*\,\eta_{S(a_\ell^i)} \wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S(a_m^j)}, \tag{4.2}$$

where $p_n\colon \overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)\to\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)$ is the map induced by the n-th projection.

4.4. **Spanning submanifolds and their η-forms in $\widetilde{V}_\lambda$.** The formula (4.2) can be naturally extended to families of $V_\lambda \times V_\mu$. Let $\pi(\alpha_\lambda)\colon \widetilde{V}_\lambda \to K_\lambda$ be the relative bundle obtained by the twists $\alpha_\lambda\colon K_\lambda \to \mathrm{Diff}(\partial V_\lambda)$ of type I or II in Definition 3.16 or 3.19. Let

$$\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda := K_\lambda \times a_\ell^\lambda \subset \partial\widetilde{V}_\lambda = K_\lambda \times \partial V_\lambda.$$

The following lemma, which will be used to make the integrals in the main computation of the invariant in §4.6 explicit, follows from Lemmas 3.7 and 3.20.

Lemma 4.2. *For each* ℓ *there exists a compact oriented submanifold* $S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)$ *of* $\widetilde{V}_\lambda$ *with boundary such that*

(1) $\partial S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda) = \widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda = S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)\cap\partial\widetilde{V}_\lambda$, *and the intersection is transversal.*

(2) $S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)\cap\pi(\alpha_\lambda)^{-1}(t^0) = S(a_\ell^\lambda)$ *over the basepoint* $t^0 \in K_\lambda$.

(3) $S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)$ *is diffeomorphic to the connected sum of* $K_\lambda \times S(a_\ell^\lambda)$ *with* $S^u \times S^v$ *for some* u, v *such that* $u + v = \dim S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)$.

(4) *The normal bundle of* $S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)$ *is trivial.*

(5) $S(\widetilde{a}_1^\lambda)\cap S(\widetilde{a}_2^\lambda)\cap S(\widetilde{a}_3^\lambda)$ *is one point, and the intersection is transversal.*

Proof. By Lemma 3.7, the three components in a Borromean string link have spanning submanifolds $\underline{D_1'}, \underline{D_2'}, \underline{D_3'}$. The restrictions of these submanifolds to the family of $I^d - (H_1^{e_1}\cup H_2^{e_2}\cup H_3^{e_3})$ give submanifolds satisfying the conditions (2), (3), (4), (5). To see that we can moreover assume (1), we need to show that a standard collar neighborhood of $\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda$ agrees with that induced by the spanning disk $\underline{D_\ell}$ of the corresponding component.

By a standard argument relating a normal framing of an embedding and a trivialization of its tubular neighborhood, it suffices to check the compatibility of the normal framings of the two models: one given in Definition 3.6 and one given by the parametrization of the family of handles $H_1^{e_1}\cup H_2^{e_2}\cup H_3^{e_3}$ in I^d. But this is proved in Lemma 3.20. $\square$

Note that $S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)$ need not be a subbundle of $\pi(\alpha_\lambda)$. We coorient $S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)$ in $\widetilde{V}_\lambda$ so that its restriction to the fiber over the basepoint $t^0 \in K_\lambda$ is equivalent to $o^*_{V_\lambda}(S(a_\ell^\lambda))$ fixed in §4.3. Then we may choose an η-form $\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)}$ on $\widetilde{V}_\lambda$ so that it is compatible with the coorientation and it extends $\eta_{S(a_\ell^\lambda)}$ on the fiber over the basepoint $t^0 \in K_\lambda$.

Remark 4.3. We used several rules to fix (co)orientations: the top horizontal arrows and the rightmost vertical arrow in the following diagram.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
o(a_\ell^\lambda) \arrow[r, leftrightarrow, "\partial"] \arrow[d, dotted, leftrightarrow] & o(S(a_\ell^\lambda)) \arrow[r, "*"] \arrow[d, dotted, leftrightarrow] & o^*_{V_\lambda}(S(a_\ell^\lambda)) \arrow[d, leftrightarrow, "\substack{\text{compatibility}\\ \text{at a fiber}}"] \\
o(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda) \arrow[r, leftrightarrow, "\partial"] & o(S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)) \arrow[r, "*"] & o^*_{\widetilde{V}_\lambda}(S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda))
\end{tikzcd}$$

(We write ∂ for the outward-normal-first rule, and $*$ for the rule (1.1).) In this, once $o(a_\ell^\lambda)$ is fixed, other items $o(S(a_\ell^\lambda))$, $o(S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda))$, and $o(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)$ are automatically fixed by applying the rules. We remark that we do not assume any "natural" rule at the dotted vertical arrows. Note that the product orientations ($o(K_\lambda) \wedge o(a_\ell^\lambda)$ etc.) with respect to the local trivializations of $\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda$ and $S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^\lambda)$ do not make the squares commutative (two different orientations may be "defined" on a single item). This example suggests that fixing a "natural" rule to define orientations for general cases is often tricky.

The product $\pi(\alpha_i) \times \pi(\alpha_j) \colon \widetilde{V}_i \times \widetilde{V}_j \to K_i \times K_j$ is a bundle whose fiber over the basepoint is $V_i \times V_j$. The formula (4.2) is naturally extended over $\widetilde{V}_i \times \widetilde{V}_j$ by

$$\sum_{\ell,m} L_{\ell m}^{ij}\, p_1^*\, \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^i)} \wedge p_2^*\, \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}_m^j)}, \tag{4.3}$$

where $\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}_\ell^i)}$ etc. is a closed form on $\widetilde{V}_i$ etc. Note that the form (4.3) is currently defined only on the space $\widetilde{V}_i \times \widetilde{V}_j$ and we still have not seen that this is a restriction of a propagator on the corresponding (D^d, ∂)-bundle over $K_i \times K_j$, although we will do so in Proposition 4.6 below.

4.5. **Normalization of propagator in family.** To state Proposition 4.6, we decompose bundles into pieces. Let U_∞ is a small closed d-ball about ∞ and let $\pi^{\Gamma\infty} \colon E^{\Gamma\infty} \to B_\Gamma$ be the (S^d, U_∞)-bundle obtained by extending the (D^d, ∂)-bundle $\pi^\Gamma \colon E^\Gamma \to B_\Gamma$ by the product bundle $B_\Gamma \times U_\infty$.

We decompose $E^{\Gamma\infty}$ into subbundles compatible with surgery, as follows. We extend the vertical framing τ^Γ on E^Γ over the complement of the ∞-section $B_\Gamma \times \{\infty\}$ in $E^{\Gamma\infty}$ by the standard framing τ_0 on $\mathbb{R}^d = S^d - \{\infty\}$. This extension is possible since τ^Γ is standard near the boundary. Let

$$V_\infty = S^d - \mathrm{Int}(V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_{2k}).$$

For $\lambda \in \{1, 2, \ldots, 2k\}$, let

$$\widetilde{V}'_\lambda = K_1 \times \cdots \times K_{\lambda-1} \times \widetilde{V}_\lambda \times K_{\lambda+1} \times \cdots \times K_{2k}.$$

This is a bundle over B_Γ, which is canonically isomorphic to the pullback of the bundle $\pi(\alpha_\lambda)\colon \widetilde{V}_\lambda \to K_\lambda$ by the projection $B_\Gamma \to K_\lambda$. Let

$$\widetilde{V}'_\infty = B_\Gamma \times V_\infty$$

and we consider the projection $\widetilde{V}'_\infty \to B_\Gamma$ as a trivial V_∞-bundle over B_Γ. Then we have the decomposition

$$E^{\Gamma\infty} = \widetilde{V}'_1 \cup \cdots \cup \widetilde{V}'_{2k} \cup \widetilde{V}'_\infty,$$

where the gluing at the boundary is given by the natural trivializations $\partial\widetilde{V}'_\lambda = B_\Gamma \times \partial V_\lambda$ for $\lambda \in \{1, \ldots, 2k\}$ (given in §3.7.2 and §3.8.2) and $\partial\widetilde{V}'_\infty = B_\Gamma \times (\partial V_1 \cup \cdots \cup \partial V_{2k})$.

We also consider a natural decomposition of $E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma)$ accordingly, as follows.

Notation 4.4. For $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, 2k\}$ such that $i \neq j$, let

$$\Omega^\Gamma_{ij} = \widetilde{V}'_i \times_{B_\Gamma} \widetilde{V}'_j,$$

namely, the pullback of the diagram $\widetilde{V}'_i \to B_\Gamma \leftarrow \widetilde{V}'_j$, where the map $\widetilde{V}'_i \to B_\Gamma$ etc. is the projection of the V_i-bundle. For $i \in \{1, \ldots, 2k, \infty\}$, let

$$\Omega^\Gamma_{ii} = p_{B\ell}^{-1}\big(\widetilde{V}'_i \times_{B_\Gamma} \widetilde{V}'_i\big), \quad \Omega^\Gamma_{i\infty} = p_{B\ell}^{-1}\big(\widetilde{V}'_i \times_{B_\Gamma} \widetilde{V}'_\infty\big), \quad \Omega^\Gamma_{\infty i} = p_{B\ell}^{-1}\big(\widetilde{V}'_\infty \times_{B_\Gamma} \widetilde{V}'_i\big),$$

where $p_{B\ell}\colon E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma) \to E^{\Gamma\infty} \times_{B_\Gamma} E^{\Gamma\infty}$ is the fiberwise blow-down map.

The projection $\Omega^\Gamma_{ij} \to B_\Gamma$ is a subbundle of $\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma)\colon E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma) \to B_\Gamma$, whose fiber over the basepoint $(t^0_1, \ldots, t^0_{2k}) \in B_\Gamma$ is $V_i \times V_j$ or $p_{B\ell}^{-1}(V_i \times V_j)$. What is important here is that the Ω^Γ_{ij} have pairwise disjoint interiors, which are smooth open manifolds. We have

$$E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma) = \bigcup_{i,j} \Omega^\Gamma_{ij},$$

where the sum is over all $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, 2k, \infty\}$. This decomposition is such that the interiors of the pieces do not overlap. The closed form (4.3) can be defined on most terms in this decomposition, except those of the forms Ω^Γ_{ii} or those involving ∞. Over the latter exceptions we will extend by "degenerate" forms.

Notation 4.5. For $J \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, 2k\}$, let

$$B_\Gamma(J) = \prod_{\lambda=1}^{2k} K_\lambda(J), \quad \text{where} \quad K_\lambda(J) = \begin{cases} K_\lambda & (\lambda \in J), \\ \{t^0_\lambda\} & (\lambda \notin J), \end{cases}$$

and let $\Omega^\Gamma_{ij}(J) \to B_\Gamma(J)$ be the restriction of the bundle $\Omega^\Gamma_{ij} \to B_\Gamma$ on $B_\Gamma(J)$. More generally, for a bundle $\mathscr{E} \to B_\Gamma$, we denote by $\mathscr{E}(J) \to B_\Gamma(J)$ its restriction on $B_\Gamma(J)$.

If we let $J_{ij} = (\{i\} \cup \{j\}) \cap \{1, \ldots, 2k\}$, we have $B_\Gamma(J_{ij}) \cong \prod_{\lambda \in J_{ij}} K_\lambda$, and there is a natural bundle map

$$\begin{tikzcd} \Omega^\Gamma_{ij} \arrow[r, "\widetilde{p}_{ij}"] \arrow[d] & \Omega^\Gamma_{ij}(J_{ij}) \arrow[d] \\ B_\Gamma \arrow[r, "p_{ij}"] & B_\Gamma(J_{ij}) \end{tikzcd}$$

over the projection p_{ij}. For example, if $i,j \in \{1,\ldots,2k\}$ and $i \neq j$, then $J_{ij} = \{i,j\}$, $B_\Gamma(J_{ij}) \cong K_i \times K_j$, and $\Omega^\Gamma_{ij} = \widetilde{V}_i \times \widetilde{V}_j$. If $i \in \{1,\ldots,2k\}$, then $J_{ii} = \{i\}$, $J_{i\infty} = \{i\}$, and $B_\Gamma(J_{ii}) \cong K_i \cong B_\Gamma(J_{i\infty})$. Also, $J_{\infty\infty} = \emptyset$ and $B_\Gamma(J_{\infty\infty}) \cong *$.

Proposition 4.6 (Normalization of propagator)**.** *Let d be an integer such that $d \geq 4$, which may or may not be even. There exists a propagator $\omega \in \Omega^{d-1}_{\mathrm{dR}}(E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma))$ satisfying the following conditions.*

(1) *For $i,j \in \{1,\ldots,2k,\infty\}$,*
$$\omega|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{ij}} = \widetilde{p}_{ij}^*\,\omega|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{ij}(J_{ij})}.$$
(2) *For $i,j \in \{1,\ldots,2k\}$, $i \neq j$,*
$$\omega|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{ij}(J_{ij})} = \sum_{\ell,m} L^{ij}_{\ell m}\, p_1^*\,\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^i_\ell)} \wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^j_m)},$$
where $L^{ij}_{\ell m} = (-1)^{d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(b^i_\ell, b^j_m)$ and the sum is over ℓ, m such that $\dim a^i_\ell + \dim a^j_m = d-1$.

This is the heart of the computation of the invariant. The statement of Proposition 4.6 looks natural, although its proof given in §6 and §7, mostly following Lescop's interpretation [Les2] of Kuperberg–Thurston's theorem ([KuTh, Theorem 2]), is not short. In fact, as in [Les2] we will prove a statement stronger than (2), which includes ∞. Nevertheless, Proposition 4.6 is sufficient for the main computation in §4.6 due to Lemma 4.9.

The following lemma is a restatement of Lemma 4.2(5), which will also be used in the computation of the invariant.

Lemma 4.7 (Integral at a trivalent vertex)**.** *Let $S(\widetilde{a}^\lambda_1), S(\widetilde{a}^\lambda_2), S(\widetilde{a}^\lambda_3)$ be the submanifolds of $\widetilde{V}_\lambda$ of Lemma 4.2. Then we have*
$$\int_{\widetilde{V}_\lambda} \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^\lambda_1)} \wedge \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^\lambda_2)} \wedge \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^\lambda_3)} = \pm 1.$$
The sign depends only on the type (I or II) of V_λ. We let α, β be this sign for V_λ of type I, II, respectively for later use.

4.6. **Evaluation of the configuration space integrals.** From now on we complete the proof of Theorem 3.10, assuming Proposition 4.6, by proving the following theorem. The idea of the proof is analogous to that of [KuTh, Theorem 2], [Les2, Theorem 2.4], and [Wa2, Theorem 6.1].

Theorem 4.8 (Theorem 3.10(3))**.** *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$ and let Γ be a vertex-quasi-oriented, vertex-labelled arrow graph with $2k$ vertices without self-loop (as in Definition 3.9). If moreover Γ has no orientation-reversing automorphism, we have*
$$Z^\Omega_k(\pi^\Gamma; \tau^\Gamma) = \pm[\Gamma],$$
where the sign depends only on k (not on Γ in $\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{0,k}$).

More explicitly, the sign $\pm$ in Theorem 4.8 is $(-1)^{3k}\alpha^k\beta^k$.

For $i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_{2k} \in \{1,\ldots,2k,\infty\}$, let
$$\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2\cdots i_{2k}} = p_{B\ell}^{-1}(\widetilde{V}'_{i_1} \times_{B_\Gamma} \widetilde{V}'_{i_2} \times_{B_\Gamma} \cdots \times_{B_\Gamma} \widetilde{V}'_{i_{2k}}),$$

where $p_{B\ell}\colon E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi^\Gamma) \to E^{\Gamma\infty} \times_{B_\Gamma} \cdots \times_{B_\Gamma} E^{\Gamma\infty}$ is the canonical projection induced by the $\mathrm{Diff}(S^d, U_\infty)$-equivariant projection $\overline{C}_{2k}(S^d;\infty) \to (S^d)^{\times 2k}$. This is the subspace of $E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi^\Gamma)$ consisting of configurations $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{2k})$ such that $\pi^{\Gamma\infty}(x_1) = \cdots = \pi^{\Gamma\infty}(x_{2k})$ and $x_r \in \widetilde{V}'_{i_r}$ for each r. More precisely, $\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}}$ is the image of a bundle over B_Γ with fiber the preimage of some products of manifolds $V_\ell^{\times p}$ under the blow-down map $\overline{C}_{2k}(S^d;\infty) \to (S^d)^{\times 2k}$. The integrals may be taken over the interior of $\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}}$. Then we have

$$E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi^\Gamma) = \bigcup_{i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_{2k}} \Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}},$$

where the sum is taken for all possible choices $i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_{2k} \in \{1, \ldots, 2k, \infty\}$. It follows from the formulas (2.18) and (E.3) that

$$\begin{aligned}(2k)!(3k)!\, Z_k^\Omega(\pi^\Gamma;\tau^\Gamma) &= \sum_{\Gamma' \in \mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}} \int_{B_\Gamma} I(\Gamma')[\Gamma'] = \sum_{\Gamma' \in \mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}} \int_{E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi^\Gamma)} \omega(\Gamma')[\Gamma'] \\ &= \sum_{\Gamma' \in \mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}} \sum_{i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_{2k}} \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}}} \omega(\Gamma')[\Gamma'],\end{aligned}$$

Thus, to prove Theorem 4.8, it suffices to compute the following integral for all $\Gamma' \in \mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$:

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}}} \omega(\Gamma') = \frac{1}{2^{3k}} \sum_\rho \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}}} \omega(\Gamma', \rho), \tag{4.4}$$

where $\sum_\rho$ is over all edge orientations on Γ'. For a labelled graph Γ', we denote its edges by $e_1, \ldots, e_{3k}$ according to the edge labels. Then the integral (4.4) is the one over the configurations such that the vertices of Γ' labelled by $1, 2, \ldots, 2k$ are mapped to a fiber of $\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}}$. If the image of the ordered pair (j'_a, ℓ'_a) of the (labelled) endpoints of the edge e_a of Γ' under the map $\{1, 2, \ldots, 2k\} \to \{1, 2, \ldots, 2k\}; q \mapsto i_q$ are (j_a, ℓ_a), namely $j_a = i_{j'_a}$ and $\ell_a = i_{\ell'_a}$, and if the propagator ω is normalized as in Proposition 4.6, then by Proposition 4.6 (1),

$$\omega(\Gamma', \rho)|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}}} = \bigwedge_{a=1}^{3k} \phi_{e_a}^* \widetilde{p}^*_{j_a \ell_a} \omega|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{j_a \ell_a}(J_{j_a \ell_a})}. \tag{4.5}$$

Lemma 4.9. *Suppose that the propagator $\omega \in \Omega^{d-1}_{\mathrm{dR}}(E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma))$ is normalized as in Proposition 4.6. Let $\lambda \in \{1, \ldots, 2k\}$. If $i_1, \ldots, i_{2k} \in \{1, \ldots, 2k, \infty\} - \{\lambda\}$, then*

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_{2k}}} \omega(\Gamma', \rho) = 0.$$

for any edge orientation ρ of Γ'. Hence the integral (4.4) can be nonzero only if $\{i_1, \ldots, i_{2k}\} = \{1, \ldots, 2k\}$.

Proof. We think $B_\Gamma(\{1, \ldots, 2k\} - \{\lambda\})$ as a subspace of B_Γ by taking the λ-th term to be the basepoint, and denote it by B_Γ/K_λ. Let

$$\mathscr{E}/K_\lambda \to B_\Gamma/K_\lambda$$

denote the restriction of a bundle $\mathscr{E} \to B_\Gamma$ over the subspace B_Γ/K_λ. If $i_q \neq \lambda$ for all $q \in \{1,\ldots,2k\}$, the bundle map $\widetilde{p}_{j_a\ell_a}$ factors through the bundle map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Omega^\Gamma_{j_a\ell_a} & \longrightarrow & \Omega^\Gamma_{j_a\ell_a}/K_\lambda \\ \big\downarrow & & \big\downarrow \\ B_\Gamma & \longrightarrow & B_\Gamma/K_\lambda \end{array}$$

for each $a \in \{1,\ldots,3k\}$, since $B_\Gamma(J_{j_a\ell_a})$ does not have the factor K_λ for all a. Hence by (4.5), $\omega(\Gamma',\rho)$ is the pullback of $\omega(\Gamma',\rho)|_{E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi^\Gamma)/K_\lambda}$ by the projection $E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi^\Gamma) \to E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi^\Gamma)/K_\lambda$. If V_λ is of type II, then $\omega(\Gamma',\rho)$ is the pullback of a $3k(d-1)$-form on a $3k(d-1)-(d-3)$-dimensional manifold $E\overline{C}_{2k}(\pi^\Gamma)/K_\lambda$, which is zero. If V_λ is of type I, then we can integrate $\omega(\Gamma',\rho)$ over $K_\lambda = S^0$ first:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2\cdots i_{2k}}} \omega(\Gamma',\rho) &= \pm \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2\cdots i_{2k}}/K_\lambda} \int_{K_\lambda} \omega(\Gamma',\rho) \\ &= \pm \left\{ \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2\cdots i_{2k}}/K_\lambda} \omega(\Gamma',\rho) - \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1 i_2\cdots i_{2k}}/K_\lambda} \omega(\Gamma',\rho) \right\} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. □

Lemma 4.10. *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$. Suppose that the propagator $\omega \in \Omega^{d-1}_{\mathrm{dR}}(E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma))$ is normalized as in Proposition 4.6. If Γ has no multiple edges, we have*

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} \omega(\Gamma') = \begin{cases} \pm 1 & \text{if } \Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for each $\Gamma' \in \mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{even}}_k$. Here, we write $\Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma$ if there exists an isomorphism $\Gamma' \to \Gamma$ of graphs that sends the i-th vertex of Γ' to the i-th vertex of Γ.

More explicitly, the value ± 1 above is $\varepsilon_{\Gamma'}(-1)^{3k}\alpha^k\beta^k$, where $\varepsilon_{\Gamma'}$ is the sign determined by the relation $\Gamma' \cong \varepsilon_{\Gamma'}\Gamma$ (the interpretation of the graph orientation in terms of orderings of half-edges was given in §3.3.3 and §3.3.4), and $\alpha, \beta \in \{-1, 1\}$ are of Lemma 4.7.

Proof. By (4.5) and Proposition 4.6(2), the restriction of $\omega(\Gamma',\rho)$ to $\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}$ can be described explicitly as follows.

$$\omega(\Gamma',\rho)|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} = \bigwedge_{\substack{(i,j)\\ \text{edge of } \Gamma'}} \Big(\sum_{\ell,m} L^{ij}_{\ell m}\, p_i^*\eta^i_\ell \wedge p_j^*\eta^j_m \Big), \tag{4.6}$$

where $L^{ij}_{\ell m} = (-1)^{d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(b^i_\ell, b^j_m)$, $\eta^i_\ell = \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^i_\ell)}$, $\eta^j_m = \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^j_m)}$ and the sum is over ℓ, m such that $\dim a^i_\ell + \dim a^j_m = d-1$. Note that there is a symmetry of the linking number $L^{ij}_{\ell m} = L^{ji}_{m\ell}$ and that one of η^i_ℓ and η^j_m is of even degree when d is even, the result does not depend on the choice the order of (i,j) nor on ρ. Thus we have

$$\omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} = \omega(\Gamma',\rho)|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}}. \tag{4.7}$$

The form (4.6) is a linear combination of products of $6k$ η-forms (§4.1).

Furthermore, if Γ does not have multiple edges, we may assume that each term in the linear combination is the product of $6k$ *different* η-forms since there is at most one edge of Γ between each pair (i,j) of vertices with $i \neq j$, and for a given pair (i,ℓ) the coefficient $L^{ij}_{\ell m} = (-1)^{d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(b^i_\ell, b^j_m)$ is nonzero (and equal to -1) for at most one pair (j,m). Thus we have

$$\omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} = \varepsilon_{\Gamma'} \prod_{(i,j)} \Big(\sum_{(\ell,m)\in P_{ij}} L^{ij}_{\ell m} \Big) \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} \big(p_q^*\eta_1^q \wedge p_q^*\eta_2^q \wedge p_q^*\eta_3^q\big),$$

where $P_{ij} = \{(\ell,m) \in \{1,2,3\}^{\times 2} \mid 1 \leq \ell, m \leq 3,\ \dim a^i_\ell + \dim a^j_m = d-1,\ L^{ij}_{\ell m} \neq 0\}$. The cardinality of P_{ij} is the number of edges between i and j in Γ, which is 1 or 0 by assumption. Hence the right hand side is nonzero only if $|P_{ij}| = 1$ for all edges (i,j) of Γ'. This condition is equivalent to $\Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma$. More precisely, if Γ does not have multiple edges, we have

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} \omega(\Gamma') = \begin{cases} \varepsilon_{\Gamma'}(-1)^{3k} \displaystyle\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} \big(p_q^*\eta_1^q \wedge p_q^*\eta_2^q \wedge p_q^*\eta_3^q\big) & \text{if } \Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Note that there is a canonical diffeomorphism

$$\widehat{p}_1 \times \cdots \times \widehat{p}_{2k} \colon \Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)} \to \widetilde{V}_1 \times \cdots \times \widetilde{V}_{2k},$$

where $\widehat{p}_q \colon \Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)} \to \widetilde{V}_q$ is the natural projection, which gives the q-th point. This diffeomorphism is orientation-preserving. Namely, $\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}$ is oriented by

$$\textstyle\bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} o(K_q) \wedge \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} o(V_q) = \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} (o(K_q) \wedge o(V_q)) = \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} o(\widetilde{V}_q),$$

where $o(W)$ denotes the orientation of W. Note that $o(V_j)$ is of even degree for each j. Hence in the case $\Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma$ and Γ does not have multiple edges, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} \omega(\Gamma') &= \varepsilon_{\Gamma'}(-1)^{3k} \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} \widehat{p}_q^*(\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^q_1)} \wedge \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^q_2)} \wedge \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^q_3)}) \\ &= \varepsilon_{\Gamma'}(-1)^{3k} \prod_{q=1}^{2k} \int_{\widetilde{V}_q} \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^q_1)} \wedge \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^q_2)} \wedge \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^q_3)} = \varepsilon_{\Gamma'}(-1)^{3k}\alpha^k\beta^k.\end{aligned}$$

$\square$

Remark 4.11. When d is even, if Γ has no orientation-reversing automorphism, then Γ has no multiple edges, since a permutation within a multiple edge gives an orientation-reversing automorphism of Γ. If Γ has an orientation-reversing automorphism, then $[\Gamma] = 0$ in $\mathscr{A}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$.

Lemma 4.12. *Let d be an even integer such that $d \geq 4$. Suppose that the propagator $\omega \in \Omega^{d-1}_{\mathrm{dR}}(E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma))$ is normalized as in Proposition 4.6. If Γ has no orientation-reversing automorphism and if a permutation $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_{2k}$ of vertices of a graph $\Gamma' \in \mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$ induces an automorphism of Γ', then we have*

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{\sigma(1)\sigma(2)\cdots\sigma(2k)}} \omega(\Gamma') = \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} \omega(\Gamma')$$

for each $\Gamma' \in \mathscr{L}_k^{\mathrm{even}}$.

Proof. If $\Gamma' \not\cong \pm\Gamma$, the vanishing of the integral on the LHS is the same as Lemma 4.10. If $\Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma$ and if Γ (and Γ') does not have an orientation-reversing automorphism, then we have

$$\omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{\sigma(1)\sigma(2)\cdots\sigma(2k)}} = \varepsilon_{\Gamma'} \prod_{\substack{(i,j)\\ \text{edge of }\Gamma'}} \Big(\sum_{(\ell,m)\in P_{\sigma(i)\sigma(j)}} L^{\sigma(i)\sigma(j)}_{\ell m} \Big) \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} p^*_{\sigma^{-1}(q)}\big(\eta_1^q\,\eta_2^q\,\eta_3^q\big),$$

and $\Omega^\Gamma_{\sigma(1)\sigma(2)\cdots\sigma(2k)}$ is oriented by $\bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} o(K_q) \wedge \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} o(V_{\sigma(q)}) = \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} (o(K_q)\wedge o(V_q))$ $= \bigwedge_{q=1}^{2k} o(\widetilde{V}_q)$. We abbreviated $\eta_1^q \wedge \eta_2^q \wedge \eta_3^q$ as $\eta_1^q\,\eta_2^q\,\eta_3^q$ for a typesetting purpose. (Similar abbreviation is used in Example 4.13 below.) Hence if moreover $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_{2k}$ induces an automorphism of Γ',

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{\sigma(1)\sigma(2)\cdots\sigma(2k)}} \omega(\Gamma') = \varepsilon_{\Gamma'}(-1)^{3k} \prod_{q=1}^{2k} \int_{\widetilde{V}_q} \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}_1^q)} \wedge \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}_2^q)} \wedge \eta_{S(\widetilde{a}_3^q)} = \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{12\cdots(2k)}} \omega(\Gamma').$$

(An example of this computation is given below in Example 4.13.) □

Proof of Theorem 4.8. Let ω be a propagator normalized as in Proposition 4.6. Suppose that Γ does not have multiple edges. If $\Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma$ and if Γ (and Γ') does not have an orientation-reversing automorphism, then the same value $\pm[\Gamma]$ (with the same sign) is counted $|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|$ times, according to Lemma 4.12. Hence by Lemmas 4.9 and 4.10,

$$I(\Gamma')[\Gamma'] = \pm|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|[\Gamma]$$

where the sign is $(-1)^{3k}\alpha^k\beta^k$ for some $\alpha, \beta \in \{-1, 1\}$ (recall that Γ was oriented so that $\varepsilon_\Gamma = 1$).

Hence, the term $I(\Gamma')[\Gamma']$ is nonzero only if $\Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma$ and if Γ' does not have an orientation-reversing automorphism, in which case $I(\Gamma')[\Gamma'] = \pm|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|[\Gamma]$ by Lemma 4.10. Moreover, *the sign in* $\pm|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|[\Gamma]$ *is the same for different choices of* Γ' *such that* $\Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma$, since $I(-\Gamma') = -I(\Gamma')$ and the value $I(\Gamma')[\Gamma']$ does not depend on the labelling to orient Γ'. Now there are $\frac{(2k)!(3k)!}{|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|}$ labellings on each graph Γ up to graph isomorphism, and hence we have

$$Z_k^\Omega(\pi^\Gamma; \tau^\Gamma) = \pm\frac{1}{(2k)!(3k)!}\frac{(2k)!(3k)!}{|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|}|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|[\Gamma] = \pm[\Gamma].$$

The sign $\pm$ in the second and last term is of the form $(-1)^{3k}\alpha^k\beta^k$ for $\alpha, \beta \in \{-1, 1\}$ of Lemma 4.7. This completes the proof. □

Example 4.13. Let us give an example which confirms the proofs of Lemma 4.10 and Theorem 4.8 for $k = 2$. Let Γ and Γ' be the oriented trivalent graphs for $k = 2$ given in the left and middle of Figure 8, respectively. We use Γ to define surgery. (Recall the convention of §3.3 for the orientation of Γ for the surgery.) According to Lemmas 4.9 and 4.10, the integral $I(\Gamma')$ for $(\pi^\Gamma, \tau^\Gamma)$ may be nonzero only if $\Gamma' \cong \pm\Gamma$ and over $\Omega^\Gamma_{i_1i_2i_3i_4}$ with $\{i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$. By (4.6) and (4.7),

$$\begin{aligned}
&\omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{1234}} = \omega_{12}\,\omega_{23}\,\omega_{31}\,\omega_{14}\,\omega_{42}\,\omega_{43}\\
&= p_1^*\eta_2^1 \wedge p_2^*\underline{\eta_2^2} \wedge p_2^*\eta_3^2 \wedge p_3^*\underline{\eta_2^3} \wedge p_3^*\eta_3^3 \wedge p_1^*\underline{\eta_1^1} \wedge p_1^*\eta_3^1 \wedge p_4^*\underline{\eta_1^4} \wedge p_4^*\eta_2^4 \wedge p_2^*\underline{\eta_1^2} \wedge p_4^*\eta_3^4 \wedge p_3^*\underline{\eta_1^3}\\
&= p_1^*(\underline{\eta_1^1}\,\eta_2^1\,\eta_3^1) \wedge p_2^*(\underline{\eta_1^2}\,\underline{\eta_2^2}\,\eta_3^2) \wedge p_3^*(\underline{\eta_1^3}\,\underline{\eta_2^3}\,\eta_3^3) \wedge p_4^*(\underline{\eta_1^4}\,\eta_2^4\,\eta_3^4),
\end{aligned}$$

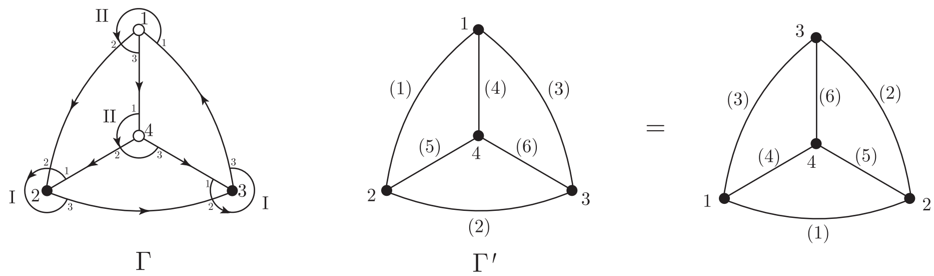


FIGURE 8. Oriented graphs Γ and Γ' for $k = 2$. The left Γ is oriented in terms of the convention of §3.3.4. The middle and right Γ' are oriented in terms of the convention (a) of §3.3.3.

where $\omega_{12} = p_1^*\eta_2^1 \wedge p_2^*\underline{\eta_2^2}$, $\omega_{23} = p_2^*\eta_3^2 \wedge p_3^*\underline{\eta_2^3}$, $\omega_{31} = p_3^*\eta_3^3 \wedge p_1^*\underline{\eta_1^1}$, $\omega_{14} = p_1^*\eta_3^1 \wedge p_4^*\underline{\eta_1^4}$, $\omega_{42} = p_4^*\eta_2^4 \wedge p_2^*\underline{\eta_1^2}$, $\omega_{43} = p_4^*\eta_3^4 \wedge p_3^*\underline{\eta_1^3}$ (odd degree forms are underlined). Hence

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{1234}} \omega(\Gamma') = \int_{\widetilde{V}_1} \eta_1^1\,\eta_2^1\,\eta_3^1 \int_{\widetilde{V}_2} \eta_1^2\,\eta_2^2\,\eta_3^2 \int_{\widetilde{V}_3} \eta_1^3\,\eta_2^3\,\eta_3^3 \int_{\widetilde{V}_4} \eta_1^4\,\eta_2^4\,\eta_3^4 = (\pm 1)^2(\pm 1)^2 = 1.$$

Here, the orientation of Ω^Γ_{1234} is given by $\epsilon_2\,\epsilon_3\,\partial t^{(1)} \wedge \partial t^{(4)} \wedge \partial v^{(1)} \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial v^{(4)} = \epsilon_2\,\epsilon_3\,(\partial t^{(1)} \wedge \partial v^{(1)}) \wedge \partial v^{(2)} \wedge \partial v^{(3)} \wedge (\partial t^{(4)} \wedge \partial v^{(4)})$, where $\epsilon_j = \pm 1 \in K_j = \{-1, 1\}$ $(j = 2, 3)$, $\partial t^{(i)}$ is the orientation of $K_i = S^{d-3}$ $(i = 1, 4)$, $\partial v^{(i)}$ is the orientation of the fiber V_i.

We consider the permutation $\sigma\colon 1 \mapsto 2,\ 2 \mapsto 3,\ 3 \mapsto 1,\ 4 \mapsto 4$, which gives rise to the graph automorphism from the right to the middle one in Figure 8. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
\omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{2314}} &= \omega'_{23}\,\omega'_{31}\,\omega'_{12}\,\omega'_{42}\,\omega'_{43}\,\omega'_{14} \overset{(*)}{=} \omega'_{12}\,\omega'_{23}\,\omega'_{31}\,\omega'_{14}\,\omega'_{42}\,\omega'_{43}\\
&= p_3^*\eta_2^1 \wedge p_1^*\underline{\eta_2^2} \wedge p_1^*\eta_3^2 \wedge p_2^*\underline{\eta_2^3} \wedge p_2^*\eta_3^3 \wedge p_3^*\underline{\eta_1^1} \wedge p_3^*\eta_3^1 \wedge p_4^*\underline{\eta_1^4} \wedge p_4^*\eta_2^4 \wedge p_1^*\underline{\eta_1^2} \wedge p_4^*\eta_3^4 \wedge p_2^*\underline{\eta_1^3}\\
&= p_3^*(\underline{\eta_1^1}\,\eta_2^1\,\eta_3^1) \wedge p_1^*(\underline{\eta_1^2}\,\underline{\eta_2^2}\,\eta_3^2) \wedge p_2^*(\underline{\eta_1^3}\,\underline{\eta_2^3}\,\eta_3^3) \wedge p_4^*(\underline{\eta_1^4}\,\eta_2^4\,\eta_3^4),
\end{aligned}$$

where $\omega'_{23} = p_1^*\eta_3^2 \wedge p_2^*\underline{\eta_2^3}$, $\omega'_{31} = p_2^*\eta_3^3 \wedge p_3^*\underline{\eta_1^1}$, $\omega'_{12} = p_3^*\eta_2^1 \wedge p_1^*\underline{\eta_2^2}$, $\omega'_{42} = p_4^*\eta_2^4 \wedge p_1^*\underline{\eta_1^2}$, $\omega'_{43} = p_4^*\eta_3^4 \wedge p_2^*\underline{\eta_1^3}$, $\omega'_{14} = p_3^*\eta_3^1 \wedge p_4^*\underline{\eta_1^4}$ (odd degree forms are underlined). Hence

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{2314}} \omega(\Gamma') = \int_{\widetilde{V}_1} \eta_1^1\,\eta_2^1\,\eta_3^1 \int_{\widetilde{V}_2} \eta_1^2\,\eta_2^2\,\eta_3^2 \int_{\widetilde{V}_3} \eta_1^3\,\eta_2^3\,\eta_3^3 \int_{\widetilde{V}_4} \eta_1^4\,\eta_2^4\,\eta_3^4 = 1.$$

Here, the orientation of Ω^Γ_{2314} is given by $\epsilon_2\,\epsilon_3\,\partial t^{(1)} \wedge \partial t^{(4)} \wedge \partial v^{(2)} \wedge \partial v^{(3)} \wedge \partial v^{(1)} \wedge \partial v^{(4)} = \epsilon_2\,\epsilon_3\,(\partial t^{(1)} \wedge \partial v^{(1)}) \wedge \partial v^{(2)} \wedge \partial v^{(3)} \wedge (\partial t^{(4)} \wedge \partial v^{(4)})$. The equality of the integrals of $\omega(\Gamma')$ over Ω^Γ_{1234} and Ω^Γ_{2314} can also be explained by means of the bundle isomorphism $g_\sigma\colon \Omega^\Gamma_{1234} \to \Omega^\Gamma_{2314}$ induced by the permutation $\sigma\colon V_1 \times V_2 \times V_3 \times V_4 \to V_2 \times V_3 \times V_1 \times V_4$; $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \mapsto (x_2, x_3, x_1, x_4)$. The map g_σ preserves the orientation of the fiber in the sense that $g_{\sigma *}o(\Omega^\Gamma_{1234}) = o(\Omega^\Gamma_{2314})$. Also, according to the computations above, we have

$$g_\sigma^*\omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{2314}} = \omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{1234}}.$$

Hence

$$\int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{1234}} \omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{1234}} = \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{1234}} g_\sigma^*\omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{2314}} = \int_{\Omega^\Gamma_{2314}} \omega(\Gamma')|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{2314}}.$$

Similarly, the same value is obtained for other permutations of $\mathfrak{S}_4$ since a graph automorphism of Γ' in Figure 8 always preserves graph orientation and the equality as in $(*)$ above holds. Therefore, we have

$$I(\Gamma') = \sum_{\sigma\in\mathfrak{S}_4} \int_{\Omega^{\Gamma}_{\sigma(1)\sigma(2)\sigma(3)\sigma(4)}} \omega(\Gamma') = 4! = |\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|.$$

The plus sign is because the graph orientations of Γ' and Γ are the same. Hence $[\Gamma'] = [\Gamma]$ and

$$I(\Gamma')[\Gamma'] = |\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|[\Gamma].$$

5. **Proofs of the properties of the Y-graph surgeries**

We shall prove Propositions 3.15, 3.18, and Lemma 3.20, whose proofs are technical and were postponed. In §5.6, we will give a band model for our parametrized surgery. It will be used later in Lemma 7.18.

5.1. **The idea.** The proofs of Propositions 3.15 and 3.18 are instances of the same principle.

Lemma 5.1. *If an element $x \in \pi_i(\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^p, I^d))$ lies in the image of the graphing map*

$$\Psi\colon \pi_{i+1}(\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{p-1} \cup \underline{I}^{q-1} \cup \underline{I}^{r-1}, I^{d-1})) \to \pi_i(\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)),$$

which is defined by considering an I^{i+1}-family of embeddings $I^{p-1} \cup I^{q-1} \cup I^{r-1} \to I^{d-1}$ as an I^i-family of isotopies $(I^{p-1} \cup I^{q-1} \cup I^{r-1}) \times I \to I^{d-1} \times I$, then the image $c_*(x)$ of x under the map c_* of (3.5) as a bundle over I^i can be realized as the mapping cylinder $C(\widetilde{\varphi})$ of a bundle isomorphism φ of a trivial $(d-1)$-dimensional handlebody bundle over I^i.

Proof. We prove this only for $(i,p,q,r) = (0, d-2, d-2, 1)$ and $(d-3, d-2, 1, 1)$, which correspond to type I and II handlebodies V, respectively, for simplicity. Recall that $V = T \times I$. Since the complement of a thickened tangle of $\mathrm{Emb}(\underline{H}_1^{e_1} \cup \underline{H}_2^{e_2} \cup \underline{H}_3^{e_3}, I^d)$ $(\overset{\mathrm{res}}{\simeq} \mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{p-1} \cup \underline{I}^{q-1} \cup \underline{I}^{r-1}, I^{d-1}))$ is a handlebody diffeomorphic to T relative to the boundary, we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{tikzcd}
\pi_{i+1}(\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{p-1} \cup \underline{I}^{q-1} \cup \underline{I}^{r-1}, I^{d-1})) \arrow[r, "\Psi"] \arrow[d, "c_*"'] & \pi_i(\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)) \arrow[d, "c_*"] \\
\pi_{i+1}(B\mathrm{Diff}(T,\partial)) \arrow[r, "\overline{\Psi}"] & \pi_i(\coprod_{[W,\partial W]} B\mathrm{Diff}(W,\partial))
\end{tikzcd}$$

where the disjoint union is taken for the class in $\mathscr{S}^H(V,\partial V)$ (see (3.5)), and the bottom horizontal map $\overline{\Psi}$ is given by considering a (T,∂)-bundle over I^{i+1} as a mapping cylinder of a bundle isomorphism $\widetilde{\varphi}$ between two (T,∂)-bundles over I^i. Now the lemma is obvious from the commutativity of the above diagram. $\square$

5.2. **Proof of Proposition 3.15: mapping cylinder structure on V'.**

Proof of Proposition 3.15. The following argument is essentially based on the fact that $B(d-2,d-2,1)_d$ is the suspension of $B(d-3,d-3,1)_{d-1}$ (Definition 3.4). By considering the third component of the framed tangle $B(\underline{d-3},\ \underline{d-3},\ 1)_{d-1}$ (Figure 10 (1)) as a 1-parameter family of points, we obtain an element γ of $\pi_1(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-3}\cup \underline{I}^{d-3}\cup I^0, I^{d-1}))$. Then the class of $B(\underline{d-2},\ \underline{d-2},\ \underline{1})_d$ lies in the image of γ under the graphing map

$$\Psi\colon \pi_1(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-3}\cup \underline{I}^{d-3}\cup I^0, I^{d-1}))\to \pi_0(\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)).$$

Then the result follows by Lemma 5.1. □

5.3. **Definition of the $(d-3)$-parameter family β.** We now construct the family $\beta\in\Omega^{d-3}\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$ of framed string links explicitly to find a parametrized twist map in 4 steps. The basic idea is to construct β so that the projection of the second component onto its last coordinate of I^d is a submersion.

5.3.1. *Step 1: From a Borromean string link $B(\underline{d-2},\ \underline{d-2},\ \underline{1})_d$ to an I^{d-3}-family β'' of string links in $\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup I^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$.* Let $T_0=I^{d-1}$. We assume that the first and second components of $B(\underline{d-2},\ \underline{d-2},\ \underline{1})_d$ are the standard inclusions

$$L_i\colon I^{d-3}\times I\to T_0\times I\quad (i=1,2)$$

given by $L_i(s,w)=(p_i,\frac{1}{2},s,w)$ (p_i is fixed in §3.6), which is possible by Lemma 3.1. A normal framing of L_1 is given explicitly by $(\partial x_1,\partial x_2)$. We consider L_2 as a $(d-3)$-parameter family of string knots $I\to T_0\times I$ given by the maps

$$L_{2,s}\colon I\to \{(p_2,\tfrac{1}{2})\}\times I^{d-3}\times I\subset T_0\times I\quad (s\in I^{d-3});$$

$L_{2,s}(w)=(p_2,\frac{1}{2},s,w)$. For each s, the endpoints of $L_{2,s}$ are mapped to $T_0\times\{0,1\}$ and depend on s. The tuple $(\partial x_1,\partial x_2,\partial x_3,\dots,\partial x_{d-1})$ gives a normal framing of $L_{2,s}$. Moreover, we assume that the third component L_3 of $B(\underline{d-2},\ \underline{d-2},\ \underline{1})_d$ is equipped with a normal framing as in Definition 3.6. Thus we obtain a map

$$\beta''\colon I^{d-3}\to \mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup I^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$$

defined by mapping each s to the family $L_1\cup L_{2,s}\cup L_3$ with the normal framings, where we consider L_1 and L_3 are independent of s, and by identifying $T_0\times I$ with I^d.

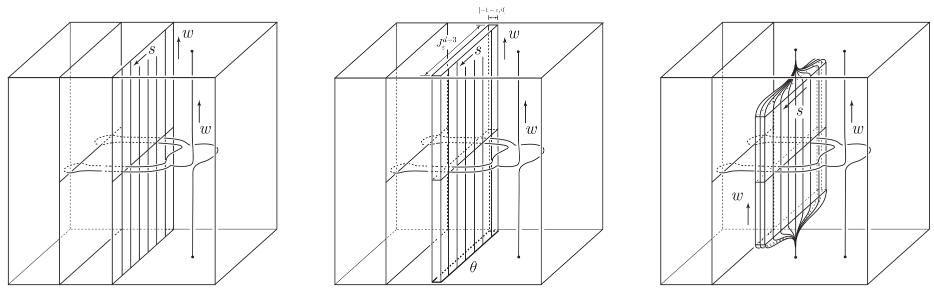
5.3.2. *Step 2: Closing the I^{d-3}-family β'' into a loop β'.* We alter the I^{d-3}-family β'' to a loop

$$\beta'\colon (I^{d-3},\partial I^{d-3})\to (\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup I^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d),a)$$

for some point a as follows. We consider the $(d-3)$-cycle θ in T_0 given by

$$\begin{aligned}&\partial(\{p_2\}\times[\varepsilon,\tfrac{1}{2}]\times J_\varepsilon^{d-3})\\ &=\Big(\{(p_2,\tfrac{1}{2})\}\times J_\varepsilon^{d-3}\Big)\cup\Big(\{(p_2,\varepsilon)\}\times J_\varepsilon^{d-3}\Big)\cup\Big(\{p_2\}\times[\varepsilon,\tfrac{1}{2}]\times\partial J_\varepsilon^{d-3}\Big),\end{aligned}$$

where $0<\varepsilon<1/100$, $J_\varepsilon^{d-3}=[\varepsilon,1-\varepsilon]^{d-3}$. Roughly, θ is a cycle obtained by closing the $(d-3)$-disk $\{(p_2,\frac{1}{2})\}\times J_\varepsilon^{d-3}$ in T_0 within the disk $\{p_2\}\times I^{d-2}$ along its boundary. The part $\{(p_2,\frac{1}{2})\}\times J_\varepsilon^{d-3}$ of θ is a part of $\{(p_2,\frac{1}{2})\}\times I^{d-3}=\mathrm{Im}\,L_2\cap(T_0\times\{0\})$.



(1) Step 1 (2) Step 2 (3) Step 3

FIGURE 9. (1) Family of 1-disks in β'', parametrized by I^{d-3}, (2) in β', parametrized by $s \in S^{d-3}$, endpoints on the top and bottom not fixed. 1-disks are drawn as vertical lines in the middle component. (3) S^{d-3}-family of (vertical) 1-disks in β_a, endpoints fixed.

We emphasize that the $(d-3)$-cycle θ is considered in a $(d-1)$-dimensional slice $T_0 \times \{0\}$ in $T_0 \times I$, which corresponds to the bottom horizontal disk in Figure 9 (2). We fix a loop $\lambda\colon (I^{d-3}, \partial I^{d-3}) \to (\theta, (p_2, \varepsilon, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}))$ of degree one, and define the map

$$L_{2,s}^*\colon I \to \theta \times I \subset T_0 \times I \quad (s \in I^{d-3})$$

by $L_{2,s}^*(w) = (\lambda(s), w)$. The tuple $(\partial x_1, \partial x_2, \partial x_3, \ldots, \partial x_{d-1})$ gives a normal framing of this family of 1-disks. Now we obtain the map β' by mapping each s to the family $L_1 \cup L_{2,s}^* \cup L_3$ (Figure 9 (2)) with the normal framings, where we again consider L_1 and L_3 are independent of s. Note that $L_1 \cup L_{2,s}^* \cup L_3$ is a link since the closing disk $(\theta - \{(p_2, \frac{1}{2})\} \times J_\varepsilon^{d-3}) \times I$ lies in a small neighborhood of $(\partial T_0) \times I$ and does not intersect the components L_1 and L_3.

5.3.3. *Step 3: Making β' into a loop β_a in* $\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$. We make the family β' into that of 1-disks whose boundaries are fixed with respect to s, as follows. Let $\rho\colon [0,1] \to [0,1]$ be a smooth function such that

(i) $\rho(x) = 0$ on a neighborhood of $\{0,1\}$, and $\rho(x) = 1$ on $[\varepsilon', 1-\varepsilon']$ for some $0 < \varepsilon' < 1/10$,

(ii) $\dfrac{d}{dx}\rho(x) \geq 0$ on $[0, \varepsilon']$, $\dfrac{d}{dx}\rho(x) \leq 0$ on $[1-\varepsilon', 1]$.

We define the 'pressing-to-standard' map $\rho'\colon T_0 \times I \to T_0 \times I$ by $\rho'(x, w) = \Big(\rho(w)x + (1-\rho(w))(p_2, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}), w\Big)$. By replacing $L_{2,s}^*$ with $\rho' \circ L_{2,s}^*$, we obtain an S^{d-3}-family of 1-disks $I \to T_0 \times I$ that are standard near ∂I (Figure 9 (3)). This replacement can be obtained by a family of isotopies of the second component which does not intersect the other components, so that the S^{d-3}-family of 1-disks obtained after composing ρ' gives a family of embeddings $\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1 \to I^d$. This is because the locus of $\{0\}$ or $\{1\}$ in the family of $I \to T_0 \times I$ for β' forms a $(d-3)$-sphere in $T_0 \times \{0\}$ or $T_0 \times \{1\}$ which bounds a disk $\{p_2\} \times [\varepsilon, \frac{1}{2}] \times J_\varepsilon^{d-3} \times \{i\}$ ($i = 0$ or 1) in $T_0 \times \{0,1\}$ that is disjoint from other components, and the pressing map ρ' retracts the spanning disk into a point on that disk.

This family of embeddings of the second component admits a family of normal framings as follows. The orthogonal projection of the tuple $(\partial x_1, \partial x_2, \partial x_3, \ldots, \partial x_{d-1})$ of sections of $T(T_0)|_{\mathrm{Im}\,\rho'\circ L^*_{2,s}} \subset T(T_0\times I)|_{\mathrm{Im}\,\rho'\circ L^*_{2,s}}$ to the normal bundle $N(\mathrm{Im}\,\rho'\circ L^*_{2,s})$ gives a normal framing of $\rho'\circ L^*_{2,s}$. With this family of normal framings, we obtain a family

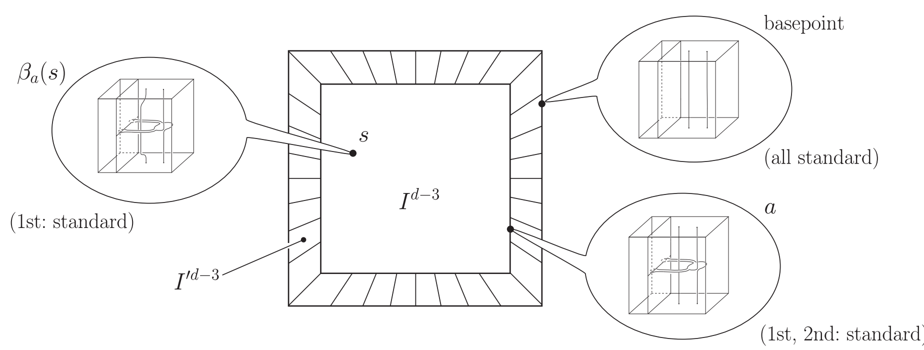
$$\beta_a\colon (I^{d-3}, \partial I^{d-3}) \to (\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d), a).$$

Note that this map does not take ∂I^{d-3} to the basepoint of $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$ since the third component L_3 is not standard.

5.3.4. *Step 4: Making β_a into a loop β based at the basepoint.* We choose any path γ in $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$ from a to the basepoint which isotopes L_3 with framing into the standard one and fixes other components, and use it to extend β_a to a slightly bigger cube I'^{d-3} by taking the collar $I'^{d-3} - \mathrm{Int}\, I^{d-3} \cong \partial I^{d-3}\times I$ through the composition of the maps $\partial I^{d-3}\times I \to I$ and $\gamma\colon I \to \mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$. We assume $\gamma(t)$ is the basepoint for $1-\varepsilon'' \leq t \leq 1$ for some small $\varepsilon'' > 0$. The extended map takes a neighborhood of $\partial I'^{d-3}$ to the basepoint and we obtain an I'^{d-3}-family of framed embeddings in $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$, which after a rescaling $I'^{d-3} \to I^{d-3}$ gives a loop

$$\beta \in \Omega^{d-3}\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d).$$

Then this gives rise to a (V,∂)-bundle $\widetilde{V} \to S^{d-3}$.



5.4. **Proof of Proposition 3.18: mapping cylinder structure on $\widetilde{V}$.**

Proof of Proposition 3.18. We see that the loop $\beta \in \Omega^{d-3}\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$ can also be obtained by considering certain element

$$\beta_0 \in \Omega^{d-2}\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-3}\cup I^0\cup I^0, I^{d-1})$$

as an I^{d-3}-family of isotopies $(I^{d-3}\cup I^0\cup I^0)\times I \to I^{d-1}\times I$ where each isotopy gives rise to an embedding $\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1 \to I^d$. Then we have $[\beta] = \Psi([\beta_0])$ and we can apply Lemma 5.1.

We construct β_0 explicitly. The idea is to modify embeddings $I^{d-2}\cup I^1\cup I^1 \to I^d$ into isotopies $(I^{d-3}\cup I^0\cup I^0)\times I \to I^{d-1}\times I$ (that are height-preserving). Recall that the open $(d-3)$-handles and 0-handles in T_0 given in §3.7 become $(d-2)$-handles and 1-handles in $T_0\times I$, whose complement is V. We saw that β is obtained by replacing

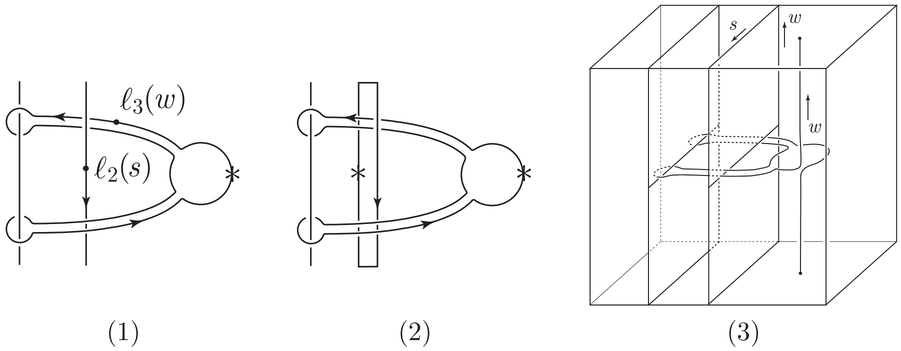


FIGURE 10. (1) $B(\underline{d-3},\ \underline{d-3},\ 1)_{d-1}$ parametrized by $(s,w)\in I^{d-3}\times I$. (2) $B(\underline{d-3},\ d-3,\ 1)_{d-1}$ parametrized by $S^{d-3}\times I$. (3) $\beta''\colon I^{d-3}\to \mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup I^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$. Horizontal section is parallel to the $(d-1)$-disk T_0 on the top.

the trivial S^{d-3}-family of the $(d-2)$- and 1-handles in $S^{d-3}\times(T_0\times I)$ by a family corresponding to the Borromean string link $B(\underline{d-2},\ \underline{d-2},\ \underline{1})_d$. We would like to find parametrizations of the family of string links that behave nicely with respect to the "height" parameter I in $T_0\times I$, by modifying the family $L_1\cup(\rho'\circ L_{2,s}^*)\cup L_3$ of framed string links in $\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup \underline{I}^1\cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$ in the definition of β_a.

We observe that the first two components L_1, $\rho'\circ L_{2,s}^*$ are already nice in the sense that the natural maps $\mathrm{pr}_I\circ L_1\colon I^{d-3}\times I\to I$ and $\mathrm{pr}_I\circ L_{2,s}^*\colon I\to I$ are submersions, where $\mathrm{pr}_I\colon T_0\times I\to I$ is the second projection. Also, we may assume that the third (1-dimensional) component L_3 is a section of the projection $\mathrm{pr}_I\colon T_0\times I\to I$, as $B(\underline{d-2},\ \underline{d-2},\ \underline{1})_d$ is the suspension of $B(\underline{d-3},\ \underline{d-3},\ \underline{1})_{d-1}$ for $d\geq 4$ (see §3.2 and §5.5 (Definition 5.2 below) for the suspensions of the Borromean links). Furthermore, $L_3(w)$ ($w\in I$) can be taken as the lift of a simple closed curve $\ell_3(w)$ in T_0 as in Figure 10 (1). Then we obtain a $I^{d-3}\times I$-family β_{0a} of *framed* embeddings in $\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-3}\cup I^0\cup I^0, I^{d-1})$:

$$x\mapsto L_1(x,w)\cup(\rho'\circ L_{2,s}^*)(w)\cup L_3(w)\quad (x\in I^{d-3}, s\in I^{d-3}, w\in I).$$

Indeed, this family possesses a natural framing. Namely, since the first I^{d-3}-component agrees with a standard inclusion and does not depend on the parameter, the basis $(\partial x_1,\partial x_2)$ gives a normal framing of $L_1(\cdot,w)$ in T_0. Since the second and third components are family of points, the basis $(\partial x_1,\ldots,\partial x_{d-1})$ gives normal framings of $\rho'\circ L_{2,s}^*(w)$ and $L_3(w)$ in T_0. One may see that β_{0a} gives the I^{d-3}-family β_a by considering the $I^{d-3}\times I$-family of framed embeddings $I^{d-3}\cup I^0\cup I^0\to T_0$ as an I^{d-3}-family of framed embeddings $(I^{d-3}\cup I^0\cup I^0)\times I\to T_0\times I$.

Extending the $I^{d-3}\times I$-family β_{0a} to a slightly bigger cube by a null-isotopy of L_3 as in the step 4 above, we obtain a map

$$\beta_0\colon (I^{d-3}\times I,\partial)\to(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-3}\cup I^0\cup I^0, I^{d-1}), L_{\mathrm{st}}).$$

This is possible since the null-isotopy of L_3 can be chosen to be height-preserving.

Finally, we see that $[\beta] = \Psi([\beta_0])$ by construction, and the result follows by Lemma 5.1. $\square$

5.5. **Equivalence of the two models: graph of spinning and iterated suspension.** We prove Lemma 3.20, which relates the graph of the spinning family construction β with a Borromean string link obtained by iterated suspension. We recommend the reader to see Figure 11 before going into Definition 5.2 to grasp what is done here.

Definition 5.2 (Suspension of string link)**.** Let $L = L_1 \cup L_2 \cup L_3 \colon I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r \to I^d$ $(0 < p, q, r < d)$ be a string link in $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$ equipped with a framed isotopy $H_{1,t} \cup H_{2,t} \colon I^p \cup I^q \to I^d$ $(t \in [0,1])$ of the first two components fixing a neighborhood of the boundary $\partial I^p \cup \partial I^q$, such that $H_{1,0} \cup H_{2,0}$ is the standard inclusions of the first two components and $H_{1,1} \cup H_{2,1} = L_1 \cup L_2$. Suppose that L_3 agrees with the standard inclusion $I^r \to I^d$ (L_{st} after Definition 3.5) outside a d-ball about $a = (\frac{1}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{2}) \in I^r \subset I^d$ with small radius $R \ll \frac{1}{2}$. Then the *suspension* $L' = L_1' \cup L_2' \cup L_3' \colon I^{p+1} \cup I^{q+1} \cup I^r \to I^{d+1}$ of L is defined by

$$L_1'(u_1, w) = (H_{1,\chi(w)}(u_1), w), \quad L_2'(u_2, w) = (H_{2,\chi(w)}(u_2), w),$$
$$L_3'(u_3) = \begin{cases} (L_3(u_3), \frac{1}{2}) & (|u_3 - a| \le R), \\ (p_3, \mu_d^{-1} \circ \rho_r \circ \mu_r(u_3)) & (|u_3 - a| \ge R), \end{cases}$$

where $u_1 \in I^p$, $u_2 \in I^q$, $u_3 \in I^r$, $w \in I$, $\chi \colon I \to [0,1]$ is a smooth function supported on a small neighborhood of $\frac{1}{2}$ such that $\chi(\frac{1}{2}) = 1$, $\mu_n \colon [0,1]^n \to [-1,1]^d$ is the embedding defined by $\mu_n(t_1, \dots, t_n) = (2t_1 - 1, \dots, 2t_n - 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, and $\rho_r \colon [-1,1]^d \to [-1,1]^d$ is the diffeomorphism defined by

$$\begin{aligned} &\rho_r(x_1, \dots, x_d) = (x_1, \dots, x_{r-1}, x_r', x_{r+1}, \dots, x_{d-1}, x_d'), \text{ where} \\ &x_r' = x_r \cos\psi(|\boldsymbol{x}|) - x_d \sin\psi(|\boldsymbol{x}|), \quad x_d' = x_r \sin\psi(|\boldsymbol{x}|) + x_d \cos\psi(|\boldsymbol{x}|) \end{aligned} \tag{5.1}$$

($|\boldsymbol{x}| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_d^2}$) for a smooth function $\psi \colon [0, \sqrt{2}] \to [0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ with $\frac{d}{dt}\psi(t) \ge 0$, which takes the value 0 on $[0, 2R]$ and the value $\frac{\pi}{2}$ on $[R', \sqrt{2}]$ for some R' with $2R < R' < \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$. (The diffeomorphism ρ_r rotates the sphere $S^{d-1}_{|\boldsymbol{x}|}$ of radius $|\boldsymbol{x}|$ by angle $\psi(|\boldsymbol{x}|)$ along the $x_r x_d$-plane. The rotation $\rho_r|_{S^{d-1}_{R'}}$ exchanges the x_r-axis and the x_d-axis.) The resulting embedding L' has a canonical normal framing induced from the original one since the embedding $\rho_r \circ \mu_r$ can be extended to the diffeomorphism ρ_r. By permuting the coordinates so that the components agree with L_{st} near ∂I^{d+1}, L' with the induced framing can be considered giving an element of $\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{p+1} \cup \underline{I}^{q+1} \cup \underline{I}^r, I^{d+1})$. (Figure 11 (b).) Suspensions for other choices of components are defined similarly by symmetry.

The rotation ρ_r is needed since the two components L_1' and L_2' have the coordinate w, which will correspond to the parameter for the spinning, and we would like to let L_3' have the coordinate w near the boundary, too. The permutation of the coordinates can be given by moving the d-th factor before the first factor.

Here, we interpret normal framings of some embeddings by the model of the "embedding modulo immersion", as in [Wa3, (0.3)]. Namely, let $\overline{\mathrm{Emb}}_0(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$ be the path-component of the point $(L_{\mathrm{st}}, \mathrm{const})$ in the homotopy fiber of the derivative map

$$\mathrm{Emb}_0(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d) \to \mathrm{Bun}(T(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^p), TI^d),$$

where

- $\mathrm{Bun}(T(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r), TI^d) \simeq \Omega^p(\frac{SO_d}{SO_{d-p}}) \times \Omega^q(\frac{SO_d}{SO_{d-q}}) \times \Omega^r(\frac{SO_d}{SO_{d-r}})$ is the space of bundle monomorphisms $T(I^p \cup I^q \cup I^r) \to TI^d$ with fixed behavior on the boundary, and the identification in terms of the orthogonal groups is induced by the standard framings of the disks,
- const is the constant path at the basepoint of $\mathrm{Bun}(T(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r), TI^d)$ given by the standard inclusion.

A point of $\overline{\mathrm{Emb}}_0(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$ can be represented by an element f of $\mathrm{Emb}_0(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$ with a regular homotopy, which is a path of immersions, from f to the standard inclusion.

The component $\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$ of the standard inclusion L_{st} with the standard normal framing can be interpreted as the path-component of the point $(L_{\mathrm{st}}, \mathrm{const}^3)$ in the homotopy fiber of the map

$$\mathrm{Emb}_0(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d) \to \Omega^p(BSO_{d-p}) \times \Omega^q(BSO_{d-q}) \times \Omega^r(BSO_{d-r})$$

given by taking normal bundles. Then there is a natural map

$$\mathrm{ind}\colon \overline{\mathrm{Emb}}_0(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d) \to \mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$$

induced by the map $\mathrm{Bun}(T(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r), TI^d) \to \Omega^p(BSO_{d-p}) \times \Omega^q(BSO_{d-q}) \times \Omega^r(BSO_{d-r})$ given by taking normal bundles. The following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{tikzcd}
\pi_{d-3}(\overline{\mathrm{Emb}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)) \arrow[r, "\widetilde{\Psi}"] \arrow[d, "\mathrm{ind}_*"'] & \pi_0(\overline{\mathrm{Emb}}(\underline{I}^{2d-5} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2}, I^{2d-3})) \arrow[d, "\mathrm{ind}_*"] \\
\pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)) \arrow[r, "\Psi"] & \pi_0(\mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{2d-5} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2}, I^{2d-3}))
\end{tikzcd} \tag{5.2}$$

where the horizontal maps are the ones induced by graphing.

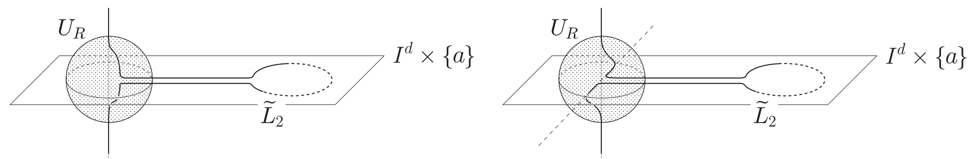
Lemma 5.3. *Let* $\mathrm{fg}\colon \mathrm{Emb}^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d) \to \mathrm{Emb}(\underline{I}^p \cup \underline{I}^q \cup \underline{I}^r, I^d)$ *be the map given by forgetting framing. Let* $[\beta] \in \pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d))$ *be the class defined in §5.3.*

(1) *The class* $\mathrm{fg}_*([\beta]) \in \pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d))$ *has a canonical lift* $[\widetilde{\beta}] \in \pi_{d-3}(\overline{\mathrm{Emb}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d))$ *such that* $\mathrm{ind}_*([\widetilde{\beta}]) = [\beta]$.

(2) *The class* $[B(\underline{2d-5}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2})_{2d-3}] \in \pi_0(\mathrm{Emb}(\underline{I}^{2d-5} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2}, I^{2d-3}))$ *has a canonical lift* $[\widetilde{B}(\underline{2d-5}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2})_{2d-3}] \in \pi_0(\overline{\mathrm{Emb}}(\underline{I}^{2d-5} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2}, I^{2d-3}))$ *such that* $\widetilde{\Psi}([\widetilde{\beta}]) = [\widetilde{B}(\underline{2d-5}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2})_{2d-3}]$.

Proof. (1) This is a straightforward analogue of the proof of (1') in the proof of [Wa3, Lemma A] (obtained just by replacing $(D^k \cup D^k \cup D^k, Q^{2k+1})$ with $(I^{d-2} \cup I^1 \cup I^1, I^d)$, and by exchanging the role of the first and second component).

(2) A lift $\widetilde{B}(\underline{2d-5}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2})_{2d-3}$ is constructed as a result of iterated suspension of the first and third components in $B(\underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{1})_d$ with the spanning



(a) graph of spinning (b) suspension

FIGURE 11. The two models for the second component.

disks $\underline{D_i}$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$. Lemma 3.7) by extending the suspension of string links to those with spanning disks in a straightforward manner.

To prove $\widetilde{\Psi}([\widetilde{\beta}]) = [\widetilde{B}(\underline{2d-5}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2})_{2d-3}]$, we compare the two elements of $\overline{\mathrm{Emb}}(\underline{I}^{2d-5} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^{d-2}, I^{2d-3})$ represented by the following objects (see Figure 11):

(a) The string link $(I^{d-2} \cup I^1 \cup I^1) \times I^{d-3} \to I^d \times I^{d-3}$ with spanning disks obtained from $\widetilde{\beta} \in \Omega^{d-3}\overline{\mathrm{Emb}}_0(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d)$ by graphing. This gives $\widetilde{\Psi}([\widetilde{\beta}])$.

(b) The string link obtained from $B(\underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{1})_d$ with the spanning disks $\underline{D_i}$ by the $(d-3)$-fold suspension for the first and third components. This gives $[\widetilde{B}(\underline{2d-5}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2})_{2d-3}]$.

The family of spanning disks of (a) is given by a straightforward analogue of those in the proof of (1') of [Wa3, Lemma A]. We assume without loss of generality the following.

For (a), we assume that the first and third components agree with the ones obtained from the constant I^{d-3}-families of the standard inclusions $I^{d-2} \cup \emptyset \cup I^1 \to I^d$. This is possible by Lemma 3.1. Moreover, we also assume similar condition for the second component outside a $(d-2)$-ball D_R about $(\frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}) \in I^1 \times I^{d-3}$ with small radius $R \ll \frac{1}{2}$. Then the associated graph is of the following form: Let $a = (\frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}) \in I^{d-3}$. The associated graph is the connected sum of the following two objects.

- The graph of the standard spinning model $\rho' \circ L^*_{2,s}$ of §5.3.3 (assumed to lie in a small $(2d-3)$-ball U_R about $(p_2, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}) \times a \in I^{2d-3} = I^d \times I^{d-3}$ with radius R). We assume that U_R is disjoint from the first and third components.
- A $(d-2)$-sphere $\widetilde{L}_2$ in $I^{2d-3} - (I^{d-2} \cup \emptyset \cup I^1) \times I^{d-3}$, which is disjoint from the ball U_R and lies in a small tubular neighborhood of $I^d \times \{a\}$ in I^{2d-3}.

The connected sum is performed between the point $(p_2, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}) \times a$ and a basepoint of $\widetilde{L}_2$. We also assume that the band for the connected sum is thin (Figure 11 (a)).

We may further perturb the object (a) within the class $\widetilde{\Psi}([\widetilde{\beta}])$ into one such that $\widetilde{L}_2$ lies in $I^d \times \{a\}$ and the restriction of the embedding of the second component to D_R collapses into $I^d \times \{a\}$ outside U_R.

For (b), we assume that the first and third components are standard as for (a). Moreover, we may assume that the second component satisfies a similar condition as above for (a), namely, it is standard outside D_R and is a connected sum of the standard model for the suspension with $\widetilde{L}_2 \subset I^d \times \{a\}$ (Figure 11 (b)).

Now we prove that the two models in U_R are related by an isotopy in U_R that fix a neighborhood of ∂U_R. Note that the first and third components do not intersect U_R, and hence the intersection of the images of the embeddings of D_R with U_R consist of a single component. By assuming that the bands for the connected sums with $\widetilde{L}_2$ is sufficiently thin, it suffices to prove that the two models without connected sums with $\widetilde{L}_2$ are related by an isotopy. Let $f_1, f_2\colon D_R \to U_R$ be the embeddings of the two models, respectively. As f_1 can be isotoped to the restriction of the standard inclusion, by collapsing the spinning model of §5.3.3 onto a base-line, we need only to prove that f_2 can be so too. That f_2 can be isotoped to the restriction of the standard inclusion can be seen inductively by using the explicit model given in Definition 5.2. More precisely, we replace the smooth function $\psi\colon [0,\sqrt{2}] \to [0,\frac{\pi}{2}]$ with $\psi_s = (1-\frac{2s}{\pi})\psi + s\colon [0,\sqrt{2}] \to [s,\frac{\pi}{2}]$ for $0 \leq s \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$. This yields an isotopy between f_2 and the standard inclusion. □

Proof of Lemma 3.20. By the commutativity of (5.2) and Lemma 5.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi([\beta]) &= \Psi(\mathrm{ind}_*([\widetilde{\beta}])) = \mathrm{ind}_*(\widetilde{\Psi}([\widetilde{\beta}])) = \mathrm{ind}_*([\widetilde{B}(\underline{2d-5},\underline{d-2},\underline{d-2})_{2d-3}])\\ &= [(B(\underline{2d-5},\underline{d-2},\underline{d-2})_{2d-3}, F_D)],\end{aligned}$$

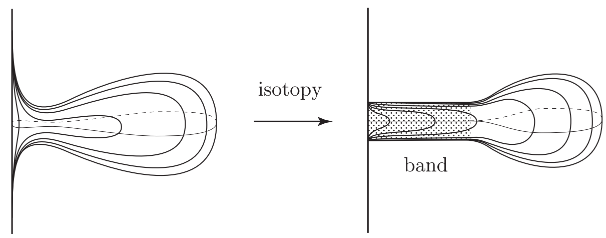
where F_D was defined in Definition 3.6. This completes the proof. □

5.6. **A band model for type II surgery.** Recall that a surgery on a type II handlebody was defined by using a "family of framed embeddings $I^{d-2}\cup I^1\cup I^1 \to I^d$ obtained by parametrizing the second component in the Borromean string link".

Lemma 5.4. *The pointed loop $\beta \in \Omega^{d-3}\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1, I^d)$ is homotopic relative to the basepoint to a pointed loop γ satisfying the following conditions.*

1. *The restriction of $\gamma(s) \in \mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1, I^d)$ ($s \in S^{d-3}$) to the first and third component are the constant families of the standard inclusions. Let L_1, L_3 denote the image of the inclusions of the first and third component, respectively.*
2. *The restriction of $\gamma(s) \in \mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2}\cup\underline{I}^1\cup\underline{I}^1, I^d)$ ($s \in S^{d-3}$) to the second component has the image included in a fixed subset $L\cup R\cup Q$ of I^d, where*
    - *L is the image of the second component of $\gamma(s^0)$ for the basepoint $s^0 \in S^{d-3}$. For all s in a ball around $s^0 \in S^{d-3}$, we have $\gamma(s) = \gamma(s^0)$.*
    - *Q is a small tubular neighborhood of a $(d-2)$-sphere embedded in $I^d - (L_1\cup L_3)$.*
    - *R is a band diffeomorphic to $I\times I$ embedded in $\mathrm{Int}\, I^d - (L_1\cup L_3)$ such that $\{0\}\times I$ is included in L, $\{1\}\times I$ is included in ∂Q, and $(\mathrm{Int}\, I)\times I$ is disjoint from $L\cup Q$.*

Proof. The condition (1) can be realized by the Brunnian property of the Borromean link. It is easy to find a family of isotopies that realizes the condition (2), as in the following picture.



Namely, we smoothly collapse the "tube" $[0,\varepsilon]\times D^{d-2}$ attached to an interval in L along a sequence $[0,\varepsilon]\times D^{d-2}\to\cdots\to[0,\varepsilon]\times D^2\to[0,\varepsilon]\times D^1$ of natural projections. $\square$

6. Normalization of propagator: Proof of Proposition 4.6

In this section, we shall prove that the normalization of propagator as in Proposition 4.6 is possible on all the pieces Ω_{ij}^Γ except the diagonal ones Ω_{ii}^Γ ($i\neq\infty$), mostly following Lescop's interpretation given in [Les2] of Kuperberg–Thurston's sketch proof for 3-manifolds ([KuTh, §6]).

6.1. Preliminaries.

In the rest of this section, we put $X=\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)$.

(i) Let $a_1^i,a_2^i,a_3^i,b_1^i,b_2^i,b_3^i$ be the cycles in ∂V_i defined in §3.6 and §4.2. We take a basepoint p^i of ∂V_i that is disjoint from the cycles b_j^i,a_j^i. If V_i is of type I, two of the cycles b_j^i are circles and one of the cycles b_j^i is $(d-2)$-dimensional sphere. If V_i is of type II, one of the cycles b_j^i is a circle and two of the cycles b_j^i are $(d-2)$-dimensional spheres.

(ii) Let $S(a_\ell^i)$ be a disk in V_i that is bounded by a_ℓ^i. Let $S(b_\ell^i)$ be a disk in $X-\mathrm{Int}\,V_i$ that is bounded by b_ℓ^i. Let γ^i be a smoothly embedded path in V_∞ from p^i to $\infty\in S^d$, which is disjoint from $S(b_m^j)$ for all (m,j). The exsistence of such a γ^i follows from the particular construction of V_i from Y-links as in §3.4. Further, we assume that $\gamma^i\cap\gamma^j=\emptyset$ for $i\neq j$.

(iii) $S(b_\ell^i)$ may intersect a handle of V_j ($j\neq i$) transversally. We assume that the intersection agrees with $S(a_m^j)$ for some unique (m,j) up to orientation. This is possible according to the special linking property of the handlebodies in graph surgery.

(iv) For $i\neq\infty$, we identify a small tubular neighborhood of ∂V_i in X with $[-4,4]\times\partial V_i$ so that $\{0\}\times\partial V_i=\partial V_i$ and $\{-4\}\times\partial V_i\subset\mathrm{Int}\,V_i$. For a cycle x of ∂V_i represented by a manifold, let

$$x[h]=\{h\}\times x\subset[-4,4]\times\partial V_i$$

and let x^+ denote a parallel copy of x obtained by slightly shifting x along positive direction in the coordinate $[-4,4]$. Here, $[-4,4]\times\partial V_i$ is a subset of a single fiber X. Also, let

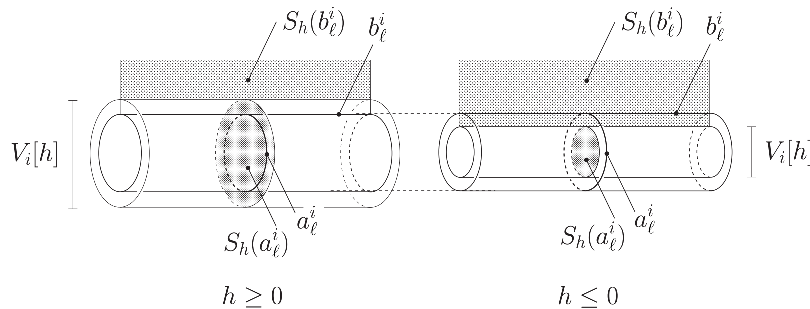
$$V_i[h] = \begin{cases} V_i \cup ([0,h]\times\partial V_i) & (h\geq 0),\\ V_i - ((h,0]\times\partial V_i) & (h<0),\end{cases}$$

$$S_h(b^i_\ell) = \begin{cases} S(b^i_\ell)\cap (X-\mathrm{Int}(V_i[h])) & (h\geq 0),\\ S(b^i_\ell)\cup ([h,0]\times b^i_\ell) & (h<0),\end{cases}$$

$$S_h(a^i_\ell) = \begin{cases} S(a^i_\ell)\cup ([0,h]\times a^i_\ell) & (h>0),\\ S(a^i_\ell)\cap V_i[h] & (h\leq 0),\end{cases}$$

$$V_\infty[h] = X - \mathrm{Int}\,(V_1[-h]\cup\cdots\cup V_{2k}[-h]),$$

where, V_∞ was defined in §4.5.



(v) The boundary of $\widetilde{V}_i$ $(i\neq\infty)$ is $K_i\times\partial V_i$. The factor K_i has nothing to do with the $[-4,4]$ in the previous item. Let

$$\widetilde{b}^i_\ell = K_i\times b^i_\ell \quad\text{and}\quad \widetilde{a}^i_\ell = K_i\times a^i_\ell.$$

Let $S(\widetilde{a}^i_\ell)$ be the compact submanifold of $\widetilde{V}_i$ with $\partial S(\widetilde{a}^i_\ell)=\widetilde{a}^i_\ell$ given by Lemma 4.2. We assume without loss of generality that the intersection in $\widetilde{V}_i$ of $S(\widetilde{a}^i_\ell)$ with $[-4,4]\times\partial\widetilde{V}_i = K_i\times([-4,4]\times\partial V_i)$ agrees with $[-4,4]\times\widetilde{a}^i_\ell$.

(vi) $\widetilde{V}_i[h]$, $\widetilde{V}_\infty[h]$, $\widetilde{V}'_i[h]$, $\widetilde{V}'_\infty[h]$, $S_h(\widetilde{a}^i_\ell)\subset E\overline{C}_1(\pi^\Gamma)(\{i\})$ etc. can be defined in a similar way. $\Omega^\Gamma_{ij}[h,h']$ is defined by replacing $\widetilde{V}'_i$, $\widetilde{V}'_\infty$ in the definition of Ω^Γ_{ij} with $\widetilde{V}'_i[h]$, $\widetilde{V}'_\infty[h]$, respectively.

6.2. **Normalization of propagator with respect to one handlebody V_j, $j\neq\infty$, unparametrized case.** We put $V=V_j$ and abbreviate $a^j_i, b^j_\ell, \gamma^j$ etc. as a_i, b_ℓ, γ etc. for simplicity. We identify ∂X with S^{d-1}, and its collar neighborhood with $[0,1]\times S^{d-1}$, where $\{0\}\times S^{d-1}=\partial X$. Let $\overline{\gamma}$ be the closure of the lift of $\gamma-\{\infty\}$ in $X=B\ell_{\{\infty\}}(S^d)$. Let $\overline{\eta}_\gamma$ be a closed $(d-1)$-form on X supported on the union of a tubular neighborhood of γ and $[0,1]\times\partial X\subset\overline{C}_1(S^d;\infty)$ whose restriction to a tubular neighborhood of γ in $X-[0,1)\times\partial X$ agrees with η_γ (defined on $\mathrm{Int}\,X$) and whose restriction to $\{0\}\times\partial X$ is the SO_d-invariant unit volume form on $\partial X=S^{d-1}$ which is consistent with the orientation of ∂X. Such a form $\overline{\eta}_\gamma$ exists since γ intersects ∂X transversally in one point and the η-form for the intersection point in ∂X is cohomologous to the unit volume form.

Proposition 6.1 (Normalization for one handlebody)**.** *Let d be an integer such that $d\geq 4$, which may or may not be even. There exists a propagator ω on $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ that satisfies the following ($x^+=x[h]$ for some small $h>0$).*

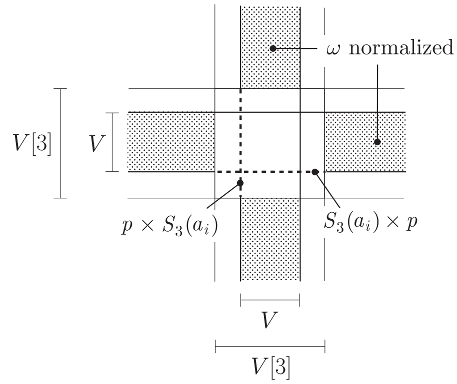


FIGURE 12. Where ω is normalized for one V (projection in $X \times X$).

(1) $\omega|_{V\times(X-\mathring{V}[3])} = \sum_{i,\ell}(-1)^{(\dim a_i)d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(b_i, a_\ell^+)\, p_1^*\,\eta_{S(a_i)} \wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_\ell)} + p_2^*\,\overline{\eta}_{\gamma[3]}$, *where the sum is over* i,ℓ *such that* $\dim b_i + \dim a_\ell = d-1$.

(2) $\omega|_{(X-\mathring{V}[3])\times V} = \sum_{i,\ell}(-1)^{(\dim a_i)d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(a_i^+, b_\ell)\, p_1^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_i)}\wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S(a_\ell)} + (-1)^d p_1^*\,\overline{\eta}_{\gamma[3]}$, *where the sum is over* i,ℓ *such that* $\dim a_i + \dim b_\ell = d-1$.

(3) $\int_{p\times S_3(a_i)}\omega = 0$, $\int_{S_3(a_i)\times p}\omega = 0$ *when* $\dim a_i = d-2$.

(4) $\int_{b_j\times S_3(a_i)}\omega = 0$, $\int_{S_3(a_i)\times b_j}\omega = 0$ *when* $d=4$ *and* $\dim a_i = \dim b_j = 1$.

See Figure 12 for the domain where ω is normalized. The conditions (1), (2) imply that ω is an extension of (4.2) on $V_i \times V_j$. The condition (3) and (4) are technical conditions which will only be needed so that the induction in the proof of Proposition 6.3 works. More precisely, in the proofs of Lemmas 6.4 and 6.5, respectively.

Let $A = V \times (X - \mathring{V}[3])$, where $\mathring{V}$ denotes $\mathrm{Int}\, V$. Each term in the formula of Proposition 6.1 (1) represents the Poincaré–Lefschetz dual of an element of $H_{d+1}(A, \partial A)$, as shown in Lemma 6.2 (3) below. We start with any propagator ω_0 in $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ and check that its restriction to A gives the same class in $H^{d-1}(A)$ as the formula of Proposition 6.1 (1). Then it follows that by adding some exact form supported on a neighborhood of A to ω_0 we obtain a propagator satisfying Proposition 6.1 (1). To do so, we compare the values of the integrals along cycles that represent a basis of the dual $H_{d-1}(A)$. Verification of the condition (2) is similar.

Lemma 6.2. (1) $H_i(X-V) = H_{i+1}(V,\partial V)$ *for* $i>0$ *and* $H_0(X-V) = \mathbb{R}$. *Namely,* $H_*(X-V) = \langle [*], [a_1], [a_2], [a_3], [\partial V]\rangle$.

(2) $H_*(A) = H_*(V) \otimes \langle [*], [a_1], [a_2], [a_3], [\partial V]\rangle$.

(3) $H_{d-1}(A)$ *is generated by* $[p\times \partial V[3]]$, $[b_i \times a_\ell[3]]$ *for* $\dim b_i + \dim a_\ell = d-1$.

(4) *$H_{d+1}(A,\partial A)$ is generated by the following elements.*
$$[S(a_i)\times S_3(b_\ell)],\quad [V\times\gamma[3]],$$
where $\dim a_i+\dim b_\ell=d-1$.

Proof. In the homology long exact sequence for the pair $(X,X-V)$, we have $H_*(X)=0$ for $*>0$. Also, by excision, we have $H_{i+1}(X,X-V)=H_{i+1}(V,\partial V)$. This gives (1). The rest is obtained by the Künneth formula and Poincaré–Lefschetz duality. $\square$

Proof of Proposition 6.1. This proof is similar to [Les3, Proposition 11.2, 11.6, 11.7]. Let ω_0 be any propagator and ω_A be the closed $(d-1)$-form on
$$A':=V[1]\times(X-\mathring{V}[2])$$
defined by the natural extension of the one given by the condition (1). This domain A' is the sum of A with a collar neighborhood, on which we connect ω_0 and ω_A by an exact form. The integrals of ω_0 over the generators $b_i\times a_\ell[3]$, $p\times\partial V[3]$ of $H_{d-1}(A)$ (Lemma 6.2 (3)) are as follows.
$$\int_{b_i\times a_\ell[3]}\omega_0=\mathrm{Lk}(b_i,a_\ell^+),\quad \int_{p\times\partial V[3]}\omega_0=1.$$
Also, by Lemma 4.1 (1) and (2), we compute
$$\begin{aligned}&\int_{b_i^-\times a_\ell[3]}p_1^*\,\eta_{S(a_i)}\wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_\ell)}\\ &=\int_{b_i^-}\eta_{S(a_i)}\int_{a_\ell[3]}\eta_{S_3(b_\ell)}=(-1)^{kd+k+d-1}(-1)^{d+k}=(-1)^{kd-1},\end{aligned}$$
where $k=\dim a_i=\dim a_\ell$. From the identities
$$\int_{b_i\times a_\ell[3]}p_1^*\,\eta_{S(a_{i'})}\wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_{\ell'})}=(-1)^{(\dim a_i)d-1}\delta_{ii'}\delta_{\ell\ell'},\quad \int_{p\times\partial V[3]}p_2^*\,\overline{\eta}_\gamma=1,$$
$$\int_{p\times\partial V[3]}p_1^*\,\eta_{S(a_{i'})}\wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_{\ell'})}=0,\quad \int_{b_i\times a_\ell[3]}p_2^*\,\overline{\eta}_\gamma=0,$$
it follows that the closed form ω_A and the restriction of ω_0 to A' gives the same element of $H^d(A')$. Hence there exists a $(d-2)$-form μ on A' such that $\omega_A=\omega_0+d\mu$ and $d\mu=0$ on $V[1]\times\partial X$, since ω_A and ω_0 agree with $p_2^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$ on $V[1]\times\partial X$ by assumption. Moreover, we may assume that $\mu=0$ on $V[1]\times\partial X$ by adding to μ a closed form on A'. Namely, since ∂X is $(d-2)$-connected, the natural map $H^{d-2}(V[1]\times(X-\mathring{V}[2]))\to H^{d-2}(V[1]\times\partial X)$ is surjective, and there is a closed extension μ' of $\mu|_{V[1]\times\partial X}$ on A'. Then we replace μ with $\mu-\mu'$, which vanishes on $V[1]\times\partial X$.

Let $\chi\colon\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)\to[0,1]$ be a smooth function such that $\mathrm{Supp}\,\chi=A'$ and $\chi=1$ on $A=V\times(X-\mathring{V}[3])$. Then let
$$\omega_a:=\omega_0+d(\chi\mu).$$
This is a closed form on $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ that is as required on $V\times(X-\mathring{V}[3])$ (as the condition (1)) and agrees with ω_0 on $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ because $\chi=0$ on the diagonal stratum of $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ and $\mu=0$ on the infinity stratum.

For the condition (3), let $r_j = \int_{p\times S_3(a_j)} \omega_a$ for $\dim a_j = d-2$. We would like to cancel this value by adding to ω_a a form $d(\chi\mu_c)$ for some closed form μ_c on A', which vanishes on $V[1]\times\partial X$. This is possible because the addition of $d(\chi\mu_c)$ changes the integral r_j by

$$\int_{p\times S_3(a_j)} d(\chi\mu_c) = \int_{p\times([2,3]\times a_j)} d(\chi\mu_c) = \int_{p\times a_j[3]} \mu_c,$$

where the left equality is because $\mathrm{Supp}\,\chi\cap(p\times S_3(a_j)) = p\times([2,3]\times a_j)$, and the right equality is because $\chi=0$ on $p\times a_j[2]$. By $\int_{p\times a_j[3]} p_2^*\,\eta_{S_2(b_\ell)} = \delta_{j\ell}$ for $\dim a_j = d-2$, $\dim b_\ell = 1$ from Lemma 4.1 (2), the first half of the condition (3) will be satisfied if we replace ω_a with

$$\omega_a' = \omega_a + d(\chi\mu_c),\ \text{where } \mu_c = -\sum_{\substack{j:\\ \dim b_j=1}} r_j(p_2^*\,\eta_{S_2(b_j)}).$$

For the condition (4) (only for $d=4$), let $\lambda_{ij} = \int_{b_i\times S_3(a_j)}\omega_a$ for $\dim b_i = \dim a_j = 1$. For a closed form μ_c' on A', which vanishes on $V[1]\times\partial X$, we have

$$\int_{b_i\times S_3(a_j)} d(\chi\mu_c') = \int_{b_i\times([2,3]\times a_j)} d(\chi\mu_c') = \int_{b_i\times a_j[3]} \mu_c'.$$

By $\int_{b_i\times a_j[3]} p_1^*\eta_{S_3(a_k)}\wedge p_2^*\eta_{S(b_\ell)} = \delta_{ik}\delta_{j\ell}$ for $\dim a_k = \dim b_\ell = 2$ from Lemma 4.1 (1) and (2), the first half of the condition (4) will be satisfied if we replace ω_a' with

$$\omega_a'' = \omega_a' + d(\chi\mu_c'),\ \text{where } \mu_c' = -\sum_{\substack{i,j:\\ \dim a_i=\dim b_j=1}} \lambda_{ij}(p_1^*\eta_{S_3(a_i)}\wedge p_2^*\eta_{S(b_j)}).$$

This change does not affect the previous modification since $\int_{p\times a_j[3]} p_1^*\eta_{S_3(a_k)}\wedge p_2^*\eta_{S(b_\ell)} = 0$ for $\dim a_j = \dim a_k = \dim b_\ell = 2$.

A similar modification of ω_a'' on $(X-\mathring{V}[3])\times V$ is possible without touching the previous modifications and yields another closed $(d-1)$-form ω that satisfies the conditions (1)–(4). In this case the coefficients are determined by the following identities:

$$\begin{gathered}
\int_{a_i[3]\times b_\ell}\omega_0 = \mathrm{Lk}(a_i^+, b_\ell), \quad \int_{\partial V[3]\times p}\omega_0 = (-1)^d,\\
\int_{a_i[3]\times b_\ell} p_1^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_{i'})}\wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S(a_{\ell'})} = (-1)^{(\dim a_i)d-1}\delta_{ii'}\delta_{\ell\ell'}, \quad \int_{\partial V[3]\times p} p_1^*\,\overline{\eta}_\gamma = 1,\\
\int_{\partial V[3]\times p} p_1^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_{i'})}\wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S(a_{\ell'})} = 0, \quad \int_{a_i[3]\times b_\ell} p_1^*\,\overline{\eta}_\gamma = 0,
\end{gathered}$$

□

6.3. **Normalization of propagator with respect to several handlebodies, unparametrized case.** Let $V_1,\ldots,V_{2k}$ be the disjoint handlebodies in X that define π^Γ. We normalize the propagator with respect to this set of handlebodies.

Proposition 6.3 (Normalization for several handlebodies)**.** *Let d be an integer such that $d\geq 4$, which may or may not be even. There exists a propagator ω on $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ that satisfies the following conditions.*

(1) *For each* $j=1,2,\ldots,m$,

$$\omega|_{V_j\times(X-\mathring{V}_j[3])}=\sum_{i,\ell}(-1)^{(\dim a_i^j)d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(b_i^j,a_\ell^{j+})\,p_1^*\,\eta_{S(a_i^j)}\wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_\ell^j)}+p_2^*\,\overline{\eta}_{\gamma^j[3]},$$

where the sum is over i,ℓ *such that* $\dim b_i^j+\dim a_\ell^j=d-1$.

(2) *For each* $j=1,2,\ldots,m$,

$$\omega|_{(X-\mathring{V}_j[3])\times V_j}=\sum_{i,\ell}(-1)^{(\dim a_i^j)d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(a_i^{j+},b_\ell^j)\,p_1^*\,\eta_{S_3(b_i^j)}\wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S(a_\ell^j)}+(-1)^d p_1^*\,\overline{\eta}_{\gamma^j[3]},$$

where the sum is over i,ℓ *such that* $\dim a_i^j+\dim b_\ell^j=d-1$.

(3) $\displaystyle\int_{p^j\times S_3(a_i^j)}\omega=0$, $\displaystyle\int_{S_3(a_i^j)\times p^j}\omega=0$ *(*$j=1,2,\ldots,m$, $\dim a_i^j=d-2$*).*

(4) $\displaystyle\int_{b_i^j\times S_3(a_k^j)}\omega=0$, $\displaystyle\int_{S_3(a_k^j)\times b_i^j}\omega=0$ *(*$j=1,2,\ldots,m$*) when* $d=4$ *and* $\dim b_i^j=\dim a_k^j=1$.

Proof. The following proof is an analogue of [Les2, Proposition 5.1]. We prove Proposition 6.3 by induction on m. The case $m=1$ is Proposition 6.1. For $m>1$, we take a propagator ω_0 that satisfies the conditions of Proposition 6.3 for all $j<m$, and ω_m that satisfies the conditions of Proposition 6.3 for a single m, with V_m and $X-\mathring{V}_m[3]$ replaced by larger subspaces $V_m[1]$ and $X-\mathring{V}_m[2]$, respectively, so that ω_0 and ω_m agree on $V_m[1]\times V_j$. By Lemma 2.12, there exists a $(d-2)$-form μ on $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ such that $\omega_m=\omega_0+d\mu$. We may assume that ω_m agrees with ω_0 on $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ and moreover that $\mu=0$ there since $H^{d-2}(\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty))=0$ by the exact sequence:

$$0=H^{d-2}(\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty))\to H^{d-2}(\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty))\to H^{d-1}(\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty),\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)),$$

and $H^{d-1}(\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty),\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty))\cong H_{d+1}(\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty))=0$ by Poincaré–Lefschetz duality. Then we set

$$\omega_a=\omega_0+d(\chi\mu),$$

where $\chi\colon\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)\to[0,1]$ is a smooth function with $\mathrm{Supp}\,\chi=V_m[1]\times(X-\mathring{V}_m[2])$ that takes the value 1 on $V_m\times(X-\mathring{V}_m[3])$. Then ω_a is a closed $(d-1)$-form on $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$, which is as desired on

$$\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)\cup\bigcup_{j=1}^{m}(V_j\times(X-\mathring{V}_j[3]))\cup\bigcup_{j=1}^{m-1}((X-(\mathring{V}_j[3]\cup\mathring{V}_m[1]))\times V_j).$$

(Figure 13.) We need to check that it can be normalized further on $V_m[1]\times\bigcup_{j=1}^{m-1}V_j$, since the addition of $d(\chi\mu)$ may change the previous normalization where the function χ is non-constant.

The assumptions on ω_0 and ω_m imply that μ is closed on $V_m[1]\times V_j$ ($j<m$) and vanishes on $V_m[1]\times\partial X$. Moreover, by Lemmas 6.4 and 6.5 below, we see that μ is exact on $V_m[1]\times V_j$ ($j<m$). Hence we may assume that $\mu=0$ on that part. Thus it remains to prove that we may assume moreover the conditions (3) and (4).

Now we shall prove that there is a linear combination μ_c of $p_2^*\eta_{S_2(b_\ell^m)}$ (for dim $b_\ell^m=1$) and a linear combination μ_c' of $p_1^*\eta_{S_3(a_k^m)}\wedge p_2^*\eta_{S(b_\ell^m)}$ (for dim $b_\ell^m=d-2$) that vanish on $V_m[1]\times V_j$ for $j<m$ such that the new form $\omega_a'=\omega_a+d(\chi\mu_c)+$

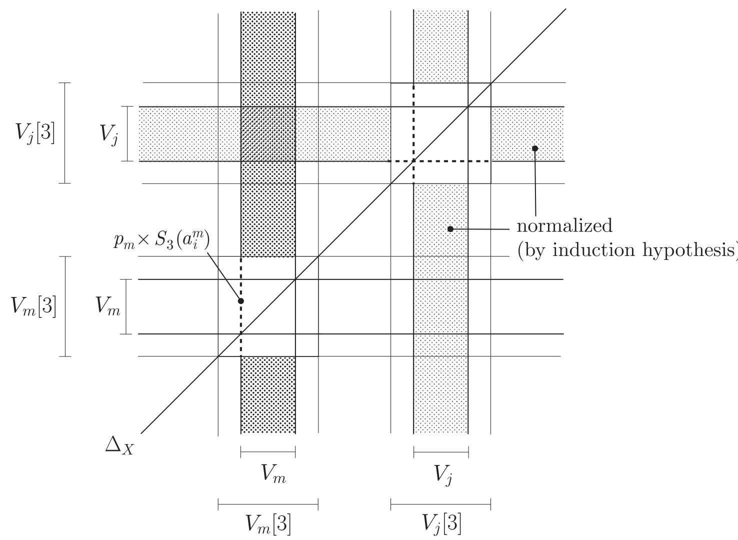


FIGURE 13. Where ω'_a is normalized (projected on $X \times X$).

$d(\chi\mu'_c)$ satisfies the following identities, which correspond to the former parts of the conditions (3) and (4), respectively.

$$\int_{p^m\times S_3(a_\ell^m)} \omega'_a = 0 \quad (\text{for } \dim a_\ell^m = d-2), \tag{6.1}$$

$$\int_{b_k^m\times S_3(a_\ell^m)} \omega'_a = 0 \quad (\text{for } d=4,\ \dim b_k^m = \dim a_\ell^m = 1). \tag{6.2}$$

We prove the existence of such μ_c and μ'_c by modifying the proof of the conditions (3) and (4) of Proposition 6.1 in a way that the induction works. Namely, let $r_\ell := \int_{p^m\times S_3(a_\ell^m)} \omega_a$ and $\lambda_{k\ell} := \int_{b_k^m\times S_3(a_\ell^m)} \omega_a$. As in the proof of Proposition 6.1, there exist unique linear combinations μ_c of $p_2^*\,\eta_{S_2(b_\ell^m)}$ and μ'_c of $p_1^*\eta_{S_3(a_k^m)}\wedge p_2^*\eta_{S(b_\ell^m)}$ (when $d=4$) such that $r_\ell = \int_{p^m\times a_\ell^m[3]} \mu_c$ for all ℓ with $\dim a_\ell^m = d-2$ ($\Leftrightarrow$ $\deg \eta_{S_2(b_\ell^m)} = d-2$), and $\lambda_{k\ell} = \int_{b_k^m\times a_\ell^m[3]} \mu'_c$ for all k, ℓ with $\dim b_k^m = \dim a_\ell^m = 1$ (when $d=4$). Then the form

$$\begin{aligned}
&\omega'_a = \omega_a + d(\chi\mu_c) + d(\chi\mu'_c), \text{ where}\\
&\mu_c = -\sum_\ell r_\ell(p_2^*\eta_{S_2(b_\ell^m)}), \quad \mu'_c = -\sum_{k,\ell} \lambda_{k\ell}(p_1^*\eta_{S_3(a_k^m)} \wedge p_2^*\eta_{S(b_\ell^m)})
\end{aligned}$$

satisfies (6.1) and (6.2). In order that this modification does not affect the previous normalization, it suffices to prove that $r_\ell \neq 0$ implies $S_2(b_\ell^m)\cap V_j = \emptyset$ for $j<m$, and $\lambda_{k\ell}\neq 0$ implies $S_2(b_\ell^m)\cap V_j = \emptyset$ for $j<m$. This is the consequence of Lemma 6.6 below.

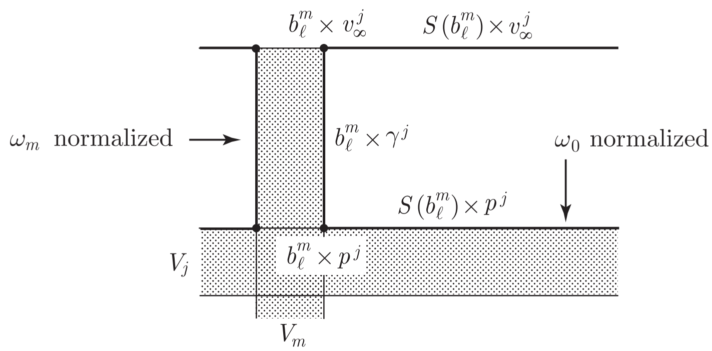
The normalization on the symmetric part $(X - \mathring{V}_m[3])\times V_m$ can be done similarly and disjointly from the previous normalization, again by using the straightforward analogues of Lemmas 6.4 and 6.5 for $V_j\times V_m[1]$ ($j<m$). $\square$

Lemma 6.4. *Let μ be the $(d-2)$-form on $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ in the proof of Proposition 6.3 such that $\mu = 0$ on $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$. For $j < m$ and for ℓ, ℓ' such that $\dim b_\ell^m = \dim b_{\ell'}^j = d-2$, we have*

$$\int_{b_\ell^m \times p^j} \mu = 0, \quad \int_{p^m \times b_{\ell'}^j} \mu = 0.$$

Proof. For the first identity, let $v_\infty^j \in \partial X$ be the endpoint of $\overline{\gamma}^j$ other than p^j. Since $\mu = 0$ on $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$, we have $\int_{b_\ell^m \times v_\infty^j} \mu = 0$, and by the Stokes theorem,

$$\int_{b_\ell^m \times p^j} \mu = (-1)^{d-1} \int_{\partial(b_\ell^m \times \overline{\gamma}^j)} \mu = (-1)^{d-1} \int_{b_\ell^m \times \overline{\gamma}^j} (\omega_m - \omega_0).$$

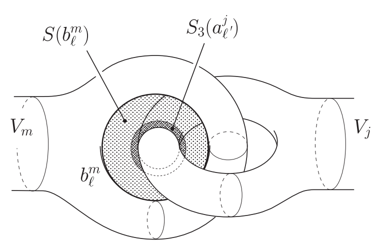


Here, it follows from $b_\ell^m \times \overline{\gamma}^j \subset V_m \times (X - \mathring{V}_m[3])$ and the explicit formula for ω_m there (condition (1) of Proposition 6.3) that $\int_{b_\ell^m \times \overline{\gamma}^j} \omega_m = 0$, since $\overline{\gamma}^j$ is disjoint from $S(b_{\ell'}^m)$ for all ℓ', as assumed in §6.1-(ii). Also,

$$\int_{b_\ell^m \times \overline{\gamma}^j} \omega_0 = \pm \int_{S(b_\ell^m) \times \partial\overline{\gamma}^j} \omega_0 = \pm \int_{S(b_\ell^m) \times v_\infty^j} \omega_0 \mp \int_{S(b_\ell^m) \times p^j} \omega_0 = \mp \int_{S(b_\ell^m) \times p^j} \omega_0,$$

where $\pm = (-1)^d$ and the first equality holds by $\partial(S(b_\ell^m) \times \overline{\gamma}^j) = b_\ell^m \times \overline{\gamma}^j + (-1)^{d-1} S(b_\ell^m) \times \partial\overline{\gamma}^j$ and $d\omega_0 = 0$, and the third equality holds by the explicit form of ω_0 on $S(b_\ell^m) \times v_\infty^j \subset \partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$. Then it suffices to prove that the last integral vanishes.

If $S(b_\ell^m) \cap V_j = \emptyset$, the last integral vanishes by the explicit formula of ω_0 on $(X - \mathring{V}_j[3]) \times V_j$. If $S(b_\ell^m) \cap V_j \neq \emptyset$, the intersection of $S(b_\ell^m)$ with $V_j[3]$ is $\pm S_3(a_{\ell'}^j)$ for some ℓ' by the assumption §6.1-(iii), as in the following picture.



Then we have

$$\int_{S(b_\ell^m) \times p^j} \omega_0 = \pm \int_{S_3(a_{\ell'}^j) \times p^j} \omega_0 + \int_{(S(b_\ell^m) - \mathring{S}_3(a_{\ell'}^j)) \times p^j} \omega_0,$$

where $S(b_\ell^m) - \mathring{S}_3(a_{\ell'}^j)$ is considered as a chain given by the submanifold $S(b_\ell^m) - \mathring{S}_3(a_{\ell'}^j)$ with orientation induced from $S(b_\ell^m)$, and the integral over $S_3(a_{\ell'}^j) \times p^j$ vanishes by the condition (3) of Proposition 6.3. The integral over the remaining piece $(S(b_\ell^m) - \mathring{S}_3(a_{\ell'}^j)) \times p^j$ vanishes by the explicit formula of ω_0 on $(X - \mathring{V}_j[3]) \times V_j$ and the assumption $S(b_\ell^m) \cap \overline{\gamma}^j = \emptyset$. This completes the proof of the first identity.

The second identity can be verified similarly, except the roles of ω_0 and ω_m are exchanged. Since $\mu = 0$ on $\partial \overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$, we have $\int_{v_\infty^m \times b_{\ell'}^j} \mu = 0$ and

$$\int_{p^m \times b_{\ell'}^j} \mu = -\int_{\partial(\overline{\gamma}^m \times b_{\ell'}^j)} \mu = -\int_{\overline{\gamma}^m \times b_{\ell'}^j} (\omega_m - \omega_0).$$

Here, $\overline{\gamma}^m \times b_{\ell'}^j \subset (X - \mathring{V}_j[3]) \times V_j$ and the explicit formula for ω_0 there imply $\int_{\overline{\gamma}^m \times b_{\ell'}^j} \omega_0 = 0$, since $\overline{\gamma}^m$ is disjoint from $S(b_{\ell''}^j)$ for all ℓ'', as assumed in §6.1-(ii). Also,

$$\int_{\overline{\gamma}^m \times b_{\ell'}^j} \omega_m = \int_{\partial\overline{\gamma}^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j)} \omega_m = \int_{v_\infty^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j)} \omega_m - \int_{p^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j)} \omega_m = -\int_{p^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j)} \omega_m.$$

Again, we need only to consider the case $S(b_{\ell'}^j) \cap V_m \neq \emptyset$, in which case the integral on the right hand side vanishes by the condition (3) of Proposition 6.3 and by the explicit formula of ω_m on $V_m \times (X - \mathring{V}_m[3])$. □

Lemma 6.5. *Let $d = 4$ and μ be the 2-form on $\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ in the proof of Proposition 6.3 such that $\mu = 0$ on $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$. For $j < m$ and for ℓ, ℓ' such that $\dim b_\ell^m = \dim b_{\ell'}^j = 1$, we have*

$$\int_{b_\ell^m \times b_{\ell'}^j} \mu = 0.$$

Proof. The idea of the proof is similar to Lemma 6.4. We use the identity

$$\int_{b_\ell^m \times b_{\ell'}^j} \mu = -\int_{\partial(b_\ell^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j))} \mu = -\int_{b_\ell^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j)} (\omega_m - \omega_0)$$

given by the Stokes theorem. We have

$$\int_{b_\ell^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j)} \omega_0 = \pm \int_{S(b_\ell^m) \times b_{\ell'}^j} \omega_0,$$

by $\partial(S(b_\ell^m) \times S(b_{\ell'}^j)) = b_\ell^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j) \pm S(b_\ell^m) \times b_{\ell'}^j$ and $d\omega_0 = 0$. If $S(b_\ell^m) \cap V_j = \emptyset$, the last integral vanishes by the explicit formula of ω_0 on $(X - \mathring{V}_j[3]) \times V_j$. If $S(b_\ell^m) \cap V_j \neq \emptyset$, the intersection of $S(b_\ell^m)$ with $V_j[3]$ is $\pm S_3(a_{\ell''}^j)$ for some ℓ'' by the assumption §6.1-(iii). Then we have

$$\int_{S(b_\ell^m) \times b_{\ell'}^j} \omega_0 = \pm \int_{S_3(a_{\ell''}^j) \times b_{\ell'}^j} \omega_0 + \int_{(S(b_\ell^m) - \mathring{S}_3(a_{\ell''}^j)) \times b_{\ell'}^j} \omega_0,$$

where $\int_{S_3(a_{\ell''}^j) \times b_{\ell'}^j} \omega_0 = 0$ by the condition (4) of Proposition 6.3. The integral over the remaining piece $(S(b_\ell^m) - \mathring{S}_3(a_{\ell''}^j)) \times b_{\ell'}^j$ vanishes by the explicit formula of ω_0 on $(X - \mathring{V}_j[3]) \times V_j$ and the assumption $S(b_\ell^m) \cap S(b_{\ell'}^j) = \emptyset$. Thus we have $\int_{b_\ell^m \times S(b_{\ell'}^j)} \omega_0 = 0$.

If $S(b^j_{\ell'})\cap V_m=\emptyset$, then we have $b^m_\ell\times S(b^j_{\ell'})\subset V_m\times(X-\mathring{V}_m[3])$ and $\int_{b^m_\ell\times S(b^j_{\ell'})}\omega_m=0$ by the explicit formula of ω_m in Proposition 6.1 (1). If $S(b^j_{\ell'})\cap V_m\neq\emptyset$, then the intersection of $S(b^j_{\ell'})$ with $V_m[3]$ is $\pm S_3(a^m_k)$ for some k by the assumption §6.1-(iii). Thus we have

$$\int_{b^m_\ell\times S(b^j_{\ell'})}\omega_m=\pm\int_{b^m_\ell\times S_3(a^m_k)}\omega_m+\int_{b^m_\ell\times(S(b^j_{\ell'})-\mathring{S}_3(a^m_k))}\omega_m=\pm\int_{b^m_\ell\times S_3(a^m_k)}\omega_m,$$

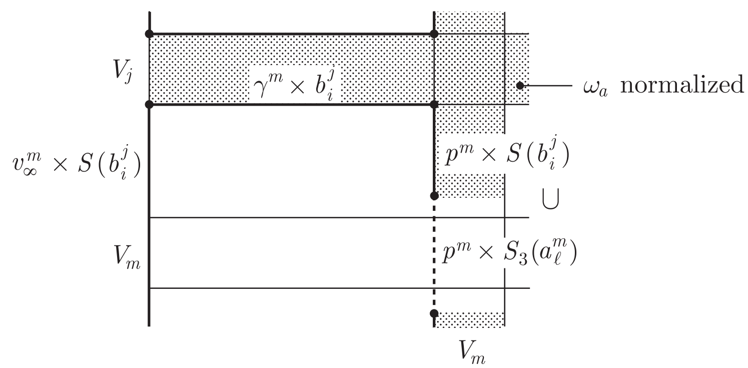
where the second equality holds by $b^m_\ell\times(S(b^j_{\ell'})-\mathring{S}_3(a^m_k))\subset V_m\times(X-\mathring{V}_m[3])$ and by the explicit formula of ω_m there. Moreover, the last integral vanishes by the condition (4) of Proposition 6.1, and we have $\int_{b^m_\ell\times S(b^j_{\ell'})}\omega_m=0$. This completes the proof. □

Lemma 6.6. *Let r_ℓ and $\lambda_{k\ell}$ be as in the proof of Proposition 6.3. If $S_2(b^m_\ell)\cap V_j\neq\emptyset$, then $r_\ell=0$ (when $\dim a^m_\ell=d-2$) and $\lambda_{k\ell}=0$ (when $d=4$ and $\dim a^m_\ell=1$).*

Proof. Suppose a^m_ℓ is such that $S_2(b^m_\ell)\cap V_j\neq\emptyset$. By the assumption §6.1-(iii), $S_3(a^m_\ell)\subset S(b^j_i)$ for some i. When $\dim a^m_\ell=d-2$, we have

$$r_\ell=\int_{p^m\times S_3(a^m_\ell)}\omega_a=\pm\int_{p^m\times S(b^j_i)}\omega_a-\int_{p^m\times(S(b^j_i)\cap(X-\mathring{V}_m[3]))}\omega_a.$$

We prove that both of the two terms on the right hand side vanish.



For the first term, let $v^m_\infty\in\partial X$ be the other endpoint of $\overline{\gamma}^m$ than p^m. By $\partial(\overline{\gamma}^m\times S(b^j_i))=v^m_\infty\times S(b^j_i)-p^m\times S(b^j_i)-\overline{\gamma}^m\times b^j_i$, we have

$$\int_{p^m\times S(b^j_i)}\omega_a=\int_{v^m_\infty\times S(b^j_i)}\omega_a-\int_{\overline{\gamma}^m\times b^j_i}\omega_a.$$

Since $v^m_\infty\times S(b^j_i)\subset\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ and $\overline{\gamma}^m\times b^j_i\subset(X-\mathring{V}_j[3])\times V_j$, the integrals on the right hand side are both zero by the explicit formula of ω_a on $\partial\overline{C}_2(S^d;\infty)$ and $(X-\mathring{V}_j[3])\times V_j$. For the second term, since $p^m\times(S(b^j_i)\cap(X-\mathring{V}_m[3]))\subset V_m\times(X-\mathring{V}_m[3])$ and $S(b^j_i)$ is disjoint from $\overline{\gamma}^m$, we have $\int_{p^m\times(S(b^j_i)\cap(X-\mathring{V}_m[3]))}\omega_a=0$ by the explicit formula of ω_a on $V_m\times(X-\mathring{V}_m[3])$. Hence we have $r_\ell=0$.

When $d=4$ and $\dim a^m_\ell=1$, we have

$$\lambda_{k\ell}=\int_{b^m_k\times S_3(a^m_\ell)}\omega_a=\pm\int_{b^m_k\times S(b^j_i)}\omega_a-\int_{b^m_k\times(S(b^j_i)\cap(X-\mathring{V}_m[3]))}\omega_a.$$

The second term in the right hand side vanishes by $b_k^m \times (S(b_i^j) \cap (X - \mathring{V}_m[3])) \subset V_m \times (X - \mathring{V}_m[3])$ and by the explicit formula of ω_a there. For the first term, we use the identity

$$\int_{b_k^m \times S(b_i^j)} \omega_a = \pm \int_{S(b_k^m) \times b_i^j} \omega_a$$

given by the Stokes theorem and $d\omega_a = 0$. If $S(b_k^m) \cap V_j = \emptyset$, then $S(b_k^m) \times b_i^j \subset (X - \mathring{V}_j[3]) \times V_j$ and the integral vanishes by the explicit formula of ω_a there. If $S(b_k^m) \cap V_j \neq \emptyset$, then the intersection of $S(b_k^m)$ with $V_j[3]$ is $\pm S_3(a_{i'}^j)$ for some i' by the assumption §6.1-(iii). Then we have

$$\int_{S(b_k^m) \times b_i^j} \omega_a = \pm \int_{S_3(a_{i'}^j) \times b_i^j} \omega_a + \int_{(S(b_k^m) - \mathring{S}_3(a_{i'}^j)) \times b_i^j} \omega_a.$$

The second term in the right hand side vanishes by $(S(b_k^m) - \mathring{S}_3(a_{i'}^j)) \times b_i^j \subset (X - \mathring{V}_j[3]) \times V_j$ and by the explicit formula of ω_a there. The first term vanishes too by the condition (4) of Proposition 6.3. Hence we have $\int_{b_k^m \times S(b_i^j)} \omega_a = 0$. This completes the proof. $\square$

6.4. **Normalization of propagator in parametrized pieces.** The normalization conditions of Proposition 6.3 for a single fiber allows us to extend the normalized propagator to most pieces Ω_{ij}^Γ in $E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma)$. We shall do this and complete the proof of Proposition 4.6 in five steps.

6.4.1. *Step 1: Normalization in a single fiber.* In the following, let ω_1 be the normalized propagator on $\overline{C}_2(S^d; \infty)$ with respect to $V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_{2k} \subset \operatorname{Int} X$, as in Proposition 6.3. We consider ω_1 as a normalized propagator on the fiber over the basepoint of B_Γ.

6.4.2. *Step 2: The most "degenerate" entry $\Omega_{\infty\infty}^\Gamma$.* There is a bundle map

$$\begin{tikzcd} \Omega_{\infty\infty}^\Gamma \arrow[r, "\widetilde{p}_{\infty\infty}"] \arrow[d] & \overline{C}_2(V_\infty; \infty) \arrow[d] \\ B_\Gamma \arrow[r, "p_{\infty\infty}"] & * \end{tikzcd}$$

which can be slightly enlarged to a map $\widetilde{p}_{\infty\infty}^{[2]} \colon \Omega_{\infty\infty}^\Gamma[2,2] \to \overline{C}_2(V_\infty[2]; \infty)$, where $\Omega_{\infty\infty}^\Gamma[h,h'] = p_{B\ell}^{-1}(\widetilde{V}'_\infty[h] \times_{B_\Gamma} \widetilde{V}'_\infty[h'])$. (See §6.1(vi) for the definition of $\Omega_{ij}^\Gamma[h,h']$.) We set

$$\omega_2 = (\widetilde{p}_{\infty\infty}^{[2]})^* \omega_1 \in \Omega_{\mathrm{dR}}^{d-1}(\Omega_{\infty\infty}^\Gamma[2,2]). \tag{6.3}$$

6.4.3. *Step 3: Explicit form in "generic" entry Ω_{ij}^Γ, $i \neq j$, $\{i,j\} \cap \{\infty\} = \emptyset$.* There is a bundle map

$$\begin{tikzcd} \Omega_{ij}^\Gamma \arrow[r, "\widetilde{p}_{ij}"] \arrow[d] & \widetilde{V}_i \times \widetilde{V}_j \arrow[d] \\ B_\Gamma \arrow[r, "p_{ij}"] & K_i \times K_j \end{tikzcd}$$

We define

$$\widetilde{\omega}_{ij} = \sum_{\ell,m} L^{ij}_{\ell m}\, p_1^*\,\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^i_\ell)} \wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^j_m)}, \tag{6.4}$$

which is a form on $\Omega^\Gamma_{ij}(\{i,j\}) = \widetilde{V}_i \times \widetilde{V}_j$. It is immediate from the explicit formula that $\widetilde{\omega}_{ij}$ agrees with ω_2 on

$$\begin{aligned}&\bigl\{(K_i \times K_j) \times (V_\infty[2] \times V_\infty[2])\bigr\} \cap (\widetilde{V}_i \times \widetilde{V}_j)\\ &= (K_i \times K_j) \times \bigl\{([-2,0] \times \partial V_i) \times ([-2,0] \times \partial V_j)\bigr\},\end{aligned}$$

where the identification is given by the partial trivialization of $\widetilde{V}_\lambda$ over the subbundle with fiber $[-2,0] \times \partial V_\lambda$. Hence $\widetilde{\omega}_{ij}$ can be glued to ω_2. Namely, the two forms $(\widetilde{p}^{[2]}_{ij})^*\widetilde{\omega}_{ij}$ and ω_2 agrees on $\Omega^\Gamma_{ij} \cap \Omega^\Gamma_{\infty\infty}[2,2]$, where $\widetilde{p}^{[2]}_{ij} \colon \Omega^\Gamma_{ij}[2,2] \to \widetilde{V}_i[2] \times \widetilde{V}_j[2]$ is the fiberwise extension of $\widetilde{p}_{ij}$, and they are glued together to give a new form on $\Omega^\Gamma_{ij} \cup \Omega^\Gamma_{\infty\infty}[2,2]$, by just extending the domain. Doing similar gluings for all (i,j) such that $i \neq j$, $\{i,j\} \cap \{\infty\} = \emptyset$, we obtain a form ω_3 defined on

$$D_3 = \Omega^\Gamma_{\infty\infty}[2,2] \cup \bigcup_{(i,j)} \Omega^\Gamma_{ij}.$$

Then the following identity holds.

$$\omega_3|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{ij}} = \widetilde{p}^*_{ij}\widetilde{\omega}_{ij} = \widetilde{p}^*_{ij}\omega_3|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{ij}(\{i,j\})}. \tag{6.5}$$

6.4.4. *Step 4: Extension over $\Omega^\Gamma_{i\infty} \cup \Omega^\Gamma_{\infty i}$, $i \neq \infty$.* There are bundle maps

$$\begin{tikzcd} \Omega^\Gamma_{i\infty} \arrow[r, "\widetilde{p}_{i\infty}"] \arrow[d] & \widetilde{V}_i \times V_\infty \arrow[d] \\ B_\Gamma \arrow[r, "p_{i\infty}"] & K_i \end{tikzcd} \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \Omega^\Gamma_{\infty i} \arrow[r, "\widetilde{p}_{\infty i}"] \arrow[d] & V_\infty \times \widetilde{V}_i \arrow[d] \\ B_\Gamma \arrow[r, "p_{\infty i}"] & K_i \end{tikzcd} \tag{6.6}$$

Let $\Omega^\Gamma_{(i)\infty}$ and $\Omega^\Gamma_{\infty(i)}$ be the subspaces $\widetilde{p}^{-1}_{i\infty}(\widetilde{V}_i \times (V_\infty[2] \cap (X - \mathring{V}_i[3])))$ and $\widetilde{p}^{-1}_{\infty i}((V_\infty[2] \cap (X - \mathring{V}_i[3])) \times \widetilde{V}_i)$ of $\Omega^\Gamma_{i\infty}$ and $\Omega^\Gamma_{\infty i}$, respectively. We define the closed forms

$$\begin{aligned}\widetilde{\omega}_{i\infty} &= \sum_{j,\ell} (-1)^{(\dim a^i_j)d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(b^i_j, a^{i+}_\ell)\, p_1^*\,\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^i_j)} \wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S_3(b^i_\ell)} + p_2^*\,\overline{\eta}_{\gamma^i[3]}\\ &\qquad (\text{for } j,\ell \text{ such that } \dim b^i_j + \dim a^i_\ell = d-1),\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\widetilde{\omega}_{\infty i} &= \sum_{j,\ell} (-1)^{(\dim a^i_j)d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(a^{i+}_j, b^i_\ell)\, p_1^*\,\eta_{S_3(b^i_j)} \wedge p_2^*\,\eta_{S(\widetilde{a}^i_\ell)} + (-1)^d p_1^*\,\overline{\eta}_{\gamma^i[3]}\\ &\qquad (\text{for } j,\ell \text{ such that } \dim a^i_j + \dim b^i_\ell = d-1)\end{aligned}$$

on $\widetilde{V}_i \times (V_\infty[2] \cap (X - \mathring{V}_i[3]))$ and $(V_\infty[2] \cap (X - \mathring{V}_i[3])) \times \widetilde{V}_i$, respectively. These formulas are consistent with the formulas of Proposition 6.3 on the fiber over the basepoint of K_i. It follows from the explicit formulas that on the overlap of these domains with $D_3(\{i\})$, which is the restriction of the bundle $D_3 \to B_\Gamma$ on $B_\Gamma(\{i\})$

as in Notation 4.5, the values of the overlapping forms agree. Hence $\widetilde{p}_{i\infty}^*\omega_3|_{D_3(\{i\})}$ and $\widetilde{p}_{\infty i}^*\omega_3|_{D_3(\{i\})}$ can be extended by $\widetilde{p}_{i\infty}^*\widetilde{\omega}_{i\infty}$ and $\widetilde{p}_{\infty i}^*\widetilde{\omega}_{\infty i}$ to a closed form ω_4 on

$$D_4 := D_3 \cup \bigcup_{i\neq\infty} \bigl(\Omega^\Gamma_{(i)\infty} \cup \Omega^\Gamma_{\infty(i)}\bigr).$$

Then we have the following identities.

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_4|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{(i)\infty}} &= \widetilde{p}_{i\infty}^*\widetilde{\omega}_{i\infty} = \widetilde{p}_{i\infty}^*\omega_4|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{(i)\infty}(\{i\})}, \\ \omega_4|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{\infty(i)}} &= \widetilde{p}_{\infty i}^*\widetilde{\omega}_{\infty i} = \widetilde{p}_{\infty i}^*\omega_4|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{\infty(i)}(\{i\})}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.7}$$

where $\Omega^\Gamma_{(i)\infty}(\{i\})$ and $\Omega^\Gamma_{\infty(i)}(\{i\})$ are the restrictions of the bundles $\Omega^\Gamma_{(i)\infty} \to B_\Gamma$ and $\Omega^\Gamma_{\infty(i)}(\{i\}) \to B_\Gamma$ on $B_\Gamma(\{i\})$, respectively, as in Notation 4.5.

6.4.5. *Step 5: Extension over $\Omega^\Gamma_{ii}[4,4]$, $i \neq \infty$.* There is a bundle map

$$\begin{tikzcd} \Omega^\Gamma_{ii}[4,4] \arrow[r, "\widetilde{p}_{ii}"] \arrow[d] & E\overline{C}_2(\pi(\alpha_i))[4,4] \arrow[d] \\ B_\Gamma \arrow[r, "p_{ii}"] & K_i \end{tikzcd}$$

where $E\overline{C}_2(\pi(\alpha_i))[4,4] = B\ell_{\Delta_{\widetilde{V}_i[4]}}(\widetilde{V}_i[4]\times_{K_i}\widetilde{V}_i[4]) = \Omega^\Gamma_{ii}[4,4](\{i\})$. Let $ST^v\Delta_{\widetilde{V}_i[4]} = p_{B\ell}^{-1}(\Delta_{\widetilde{V}_i[4]})$ denote the diagonal stratum in $E\overline{C}_2(\pi(\alpha_i))[4,4]$. By Lemma 3.23, the standard vertical framing on $K_i \times V_\infty$ extends over $\widetilde{V}_i$. Hence by pulling back the symmetric unit volume form on S^{d-1} by the framing as in Lemma 2.13, we obtain a closed $(d-1)$-form extension $\omega'_{4,i}$ of ω_4 over $ST^v\Delta_{\widetilde{V}_i[4]}$. We will see in the next section (in Lemma 7.1) that $\omega'_{4,i}$ on

$$\bigl(D_4(\{i\}) \cap E\overline{C}_2(\pi(\alpha_i))[4,4]\bigr) \cup ST^v\Delta_{\widetilde{V}_i[4]}$$

can be extended to a closed $(d-1)$-form on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi(\alpha_i))[4,4]$. We postpone the proof of this fact and assume this now. By pulling back this extension to $\Omega^\Gamma_{ii}[4,4]$ by $\widetilde{p}_{ii}$, we obtain a closed form $\omega_{5,i}$ on $\Omega^\Gamma_{ii}[4,4]$. By doing similar extensions on $\Omega^\Gamma_{ii}[4,4]$ for all $i \neq \infty$, we obtain a closed form ω_5 defined on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma)$ that extends ω_4, which satisfies the boundary condition for a propagator. By definition, we have the following identity.

$$\omega_5|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{ii}[4,4]} = \widetilde{p}_{ii}^*\omega_5|_{\Omega^\Gamma_{ii}[4,4](\{i\})}. \tag{6.8}$$

Proof of Proposition 4.6. Now the closed form ω_5 on $E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma)$ is as desired in Proposition 4.6. Namely, the condition (1) of Proposition 4.6 follows by (6.3), (6.5), (6.7), (6.8). Note that (6.7) can be extended to the identity for $\Omega^\Gamma_{i\infty} \cup \Omega^\Gamma_{\infty i}$ by using (6.8), both hold in subspaces of the same bundle $E\overline{C}_2(\pi^\Gamma)(\{i\})$ over K_i. The condition (2) of Proposition 4.6 follows from (6.4). $\square$

7. Extension over the final piece Ω_{ii}^{Γ}, $i \neq \infty$

To simplify notation, we set $V = V_i[4]$, $\widetilde{V} = \widetilde{V}_i[4]$, and $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}) = \Omega_{ii}^{\Gamma}[4,4](\{i\})$. We shall prove the following lemma, whose proof was postponed.

Lemma 7.1. *The closed form $\omega'_{4,i}$ on $P = \big(D_4(\{i\}) \cap E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})\big) \cup ST^v\Delta_{\widetilde{V}}$ can be extended to a closed $(d-1)$-form on $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$.*

The problem is to show that the class of $\omega'_{4,i}$ in the cohomology $H^{d-1}(P)$ is mapped to zero by the connecting homomorphism

$$H^{d-1}(P) \to H^d(E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}), P).$$

It is easy to see that P deformation retracts onto $\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ by shrinking the collar neighborhoods. Thus the problem is equivalent to the analogous one for the pair

$$(E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}), \partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})),$$

and we consider the latter. In this section, we will prove the above cohomological property of $\omega'_{4,i}$ by evaluating on some explicit $(d-1)$-cycle in $\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ by a higher dimensional analogue of Lescop's proof of [Les3, Lemma 11.11].

7.1. On the homology of $\overline{C}_2(V)$.

In this section, a *chain* is a piecewise smooth singular chain, namely, a linear combination of smooth maps from simplices. Since a manifold with corners admits a smooth triangulation, a linear combination of smooth maps from compact oriented manifolds with corners can be considered as a chain.

Lemma 7.2. *Let d be an integer such that $d \geq 4$. Let $\Lambda_n = \langle [b_j \times b_\ell] \mid \dim b_j + \dim b_\ell = n\rangle$.*

(i) $H_{d-2}(V^2) = \begin{cases} \langle [b_j \times *], [* \times b_j] \mid \dim b_j = 2\rangle \oplus \Lambda_2 & \text{if } d = 4, \\ \langle [b_j \times *], [* \times b_j] \mid \dim b_j = d-2\rangle & \text{if } d > 4, \end{cases}$

$H_{d-1}(V^2) = \Lambda_{d-1}$,

$H_d(V^2) = \begin{cases} \Lambda_4 & \text{if } d = 4, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases}$

$H_{d+1}(V^2) = \begin{cases} \Lambda_6 & \text{if } d = 5, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases}$

(ii) $H_{d-1}(\overline{C}_2(V)) = H_{d-1}(V^2) \oplus \langle [ST(*)]\rangle$,

$H_d(\overline{C}_2(V)) = H_d(V^2) \oplus \langle [ST(b_i)] \mid \dim b_i = 1\rangle$,

$H_{2d-3}(\overline{C}_2(V)) = \langle [ST(b_i)] \mid \dim b_i = d-2\rangle$,

$H_i(\overline{C}_2(V)) = H_i(V^2)$ *if $i \neq d-1, d, 2d-3$, where $ST(\sigma)$ for a submanifold cycle $\sigma \subset V$ denotes $ST(V)|_\sigma = SN(\Delta_V)|_{\Delta_\sigma}$ (see §1.4 (a)).*

Proof. We replace for simplicity V and $\overline{C}_2(V)$ with $\mathring{V}$ and $C_2(\mathring{V})$, respectively, without changing their homotopy types (especially for the excision argument below). The assertion (i) follows immediately from the Künneth formula. In the homology exact sequence for the pair

$$\to H_{p+1}(\mathring{V}^2) \to H_{p+1}(\mathring{V}^2, \mathring{V}^2 - \Delta_{\mathring{V}}) \to H_p(C_2(\mathring{V})) \to$$

we see that the map $H_{p+1}(\mathring{V}^2) \to H_{p+1}(\mathring{V}^2, \mathring{V}^2 - \Delta_{\mathring{V}})$ is zero since the explicit basis $\{[*], [b_1], [b_2], [b_3]\}^{\otimes 2}$ of $H_*(V^2)$ can be given by cycles in $\mathring{V}^2 - \Delta_{\mathring{V}}$. Hence we have the isomorphism

$$H_p(C_2(\mathring{V})) \cong H_{p+1}(\mathring{V}^2, \mathring{V}^2 - \Delta_{\mathring{V}}) \oplus H_p(\mathring{V}^2).$$

By excision, we have $H_i(\mathring{V}^2, \mathring{V}^2 - \Delta_{\mathring{V}}) = H_d(D^d, \partial D^d) \otimes H_{i-d}(\Delta_{\mathring{V}}) \cong H_{i-d}(\mathring{V})$, and

$$H_{d+r}(\mathring{V}^2, \mathring{V}^2 - \Delta_{\mathring{V}}) = \begin{cases} H_r(V) & (r \geq 0), \\ 0 & (r < 0). \end{cases}$$

The assertion (ii) follows from this. □

Let a be $a_j[4] \subset \partial V$ that is $(d-2)$-dimensional. Let $\Sigma = S_4(a_j)$. Suppose that V is of type I. We assume the following for Σ.

Assumption 7.3. (1) If V is the fiber over the non-basepoint $1 \in K_i$, we assume Σ is given by a normally framed embedding from $S^1 \times S^{d-2} -$ (open disk). This is possible since Σ is a Seifert surface of one component in the Borromean rings that is disjoint from other components, as in Lemma 4.2.

(2) If V is the fiber over the basepoint $-1 \in K_i$, we assume that Σ is either D^{d-1} or $S^1 \times S^{d-2} -$ (open disk), the connect sum of a small $S^1 \times S^{d-2}$ to a $(d-1)$-disk.

In any case, $\Sigma = D^{d-1}\#(S^1 \times S^{d-2})^{\#g}$ for $g = 0, 1$. Let $c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_{2g}$ be the cycles of Σ that form a basis of the reduced homology of Σ over $\mathbb{Z}$. Let $c_1^*, c_2^*, \ldots, c_{2g}^*$ be the cycles of Σ that represent the basis of $\tilde{H}_*(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z})$ dual to $c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_{2g}$ with respect to the intersection form on Σ, so that $c_i \cdot c_j^* = \delta_{ij}$. Let c_i^+, c_j^{*+} be the cycles in V obtained by slightly shifting c_i, c_j^* along positive normal vectors on Σ. The following lemma will be used in Lemma 7.7 to study a part of the homology class of the diagonal in $\Sigma \times \Sigma^+$.

Lemma 7.4. (a) *The $(d-1)$-cycle $\sum_k c_k \times c_k^*$ is homologous to*

$$\sum_{j,\ell} \lambda_{j\ell}^V \, b_j \times b_\ell \quad \textit{in } V^2 \textit{ for some } \lambda_{j\ell}^V \in \mathbb{R},$$

where the sum is over j, ℓ such that $\dim b_j + \dim b_\ell = d - 1$.

(b) *The $(d-1)$-cycle $\sum_k c_k \times c_k^{*+}$ is homologous to*

$$\sum_{j,\ell} \lambda_{j\ell}^V \, b_j \times b_\ell + \delta(\Sigma) ST(*) \quad \textit{in } \overline{C}_2(V)$$

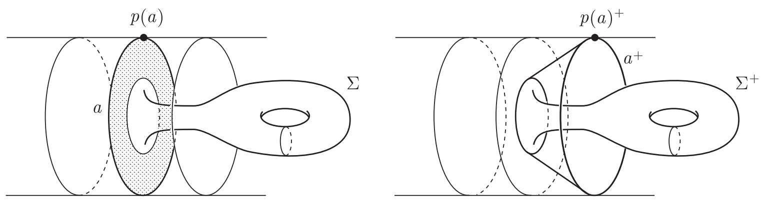
for some constant $\delta(\Sigma)$ depending on the submanifold $\Sigma \subset V$, where the sum is over j, ℓ such that $\dim b_j + \dim b_\ell = d - 1$.

Proof. The assertion (a) follows from Lemma 7.2(i). For (b), one can show by using the computation of $H_{d-1}(\overline{C}_2(V))$ in Lemma 7.2(ii) that the coefficient of $b_j \times b_\ell$ in the homology class of $\sum_k c_k \times c_k^{*+}$ agrees with that of (a). The coefficient $\delta(\Sigma)$ of $ST(*)$ is $\sum_k \mathrm{Lk}(c_k, c_k^{*+})$. □

Remark 7.5. If we choose Σ to be a $(d-1)$-disk, then the coefficient $\delta(\Sigma)$ of $ST(*)$ of Lemma 7.4(b) is zero. In [Les3, Lemma 11.12], an explicit formula for the coefficient $\lambda_{j\ell}^V$ is given. Lemma 7.4 is sufficient for our purpose.

7.2. **Extension over type I handlebody.** We consider an analogue of Lescop's chain $F^2(a)$ of [Les3, Lemma 11.13]. We fix some notations to define the analogous chain. Recall that we have put $V = V_i[4]$, $V[h] = V_j[h]$ and chosen $a \subset \partial V$ that is $(d-2)$-dimensional in §7.1.

(1) We identify a small tubular neighborhood of a in ∂V with $a \times [-1,1]$ so that $a \times \{0\} = a$.
(2) Let $\Sigma^+ = (\Sigma \cap V[-1]) \cup \{(5t-1, a(v), t) \mid v \in S^{d-2},\, t \in [0,1]\}$, where $(5t-1, a(v), t) \in [-4,4] \times (a \times [-1,1])$. We will also write $\Sigma^+_V = \Sigma^+$ or $\Sigma_V = \Sigma$ to emphasize that Σ^+ or Σ is considered in a particular V when V is a single fiber in a family of handlebodies. Recall that we assumed that $\Sigma \cap ([-4,4] \times \partial V[0]) = [-4,4] \times a[0]$ (§6.1(iv)).



(3) By $S^{d-2} = ([0,1] \times S^{d-3})/(\{0,1\} \times S^{d-3} \cup [0,1] \times \{\infty\})$ (reduced suspension of S^{d-3}), we equip a with coordinates from $[0,1] \times S^{d-3}$. Let $p(a)$ be the basepoint of a that corresponds to $\infty \in S^{d-2}$, the basepoint for the reduced suspension. Let $p(a)^+ = (p(a), 1) \in a \times [-1,1] \subset \partial V$.
(4) Let $\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma$ be the chain given by the section of $ST(V)|_\Sigma$ by the unit normal vector field ν on Σ compatible with the coorientation of the codimension 1 submanifold Σ of V. The restriction $\nu_\Sigma := \nu|_\Sigma \colon \Sigma \to STV$ gives a submanifold chain $\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma$ of $ST\Delta_V \subset \partial\overline{C}_2(V)$. We will also write $\mathrm{diag}(\nu_\Sigma)\Sigma$ to emphasize the choice of Σ.
(5) Let $T(a) \colon S^{d-3} \times T \to (a \times \{0\}) \times (a \times \{1\})$ be the $(d-1)$-chain defined for $(v'; y, z) \in S^{d-3} \times T$, where $T = \{(y,z) \in [0,1]^2 \mid y \geq z\}$, by
$$T(a)(v'; y, z) = ((a(y, v'), 0), (a(z, v'), 1)).$$
To make this into a chain, we orient $T(a)$ by $\partial y \wedge \partial z \wedge o(S^{d-3})$, where $\partial y \wedge o(S^{d-3}) = o(a)$.
(6) Let $A(a)$ be the closure of $\{((a(v), 0), (a(v), t)) \mid t \in (0,1],\, v \in [0,1] \times S^{d-3}\}$ in $\overline{C}_2(X)$. Then $A(a)$ is a compact $(d-1)$-submanifold with boundary and is diffeomorphic to $S^{d-2} \times [0,1]$. We orient $A(a)$ by $o((0,1]) \wedge o(a)$.

We assume the following without loss of generality.

Assumption 7.6. (1) The unit normal vector field ν on Σ is such that its restriction to $[-1,4] \times a$ is included in $T(\partial V)$.
(2) Let τ_V be the framing on V as in Corollary 3.22 and let $p(\tau_V) \colon ST(V)|_\Sigma \to S^{d-1}$ be the composition $ST(V)|_\Sigma \xrightarrow{\tau_V} \Sigma \times S^{d-1} \xrightarrow{\mathrm{pr}} S^{d-1}$. We assume that the restriction of $p(\tau_V) \circ \nu$ to $[-1,4] \times a$ is a constant map.

Thanks to Assumption 7.6 (2), the mapping degree $\deg(p(\tau_V) \circ \nu)$ of $p(\tau_V) \circ \nu$ makes sense.

Lemma 7.7 (Type I)**.** *The $(d-1)$-chain*

$$\begin{aligned} F_V^{d-1}(a) = &\,\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma_V - p(a)\times\Sigma_V^+ - \Sigma_V\times p(a)^+ + T(a) + A(a)\\ &- \Big\{\sum_{j,\ell}\lambda_{j\ell}^V\, b_j\times b_\ell + \delta(\Sigma_V)\,ST(*)\Big\}\end{aligned}$$

in $\partial\overline{C}_2(V)$ is a cycle and is null-homologous in $\overline{C}_2(V)$.

Let $C'_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)$ denote the first line of the formula of $F_V^{d-1}(a)$. This can be obtained from an analogue of the chain $C_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)$ of $\Sigma\times\Sigma^+$ in [Les3, Lemma 8.11] by homotopy. Namely, we let

$$\begin{aligned} &a\times_{*,\geq} a^+ = \{(a(v',y),a(v',z)^+)\mid v'\in S^{d-3},\, y,z\in[-1,1],\, y\geq z\},\\ &\mathrm{diag}(\Sigma\times\Sigma^+) = \{(x,x^+)\mid x\in\Sigma\},\end{aligned}$$

where Σ^+ is defined in §7.2 (2), and the superscript $+$ denotes the parallel copy in Σ^+, and orient $a\times_{*,\geq} a^+$ by $\partial y\wedge\partial z\wedge o(\Delta_{S^{d-3}})$.

Lemma 7.8. (a) *The following chain of $\Sigma\times\Sigma^+$ is a $(d-1)$-cycle.*

$$C_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+) = \mathrm{diag}(\Sigma\times\Sigma^+) - *\times\Sigma^+ - \Sigma\times *^+ + a\times_{*,\geq} a^+$$

(b) *The following holds in $H_{d-1}(\Sigma\times\Sigma^+;\mathbb{Z})$.*

$$[C_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)] = \sum_k [c_k\times c_k^{*+}]$$

Proof. The claim (a) follows since

$$\partial(a\times_{*,\geq} a^+) = -\mathrm{diag}(a\times a^+) + *\times a^+ + a\times *^+, \tag{7.1}$$

$$\partial\big(\mathrm{diag}(\Sigma\times\Sigma^+) - *\times\Sigma^+ - \Sigma\times *^+\big) = \mathrm{diag}(a\times a^+) - *\times a^+ - a\times *^+, \tag{7.2}$$

where $\mathrm{diag}(a\times a^+) = \mathrm{diag}(\Sigma\times\Sigma^+)\cap(a\times a^+)$. The check of the signs of the right hand side of (7.1) is left to the reader. The claim (b) can be proved by considering the closed manifold S obtained from Σ by gluing a $(d-1)$-disk D along their boundary. It can be shown that

$$[\mathrm{diag}(S\times S^+)] = [S\times *^+] + [*\times S^+] + \sum_k [c_k\times c_k^{*+}]$$

holds in $H_{d-1}(S\times S^+;\mathbb{Z})$ (Proposition F.1). We may define the cycle $C_{*,\geq}(-D,-D^+)$ analogously to $C_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)$ by replacing Σ with $-D$ in the definition of $C_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)$. Then we have

$$[C_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)] + [C_{*,\geq}(-D,-D^+)] = \sum_k [c_k\times c_k^{*+}]$$

in $H_{d-1}(S\times S^+;\mathbb{Z})$, and that $[C_{*,\geq}(-D,-D^+)] = 0$ in $H_{d-1}(D\times D^+;\mathbb{Z}) = 0$. $\square$

Proof of Lemma 7.7. Now $\Sigma\times\Sigma^+$ can be considered as embedded in $\overline{C}_2(V)$ by considering the points on Σ^+ in $\mathrm{diag}(\Sigma[-1]\times\Sigma^+[-1])$ as lying on $\nu(\Sigma)$ in $SN(\Delta_V)$. In this way, we may identify $C'_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)$ with $C_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)$ up to boundaries, where $\mathrm{diag}(\Sigma\times\Sigma^+) + a\times_{*,\geq} a^+$ corresponds to $\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma + T(a) + A(a)$. Note that the boundaries of the three chains $\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma, T(a), A(a)$ cancel at their common boundaries since

$$\begin{aligned}&\partial T(a) = -\mathrm{diag}(a \times a^+) + p(a) \times a^+ + a \times p(a)^+,\\&\partial A(a) = \mathrm{diag}(a \times a^+) - \mathrm{diag}(\nu)a,\\&\partial \mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma = \mathrm{diag}(\nu)a,\end{aligned}$$

where $\mathrm{diag}(\nu)a$ is defined by replacing Σ by a in the definition of $\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma$. Lemma 7.8 (b) also holds for $C'_{*,\geq}(\Sigma, \Sigma^+)$ in $H_*(\overline{C}_2(V); \mathbb{Z})$. Then the result follows from Lemma 7.4. $\square$

When $\widetilde{V}$ is of type I, we write $\widetilde{V} = V' \cup (-V)$. By Lemma 7.7, there exist d-chains $G^d_{V'}(a_1), G^d_{V'}(a_2)$ of $\overline{C}_2(V')$ with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}$ such that $\partial G^d_{V'}(a_i) = F^{d-1}_{V'}(a_i)$ $(i = 1, 2)$.

Lemma 7.9 (Type I)**.** *$H_d(\overline{C}_2(V'), \partial\overline{C}_2(V'))$ has the following basis.*

$$\begin{array}{ll}\{[G^4_{V'}(a_1)],\ [G^4_{V'}(a_2)],\ [S_4(a_3) \times S_4(a_3)^+]\} & (\textit{if } d = 4),\\ \{[G^d_{V'}(a_1)],\ [G^d_{V'}(a_2)]\} & (\textit{if } d > 4),\end{array}$$

where $S_4(a_3)^+$ is a parallel copy of $S_4(a_3)$.

Proof. By Lemma 7.2 (ii), $H_d(\overline{C}_2(V'))$ has the following basis:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\{[ST(b_1[4])], [ST(b_2[4])],\ [b_3 \times b_3^+]\} & (\text{if } d = 4),\\ \{[ST(b_1[4])], [ST(b_2[4])]\} & (\text{if } d > 4).\end{array}$$

Then the result follows by Poincaré–Lefschetz duality (see Lemma C.4) and the following intersections:

$$\begin{aligned}[G^d_{V'}(a_i)] \cdot [ST(b_j[4])] &= [F^{d-1}_{V'}(a_i)] \cdot_\partial [ST(b_j[4])]\\ &= [\mathrm{diag}(\nu)S_4(a_i)] \cdot_\partial [ST(b_j[4])] = \pm\delta_{ij} \quad (1 \leq i, j \leq 2),\\ [G^d_{V'}(a_i)] \cdot [b_3 \times b_3^+] &= [F^{d-1}_{V'}(a_i)] \cdot_\partial [b_3 \times b_3^+] = 0 \quad (\text{if } d = 4),\\ [S_4(a_3) \times S_4(a_3)^+] \cdot [ST(b_j[4])] &= 0 \quad (\text{if } d = 4,\ 1 \leq j \leq 2),\\ [S_4(a_3) \times S_4(a_3)^+] \cdot [b_3 \times b_3^+] &= \pm 1 \quad (\text{if } d = 4),\end{aligned}$$

where $\cdot$ (resp. $\cdot_\partial$) is the intersection pairing in $\overline{C}_2(V')$ (resp. $\partial\overline{C}_2(V')$) between homologies. $\square$

Lemma 7.10 (Type I)**.** *For the propagator $\omega'_{4,i}$ of Lemma 7.1, the closed form*

$$\omega_\partial = \omega'_{4,i}|_{\partial\overline{C}_2(V')}$$

on $\partial\overline{C}_2(V')$ extends to a closed form on $\overline{C}_2(V')$.

Proof. We consider the following exact sequence.

$$H^{d-1}(\overline{C}_2(V')) \xrightarrow{r} H^{d-1}(\partial\overline{C}_2(V')) \xrightarrow{\delta} H^d(\overline{C}_2(V'), \partial\overline{C}_2(V')) \xrightarrow{0} H^d(\overline{C}_2(V'))$$

To prove that $[\omega_\partial]$ is in the image of the restriction induced map r, we prove $\delta([\omega_\partial]) = 0$. Here, the natural map $H_d(\overline{C}_2(V'), \partial\overline{C}_2(V'))^* \to H_d(\overline{C}_2(V'))^*$ is zero since by Lemma 7.2, we have $H_d(\overline{C}_2(V')) = H_d(V'^2) \oplus \langle [ST(b_i)] \rangle$, where $H_d(V'^2)$ is Λ_4 or 0 and $\dim b_i = 1$, and all the generators are mapped to zero in

$H_d(\overline{C}_2(V'), \partial\overline{C}_2(V'))$. To prove $\delta([\omega_\partial]) = 0$, it suffices to show the vanishing of the evaluation of $\delta([\omega_\partial])$ at the basis of $H_d(\overline{C}_2(V'), \partial\overline{C}_2(V'))$ in Lemma 7.9.

The class $\delta[\omega_\partial]$ can be represented by $d\,\widetilde{\omega}_\partial$, where $\widetilde{\omega}_\partial$ is an extension of ω_∂ over $\overline{C}_2(V)$ as a smooth $(d-1)$-form. Since

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_{G^d_{V'}(a_i)} d\,\widetilde{\omega}_\partial = \int_{F^{d-1}_{V'}(a_i)} \omega_\partial \quad (i=1,2),\\
&\int_{S_4(a_3)\times S_4(a_3)^+} d\,\widetilde{\omega}_\partial = \int_{\partial(S_4(a_3)\times S_4(a_3)^+)} \omega_\partial \quad (\text{if } d=4)
\end{aligned}$$

by the Stokes theorem, it suffices to check that the right hand sides vanish. By Lemma 7.16 below, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_{F^{d-1}_{V'}(a_i)} \omega_\partial = \int_{F^{d-1}_{V}(a_i)} \omega_1 \quad (i=1,2),\\
&\int_{\partial(S_4(a_3)\times S_4(a_3)^+)} \omega_\partial = \int_{\partial(S_4(a_3)\times S_4(a_3)^+)} \omega_1,
\end{aligned} \tag{7.3}$$

where ω_1 is a form as in Proposition 6.3. The right hand sides of (7.3) vanish since $F^{d-1}_V(a_i)$ and $\partial(S_4(a_3)\times S_4(a_3)^+)$ are null-homologous in $\overline{C}_2(V)$ by Lemma 7.7 and ω_1 is defined there. Hence the left hand side of (7.3) vanishes, too. □

We give some lemmas to prove Lemma 7.16.

Lemma 7.11. *Let (V,Σ) be as above, let ω_1 be a propagator normalized as in Proposition 6.3, and let ω_∂ be the form of Lemma 7.10. Then we have*

$$\int_{p(a)\times\Sigma^+_{V'}} \omega_\partial = \int_{p(a)\times\Sigma^+_V} \omega_1 \ \text{ and } \int_{\Sigma_{V'}\times p(a)^+} \omega_\partial = \int_{\Sigma_V\times p(a)^+} \omega_1.$$

Proof. We see that

$$\int_{p(a)\times\Sigma^+_{V'}[-1]} \omega_\partial = \int_{p(a)\times\Sigma^+_V[-1]} \omega_1 = 0 \tag{7.4}$$

since $p(a)\times\Sigma^+_{V'}[-1]\subset (X-\mathring{V}'[3])\times V'[0]$ and $\Sigma_{V'}[-1]\times p(a)^+\subset V'[0]\times(X-\mathring{V}'[3])$, and we have explicit formula for ω_∂ there. Note that we are assuming $V'=V'_i[4]$ and $a=\{4\}\times a^i_j$, but we consider $V'[3]$, $\Sigma^+_{V'}[-1]$ etc. denotes $V'_i[3]$, $S(a^i_j[-1])^+$ etc. By the same reason, the second integral of (7.4) vanishes. We have similar identities for the integrals over $\Sigma_{V'}[-1]\times p(a)^+$ and $\Sigma_V[-1]\times p(a)^+$.

Also, we have

$$\int_{p(a)\times(\Sigma^+_{V'}-\mathring{\Sigma}^+_{V'}[-1])} \omega_\partial = \int_{p(a)\times(\Sigma^+_{V}-\mathring{\Sigma}^+_{V}[-1])} \omega_1$$

since the domains are both included in the common subspace $p^{-1}_{B\ell}(([-1,4]\times\partial V')^2) = p^{-1}_{B\ell}(([-1,4]\times\partial V)^2)$, where the two forms ω_∂ and ω_1 agree. We have similar identities for the integrals over $(\Sigma_{V'}-\mathring{\Sigma}_{V'}[-1])\times p(a)^+$ and $(\Sigma_V-\mathring{\Sigma}_V[-1])\times p(a)^+$. This completes the proof. □

Lemma 7.12. *Let (V, Σ) be as above, let ω_1 be a propagator normalized as in Proposition 6.3, and let ω_∂ is the form of Lemma 7.10. Then we have*

$$\int_{T(a)+A(a)} \omega_\partial = \int_{T(a)+A(a)} \omega_1.$$

Proof. The identity holds since the domains are both included in the common subspace $p_{B\ell}^{-1}(([-1,4]\times\partial V')^2) = p_{B\ell}^{-1}(([-1,4]\times\partial V)^2)$, where the two forms ω_∂ and ω_1 agree. $\square$

Lemma 7.13. *Let (V, Σ) be as above and let ω_1 be a propagator normalized as in Proposition 6.3. Then we have*

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma} \omega_1 = \delta(\Sigma).$$

Proof. First we prove that

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma-\delta(\Sigma)ST(*)} \omega_1 = \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma} \omega_1 - \delta(\Sigma)$$

does not change if Σ is replaced with the spanning disk $\Sigma_0 = (a_j^T \times I)[4]$ bounded by $a = a_j[4]$. Namely, by the analogues of Lemmas 7.11 and 7.12 obtained by replacing $(V', \Sigma_{V'})$ and ω_∂ with (V, Σ_0) and ω_1, respectively, we have

$$\int_{C'_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)} \omega_1 - \int_{C'_{*,\geq}(\Sigma_0,\Sigma_0^+)} \omega_1 = \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma} \omega_1 - \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma_0} \omega_1.$$

On the other hand, it follows from Lemma 7.4 (b) that

$$\int_{\sum_k c_k\times c_k^{*+}} \omega_1 = \int_{\sum_{j,\ell}\lambda_{j\ell}^V b_j\times b_\ell+\delta(\Sigma)ST(*)} \omega_1 = \delta(\Sigma),$$

where the right equality holds since $\mathrm{Lk}(b_p, b_q) = 0$ for $p \neq q$. Since

$$[C'_{*,\geq}(\Sigma,\Sigma^+)] - [C'_{*,\geq}(\Sigma_0,\Sigma_0^+)] = \sum_k [c_k \times c_k^{*+}]$$

in $\overline{C}_2(V)$, it follows that

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma} \omega_1 - \delta(\Sigma) = \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma_0} \omega_1 - \delta(\Sigma_0).$$

It is easy to see that the right hand side of this identity is zero. $\square$

Lemma 7.14. *Let τ_V be the framing on V as in Corollary 3.22 and let $p(\tau_V)\colon ST(V)|_\Sigma \to S^{d-1}$ be the composition $ST(V)|_\Sigma \xrightarrow{\tau_V} \Sigma\times S^{d-1} \xrightarrow{\mathrm{pr}} S^{d-1}$. Let ν be the unit normal vector field on Σ in V. Then we have*

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma} \omega_1 = \deg\left(p(\tau_V)\circ\nu\right).$$

Similarly, we have

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu_{\Sigma_{V'}})\Sigma_{V'}} \omega_\partial = \deg\left(p(\tau_{V'})\circ\nu_{\Sigma_{V'}}\right).$$

Proof. This follows since $\omega_1|_{SN(\Delta_V)} = p(\tau_V)^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$ and its integral is the mapping degree. The latter identity holds since ω_∂ is defined on $SN(\Delta_{V'})$. $\square$

Lemma 7.15. *Let τ_V and $\tau_{V'}$ be the framings on V and V', respectively, as in Corollary 3.22. Let $\Sigma_{V'}$ be the component of $S(\widetilde{a}_j)$ of Lemma 4.2 included in V'. There is a submanifold Σ_V bounded by $a = a_j[4]$ in V such that*

1. *$\Sigma_{V'}$ and Σ_V agree on their intersections with $[-4,4]\times\partial V'_j$ and $[-4,4]\times\partial V_j$, respectively, if we identify $[-4,4]\times\partial V'_j$ and $[-4,4]\times\partial V_j$.*
2. *There is a diffeomorphism $\Sigma_{V'}\cong\Sigma_V$ relative to their intersections with $[-4,4]\times\partial V_j$.*
3. $\deg\,(p(\tau_{V'})\circ\nu_{\Sigma_{V'}}) = \deg\,(p(\tau_V)\circ\nu_{\Sigma_V})$.
4. $\delta(\Sigma_{V'}) = \delta(\Sigma_V)$.

Proof. Recall from [Wa3, Proof of (a)] that $\tau_{V'}$ was obtained from the standard framing st on the string link complement model (§3.7.1 (3.5)) in the Euclidean space by perturbing st in a neighborhood of the link components to realize the boundary behavior. We show that the pair (Σ_V,τ_V) has an interpretation similar to this. Namely, we choose the representative $\underline{L_1}\cup\underline{L_2}\cup\underline{L_3}$ in Definition 3.6 of the long Borromean link $B(\underline{d-2},\underline{d-2},\underline{1})_d$. Let $L_{\mathrm{st},1}, L_{\mathrm{st},2}, L_{\mathrm{st},3}$ denote the components of the standard inclusion $L_{\mathrm{st}}\colon I^{d-2}\cup I^{d-2}\cup I^1\to I^d$. Then $\underline{L}_i = L_i\# L_{\mathrm{st},i}$ $(i=1,2,3)$, where L_i is the i-th component of the standard Borromean link $B(d-2,d-2,1)_d$. We consider the string link $\underline{L}[j]=\underline{L}[j]_1\cup\underline{L}[j]_2\cup\underline{L}[j]_3\colon I^{d-2}\cup I^{d-2}\cup I^1\to I^d$ defined by

$$\underline{L}[j]_i = \begin{cases} \underline{L}_j = L_j\# L_{\mathrm{st},j} & \text{if } i=j,\\ L_{\mathrm{st},i} & \text{if } i\neq j.\end{cases}$$

As $\underline{L_j}$ has the spanning disk $\underline{D_j}$ and the spanning submanifold $\underline{D'_j}$ as before, and the restrictions of the framings $\tau_{V'}$ and τ_V to $\underline{D'_j}$ agree, we obtain $\Sigma_{V'}$ for $\underline{L}[j]$ that satisfies (1) and (2), and we have $p(\tau_{V'})\circ\nu_{\Sigma_{V'}} = p(\tau_V)\circ\nu_{\Sigma_V}$ for this particular model, proving (3). For (4), it follows from the proof of Lemma 7.13 that

$$\delta(\Sigma_V) = \int_{(\sum_k c_k\times c_k^{*+})(\Sigma_V)}\omega_1 \quad\text{and}\quad \delta(\Sigma_{V'}) = \int_{(\sum_k c_k\times c_k^{*+})(\Sigma_{V'})}\omega'_1$$

for any propagator ω'_1 on $\overline{C}_2(V')$ that does not detect $H_{d-1}(V'^2)$ (see Lemma 7.2). The right hand sides of these identities are the sum of the linking numbers that can be computed via the same submanifold $\underline{D'_j}$ with the same normal vector field. Thus the two integrals agree. $\square$

Lemma 7.16. *Let ω_∂ and ω_1 be as in the proof of Lemma 7.10. We have*

$$\int_{D_i(V')}\omega_\partial = \int_{D_i(V)}\omega_1 \quad \textit{for } i=1,2,3, \tag{7.5}$$

where for $U=V'$ or V,

1. $D_1(U) = -p(a)\times\Sigma_U^+ - \Sigma_U\times p(a)^+ + A(a) + T(a)$,
2. $D_2(U) = \mathrm{diag}(\nu)\Sigma_U - \sum_{p,q}\lambda^U_{pq}\,b_p\times b_q - \delta(\Sigma_U)ST(*)$,
3. $D_3(U) = \partial(S_4(a_3)_U\times S_4(a_3)^+_U)$ *(only for $d=4$).*

The superscript $+$ denotes the parallel copy in Σ^+.

Proof. (1) The identity (7.5) for $i=1$ holds by Lemmas 7.11 and 7.12.

(2) We prove the identity (7.5) for $i=2$, which is equivalent to the following:

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu_{\Sigma_{V'}})\Sigma_{V'}}\omega_\partial - \delta(\Sigma_{V'}) = \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu_{\Sigma_V})\Sigma_V}\omega_1 - \delta(\Sigma_V), \tag{7.6}$$

as in the proof of Lemma 7.13. By Lemma 7.13, the right hand side of this identity does not depend on the choice of Σ_V. Thus we may choose Σ_V as in Lemma 7.15. For such a Σ_V, we have $\deg(p(\tau_{V'})\circ\nu_{\Sigma_{V'}}) = \deg(p(\tau_V)\circ\nu_{\Sigma_V})$ and $\delta(\Sigma_{V'})=\delta(\Sigma_V)$, which imply (7.6) by Lemma 7.14.

(3) For $d=4$, we prove (7.5) for $i=3$ as follows. The proof is similar to that of $D_1(U)$. Namely, for $U=V'$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\partial(S_4(a_3)\times S_4(a_3)^+) &= a_3[4]\times S_4(a_3)^+ + S_4(a_3)\times a_3[4]^+\\
&= a_3[4]\times S_{-1}(a_3)^+ + S_{-1}(a_3)\times a_3[4]^+\\
&\quad + a_3[4]\times\big(S_4(a_3)^+\cap([-1,4]\times\partial U)\big) + \big(S_4(a_3)\cap([-1,4]\times\partial U)\big)\times a_3[4]^+.
\end{aligned}$$

Here, $a_3[4]\times S_{-1}(a_3)^+\subset (X-\mathring{V}'[3])\times V'[0]$ and $S_{-1}(a_3)\times a_3[4]^+\subset V'[0]\times(X-\mathring{V}'[3])$, and the integral vanishes by the explicit formula of ω_∂ there. The same is true for the integral of ω_1. The part $a_3[4]\times\big(S_4(a_3)^+\cap([-1,4]\times\partial U)\big)+\big(S_4(a_3)\cap([-1,4]\times\partial U)\big)\times a_3[4]^+$ is included in $p_{B\ell}^{-1}(([-1,4]\times\partial V')^2) = p_{B\ell}^{-1}(([-1,4]\times\partial V)^2)$, where the two forms ω_∂ and ω_1 agree, and the integrals are equal. $\square$

7.3. **Extension over family of type II handlebodies.** Now we consider $\widetilde{V}$ of type II. Recall that we have set $\widetilde{V}=\widetilde{V}_j[4]$ before Lemma 7.1. Let $V=\pi_v^{-1}(s_0)$ be the fiber of the bundle $\pi_V\colon\widetilde{V}\to S^{d-3}$ over the basepoint $s_0\in S^{d-3}$.

1. We assume $i=2$ or 3 in the model of §4.2. Let $\widetilde{a}$ be $\widetilde{a}_i=S^{d-3}\times a_i[4]\subset\partial\widetilde{V}$ that is of dimension $(d-3)+1=d-2$. Let $\widetilde{a}\times[-1,1]=S^{d-3}\times(a\times[-1,1])\subset S^{d-3}\times\partial V=\partial\widetilde{V}$ be a parametrization of a S^{d-3}-family of small embedded annuli in ∂V such that $\widetilde{a}\times\{0\}=\widetilde{a}$.
2. Let $p(\widetilde{a})=S^{d-3}\times p(a)$, $p(\widetilde{a})^+=S^{d-3}\times p(a)^+$.
3. Let $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ be the submanifold $S(\widetilde{a})$ of $\widetilde{V}$ of Lemma 4.2 (such that $\partial S(\widetilde{a})=\widetilde{a}$), and let $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+=(S(\widetilde{a})\cap\widetilde{V}[-1])\cup\{(5t-1,\widetilde{a}(s,v),t)\mid (s,v)\in S^{d-3}\times S^1,\ t\in[0,1]\}$, where $(5t-1,\widetilde{a}(s,v),t)\in[-4,4]\times(\widetilde{a}\times[-1,1])$. We will also denote $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+$ by $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}$, respectively, to emphasize that $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+$ is in $\widetilde{V}$.
4. Let $\mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}$ be the chain given by a section $\widetilde{\nu}$ of $ST^v(\widetilde{V})|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}}\subset\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ obtained by the normalization of a vector field on $\widetilde{\Sigma}$.
5. Let $A(\widetilde{a})=S^{d-3}\times A(a)$, $T(\widetilde{a})=S^{d-3}\times T(a)$, where $T(a)$ and $A(a)$ are defined analogously for 1-cycle a as in §7.2 (5), (6). We orient $T(\widetilde{a})$ by $\partial y\wedge\partial z\wedge o(S^{d-3})$, where $\partial y\wedge o(S^{d-3})=(-1)^{d-3}o(S^{d-3})\wedge\partial y=o(\widetilde{a})$. Also, we orient $A(\widetilde{a})$ by $o((0,1])\wedge o(\widetilde{a})$. We consider $A(\widetilde{a})$ and $T(\widetilde{a})$ as chains in $\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})=S^{d-3}\times\partial\overline{C}_2(V)$.
6. Let $p(\widetilde{a})\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}$ be the pullback of the diagram $p(\widetilde{a})\to S^{d-3}\leftarrow\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}$ of the maps induced from the bundle projection $\pi_V\colon\widetilde{V}\to S^{d-3}$. Similarly, let

$\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}} \times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a})^+$ be defined by the diagram $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}} \to S^{d-3} \leftarrow p(\widetilde{a})^+$. Explicitly,

$$p(\widetilde{a}) \times_{S^{d-3}} \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}} = \{(s, p(a), x) \mid s \in S^{d-3}, x \in \pi_V^{-1}(s) \cap \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}\},$$
$$\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}} \times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a})^+ = \{(x, s, p(a)^+) \mid s \in S^{d-3}, x \in \pi_V^{-1}(s) \cap \widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}\}.$$

We equip them with orientations that are naturally induced by that of $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$, respectively.

(7) Let V' be a type I handlebody included in the type II handlebody, corresponding to the inclusion of the i-th S^1 leaf of the type I Y-graph into the i-th S^{d-2} leaf of the type II Y-graph.

We assume the following without loss of generality.

Assumption 7.17. (1) The unit vertical vector field $\widetilde{\nu}$ on $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ is such that its restriction to $[-1,4] \times \widetilde{a}$ is included in the subspace $T^v(\{u\} \times \widetilde{a} \times [-1,1]) \subset T^v(\{u\} \times \partial\widetilde{V})$ of $T^v\widetilde{V}|_{[-1,4]\times\widetilde{a}}$ and is orthogonal to $[-1,4] \times \widetilde{a}$.

(2) Let $\tau_{\widetilde{V}}$ be the vertical framing on $\widetilde{V}$ as in Corollary 3.22 and let $p(\tau_{\widetilde{V}})\colon ST^v(\widetilde{V})|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}} \to S^{d-1}$ be the composition $ST^v(\widetilde{V})|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}} \xrightarrow{\tau_{\widetilde{V}}} \widetilde{\Sigma} \times S^{d-1} \xrightarrow{\mathrm{pr}} S^{d-1}$. We assume that the restriction of $p(\tau_{\widetilde{V}}) \circ \widetilde{\nu}$ to $[-1,4] \times \widetilde{a}$ is a constant map.

The following lemma is an analogue of Lemma 7.7 for the family $\widetilde{V}$ of type II handlebodies.

Lemma 7.18 (Type II)**.** *For some choice of $\widetilde{\nu}$, the $(d-1)$-cycle*

$$F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}) = \mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}} - p(\widetilde{a}) \times_{S^{d-3}} \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}} - \widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}} \times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a})^+ + A(\widetilde{a}) + T(\widetilde{a}) - \Big\{\sum_{j,\ell} \lambda^{V'}_{j\ell}\, b_j \times b_\ell + \delta(\Sigma_{V'})ST(*)\Big\} \tag{7.7}$$

in $\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ is null-homologous in $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$, where $\lambda^{V'}_{j\ell}$, $b_j \times b_\ell$, $\delta(\Sigma_{V'})$ are the same as that of Lemma 7.7 for V'.

Remark 7.19. Let us first explain how non-subtle Lemma 7.18 is, after having Lemma 7.7. The first line of the RHS of (7.7) is a natural analogue of that of $F^{d-1}_V(a)$ in Lemma 7.7. That $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$ is a cycle is immediate from

$$\partial(\mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}) = S^{d-3} \times \mathrm{diag}(\nu)a,$$
$$\partial(p(\widetilde{a}) \times_{S^{d-3}} \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}) = S^{d-3} \times (p(a) \times a^+),\ \partial(\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}} \times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a})^+) = S^{d-3} \times (a \times p(a)^+),$$
$$\partial A(\widetilde{a}) = S^{d-3} \times \partial A(a),\ \partial T(\widetilde{a}) = S^{d-3} \times \partial T(a),$$

where ν is the restriction of $\widetilde{\nu}$ to the fiber $\Sigma_V = V \cap \widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$ of $\pi_V|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}}$, and $\mathrm{diag}(\nu)a$ is the chain given by the section ν of $ST(V)|_{\Sigma_V} \subset \partial\overline{C}_2(V)$ obtained by the normalization of the vector field on Σ_V. By the Leray–Hirsch theorem and by Lemma 7.2, it can be shown that $H_{d-1}(E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}))$ is spanned by the cycles

- $ST(*)$, $b_j \times b_\ell$ with $\dim b_j + \dim b_\ell = d-1$ that generate $H_0(S^{d-3}) \otimes H_{d-1}(\overline{C}_2(V))$,
- the cycles that generate $H_{d-3}(S^{d-3}) \otimes H_2(\overline{C}_2(V)) = H_{d-3}(S^{d-3}) \otimes H_2(V^2)$.

Note that the Leray–Hirsch theorem can be applied here since b_j and b_ℓ in $b_j \times b_\ell$ both lie in a small neighborhood of ∂V, over which the restriction of the bundle $\widetilde{V}$ has a trivialization, and $S^{d-3} \times (b_j \times b_\ell)$ makes sense as cycles in $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ (see also Lemma 7.22 for a similar computation). It is easy to see that the restriction of $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$ to the fiber over the basepoint is null-homologous (see §7.3.5). Hence

> the first line of the RHS of (7.7) is homologous in $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ to a linear combination of the cycles $ST(*)$, $b_j \times b_\ell$ with $\dim b_j + \dim b_\ell = d-1$,

and the nontriviality of the family $\widetilde{V}$ is reflected to the coefficients. This implies that the first line of the RHS of (7.7) can be made null-homologous by subtracting a certain linear combination of $ST(*)$ and $b_j \times b_\ell$. Thus, what is done in Lemma 7.18 is to determine the coefficients in the second line. But the value of the coefficient $\lambda^{V'}_{j\ell}$ is not important later, as in the previous case of type I handlebody (see Proof of Lemma 7.13).

The terms in $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$ on which the nontriviality of the family $\widetilde{V}$ is reflected are the first three terms involving $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$, which agrees with $\Sigma_{V'}$ outside a neighborhood of the boundary $\widetilde{a} = \partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$. We need only to make sure that $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$ can be obtained by "suspension" as in §5.5 from $\Sigma_{V'}$ of the previous case to determine the coefficients (see §7.3.2 and §7.3.3 for how $\Sigma_{V'}$ is included in $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$). The possibility of such an interpretation is essentially due to the fact that the S^{d-3}-family of embeddings $I^{d-2} \cup I^1 \cup I^1 \to I^d$ to define $\widetilde{V}$ is obtained by iterated supension of the first and third components from the Borromean string link $B(\underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{1})_d$ (Proof of Lemma 5.3 (b)).

The proof of Lemma 7.18 looks lengthy, compared to the simplicity of the idea, mostly because of the explicit description of how to "connect-sum" $\Sigma_{V'}$ to the collar of $\partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$ in the suspension model as in §5.5 (see Figure 15). No ingenuity is needed in the description because $\Sigma_{V'}$ (from $\underline{D'_i}$ in Lemma 3.7) could be replaced with a $(d-1)$-disk (from $\underline{D_i}$ in Lemma 3.7) for the purpose of only giving the collar.

7.3.1. *Pushing most of $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ into a single fiber.* We first assume that $\widetilde{a}$ is the second component $S^{d-3} \times a_2[4]$, which corresponds to the second component in the spinning construction in §3.8 and §5.3. To prove Lemma 7.18, we decompose $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ into two parts $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$, and $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$ accordingly, and prove the nullity of the two parts separately.

We make an assumption on the string link in the construction of $\widetilde{V}$ in §5. Recall that the S^{d-3}-family of embeddings $I^{d-2} \cup I^1 \cup I^1 \to I^d$ that defines $\widetilde{V}$ can be taken so that the first and third components are constant families, and the locus of the second component with the (unparametrized) first and third components forms a Borromean string link $B(\underline{d-2}, \underline{d-2}, \underline{1})_d$ (§3.8 and §5.3). *We now assume that the family of the second component is constructed according to the model described in Lemma 5.4.* By precomposing with an isotopy of the parameter space S^{d-3} of the family of framed embeddings, we may assume that the second component agrees with the standard inclusion outside a small neighborhood U_s of a single parameter $s \in S^{d-3}$.

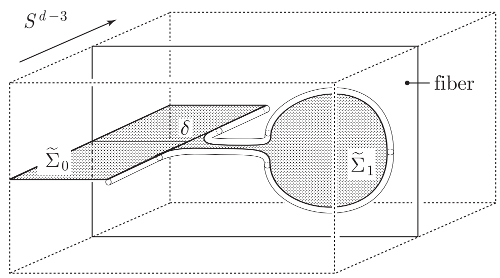


FIGURE 14. $\widetilde{\Sigma} = \widetilde{\Sigma}_0 \cup_\delta \widetilde{\Sigma}_1$, where $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ is included in a small neighborhood of a single fiber.

7.3.2. *Decomposition of* $\widetilde{\Sigma}$. After perturbing $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ suitably, it can be decomposed as the sum of the submanifolds with corners $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ satisfying the following conditions (as in Figure 14).

(1) $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0 \cap \widetilde{\Sigma}_1 = \partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_0 \cap \partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ and this is a $(d-2)$-disk δ such that $\partial\delta$ is included in $\partial\widetilde{V}$.
(2) $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ is diffeomorphic to $S^1 \times S^{d-2}$ − (open disk) and included in $\pi_V^{-1}(U_s)$, where $\pi_V\colon \widetilde{V} \to S^{d-3}$ is the bundle projection (§3.8.1).
(3) $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$ is diffeomorphic to $S^{d-3} \times I^2$. The bundle structure of $\widetilde{V}$ induces a product structure $S^{d-3} \times I^2$ (i.e. trivial I^2-bundle over S^{d-3}) of $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$.
(4) Let $\widetilde{a}_{(0)} = \partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$ and $\widetilde{a}_{(1)} = \partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$. Then we have $\widetilde{a}_{(0)} \cong S^{d-3} \times S^1$ and $\widetilde{a}_{(1)} \cong S^{d-2}$. As a chain, $\widetilde{a}_{(0)} + \widetilde{a}_{(1)} = \widetilde{a}$ up to taking subdivisions.

Let us look more closely at $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ near the intersection disk δ. According to the band model described in §5.6, the intersection $\widetilde{a}_{(0)} \cap \widetilde{a}_{(1)}$ forms a $(d-3)$-disk family of singular intervals in $\widetilde{a}_{(1)}$ (or $\widetilde{a}_{(0)}$) that restricts to a family of points over the boundary of the $(d-3)$-disk, and to a family of nondegenerate intervals over the interior, which is a "lens" (Figure 17, right).

7.3.3. *Fixing the vector field* $\widetilde{\nu}$. The nonsingular vector field $\widetilde{\nu} \in \Gamma(ST^v\widetilde{V}|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}})$ on $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ can be chosen so that

- it is orthogonal to $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ near $\partial\widetilde{\Sigma}$,
- it is orthogonal to both $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ on δ, and
- the degree of the composition $p(\tau_{\widetilde{V}}) \circ \widetilde{\nu}\colon \widetilde{\Sigma} \to ST^v(\widetilde{V})|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}} \to S^{d-1}$ (relative to $\partial\widetilde{\Sigma}$) agrees with the degree of $p(\tau_{V'}) \circ \nu_{\Sigma_{V'}}$ in Lemma 7.14,

and we choose such.

Such a $\widetilde{\nu}$ can be constructed as follows. Let $(t_1, \ldots, t_{d-3})$ be local coordinates for the parameter space S^{d-3} about a point in U_s. Let $(x_1, \ldots, x_d)$ be local coordinates of the (d-dimensional) fiber about a point of $\partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$. Suppose that a fiber of $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0 = S^{d-3} \times I^2$ agrees (in this local model) with a 2-disk in the x_1x_2-plane. We put $\Sigma_{V'}$ in a fiber of $\widetilde{V}$ so that it is disjoint from $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$, and a small neighborhood of $\partial\Sigma_{V'}$ in $\Sigma_{V'}$ is included in the codimension 1 plane $x_d = 0$. We may connect a $(d-2)$-disk in $\partial\Sigma_{V'}$ and a $(d-2)$-disk in $\partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$ by rotating the axes of $x_3, \ldots, x_{d-1}$ until they agree with those of $t_1, \ldots, t_{d-3}$ over a path in the x_1-axis. This defines a boundary connect-sum $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0 \natural \Sigma_{V'}$. We may perturb $\partial(\widetilde{\Sigma}_0 \natural \Sigma_{V'})$ by a small isotopy to

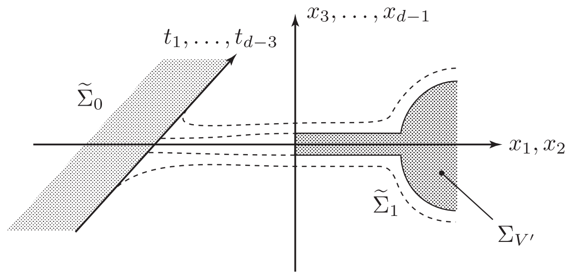


FIGURE 15. Extension from $\Sigma_{V'}$ to $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$

make $\pi_V|_{\partial(\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\natural\Sigma_{V'})}\colon \partial(\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\natural\Sigma_{V'}) \to S^{d-3}$ a submersion. We assume that $\widetilde{\Sigma} = \widetilde{\Sigma}_0 \cup \widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ is the sum of $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\natural\Sigma_{V'}$ and the collar obtained by the locus of the small isotopy of $\partial(\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\natural\Sigma_{V'})$ (Figure 15).

Since $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\natural\Sigma_{V'}$ is included in the codimension one plane orthogonal to $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_d}$, the vector field $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_d}$ defines a normal vector field on $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$ and on a neighborhood of $\partial\Sigma_{V'}$ in $\Sigma_{V'}$. And this vector field can be extended by the normal vector field of $\Sigma_{V'}$ in a (d-dimensional) fiber. We then extend this normal vector field on $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\natural\Sigma_{V'}$ to a vector field in $\Gamma(ST^v\widetilde{V}|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}})$ that is transversal to $\widetilde{\Sigma}$, where the transversality can be assumed because the isotopy of $\partial(\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\natural\Sigma_{V'})$ can be arbitrarily small. Finally, we perturb the resulting vector field further to that orthogonal to $T^v\widetilde{\Sigma}$ along $\partial\widetilde{\Sigma}$. The resulting vector field on $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0 \cup \widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ is our $\widetilde{\nu}$.

7.3.4. *The decomposition of $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$.* By pushing $\widetilde{a}$ slightly in a direction of $\widetilde{\nu}$, we obtain parallel copies $\widetilde{a}^+_{(0)}$ and $\widetilde{a}^+_{(1)}$ of $\widetilde{a}_{(0)}$ and $\widetilde{a}_{(1)}$, respectively. The chains $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_0$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_1$ are defined by decomposing $\widetilde{\Sigma}[-1]$ into two pieces $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0[-1] = S^{d-3}\times I^2[-1]$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1[-1]$ (Figure 16) so that $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+ = \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_0 + \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_1$ as chains up to taking subdivisions. To give them explicitly, we consider the local coordinates $[-4,4]\times(\widetilde{a}_{(0)}\times[-1,1])$ determined by $\widetilde{\nu}$ and the collar of $\partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$ in $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0$, as in the item (1) in the beginning of §7.3. Then the chains $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0[-1]$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_0$ are defined as in the item (3) in the beginning of §7.3. The chains $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1[-1]$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_1$ are defined so that $\widetilde{\Sigma}[-1] = \widetilde{\Sigma}_0[-1] + \widetilde{\Sigma}_1[-1]$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+ = \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_0 + \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_1$ as chains modulo subdivisions. Note that $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1[-1]$ is not a subspace of $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$. Then the chains $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})$, $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ are defined similarly as above:

$$\begin{aligned}
F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_{(0)}) &= \mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_0 - p(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_0 - \widetilde{\Sigma}_0\times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})^+ + A(\widetilde{a}_{(0)}) + T(\widetilde{a}_{(0)}),\\
F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_{(1)}) &= \mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_1 - p(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_1 - \widetilde{\Sigma}_1\times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})^+ + A(\widetilde{a}_{(1)}) + T(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})\\
&\qquad - \Big\{\sum_{j,\ell}\lambda^{V'}_{j\ell}\, b_j\times b_\ell + \delta(\Sigma_{V'})ST(*)\Big\},
\end{aligned}$$

where we choose the loci of the basepoints $p(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})$ and $p(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ so that they agree with $p(\widetilde{a})$ outside $\pi_V^{-1}(U_s)$ and they are compatibly chosen (i.e. $p(\widetilde{a}_{(0)}) = p(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$) over δ. Note that these are cycles of $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ but not of $\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$.

Lemma 7.20. $[F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})] = [F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})] + [F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})]$ *for the choice of $\widetilde{\nu}$ in §7.3.3.*

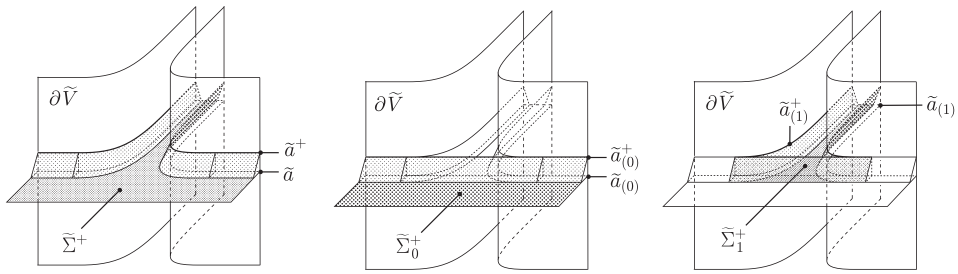


FIGURE 16. $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+$, $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_0$, and $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_1$ near δ. $\widetilde{\Sigma}^+ = \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_0 + \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_1$.

Proof. To see this, we need only to prove the additivity of the term $T(\widetilde{a}) = S^{d-3} \times T(a)$ when the loci $p(\widetilde{a}_{(i)})$ and $p(\widetilde{a}_{(i)})^+$ are chosen compatibly, as this is the only term in $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$ for which the additivity is not obvious. Recall that $T(a)$ was defined by taking coordinates on the sphere a by the reduced suspension of a lower dimensional sphere. Here we consider the pair $(\widetilde{a}_{(0)}, \widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ of $(d-3)$-parameter families of singular 1-spheres over a $(d-3)$-disk in U_s such that $\widetilde{a}_{(1)} \subset \pi_V^{-1}(U_s)$. We modify the definition of $T(a)$ at some fibers a of $\widetilde{a}_{(0)}$ or $\widetilde{a}_{(1)}$ over U_s slightly in a such way that we consider a 1-sphere as *unreduced* suspension of S^0, which is suspended between the points $\pm\infty$, instead of the *reduced* suspension (Figure 17, left). Thus we consider a 1-sphere as the quotient of $S^0 \times [-1,1]$, where $S^0 \times \{-1\}$ is identified with $-\infty$ and $S^0 \times \{1\}$ is identified with ∞. Then $T(a)\colon S^0 \times T \to (a \times \{0\}) \times (a \times \{1\})$, where $T = \{(y,z) \in [-1,1]^2 \mid y \geq z\}$, is redefined with these coordinates by the same formula:

$$T(a)(v'; y, z) = ((a(v', y), 0), (a(v', z), 1)) \quad ((v'; y, z) \in S^0 \times T).$$

The following holds, similarly as (7.1).

$$\partial T(a) = -\mathrm{diag}(a \times a^+) + \infty \times a^+ + a \times (-\infty)^+.$$

We need to modify accordingly the definitions of $p(\widetilde{a})$ and $p(\widetilde{a})^+$ over U_s into those given by the loci of $+\infty$ and $-\infty$ in $\widetilde{a}$, respectively, so that $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$ is still a cycle. We take the locus of basepoints $+\infty$ to be the locus of the maximal points of the intervals in the "lens" δ (Figure 17, right). Also, we take the locus of $-\infty$ to be the locus of the minimal points of the intervals. Then we take $p(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})$ and $p(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ to be the locus of ∞, and take $p(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})^+$ and $p(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})^+$ to be the locus of $-\infty$. Then one can choose coordinates on $T(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})$ and $T(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ so that they are consistent on $\delta = \widetilde{a}_{(0)} \cap \widetilde{a}_{(1)}$. With this choice of coordinates, the additivity $T(\widetilde{a}) = T(\widetilde{a}_{(0)}) + T(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ is obvious, and the boundaries of both sides are compatible with those of the chains $p(\widetilde{a}) \times_{S^{d-3}} \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}} \times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a})^+$ etc.

Note that the introduction of the two basepoints and the corresponding modification of $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$ does not change its homology class. More precisely, what may be changed under the modification of $F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a})$ are the chains $p(\widetilde{a}) \times_{S^{d-3}} \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}$, $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}} \times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a})^+$, and $T(\widetilde{a})$. The changes of the first two chains are induced by homotopies of $p(\widetilde{a})$. If we consider that the single point ∞ (for reduced suspension outside $\pi_V^{-1}(U_s)$) is the special case of the double basepoint $\pm\infty$ (for unreduced suspension)

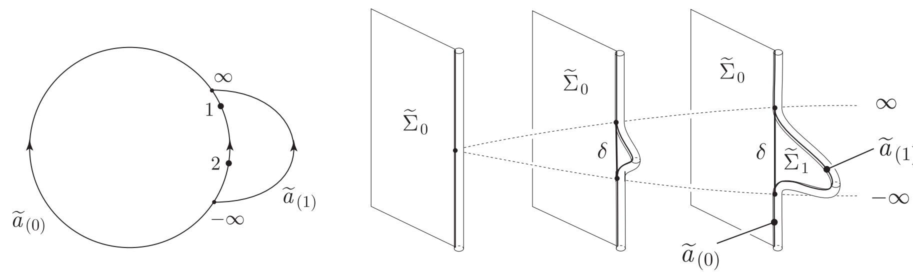


FIGURE 17. Left: Introducing a pair of basepoints $\pm\infty$ to modify $T(\widetilde{a})$. Right: Appearance of δ.

where the two basepoints agree, then the change of $T(\widetilde{a})$ is given by a homotopy that is consistent with the homotopies for $p(\widetilde{a})\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}^+$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}\times_{S^{d-3}}p(\widetilde{a})^+$ above. Note that considering a single basepoint as a special case of double basepoint over $S^{d-3}-U_s$ does not change the chain $T(\widetilde{a})$. The invariances of $[F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})]$ and $[F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})]$ under the homotopy of $p(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})$ etc. are similar. $\square$

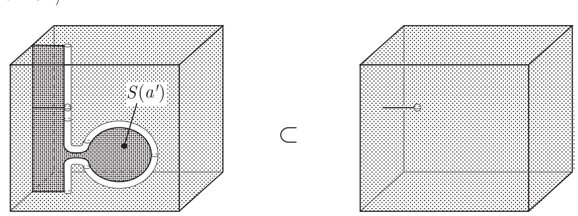
We may further impose the following assumption on $\tau_{\widetilde{V}}$, which will be used later in the proof of Lemma 7.27(2).

Assumption 7.21. Let $\tau_{\widetilde{V}}$ be the vertical framing on $\widetilde{V}$ as in Corollary 3.22 and Assumption 7.17(2). Let $p(\tau_{\widetilde{V}})\colon ST^v(\widetilde{V})|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}}\to S^{d-1}$ be the composition $ST^v(\widetilde{V})|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}}\xrightarrow{\tau_{\widetilde{V}}}\widetilde{\Sigma}\times S^{d-1}\xrightarrow{\mathrm{pr}}S^{d-1}$. We assume that the restriction of $p(\tau_{\widetilde{V}})\circ\widetilde{\nu}$ to $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\cup([-1,4]\times\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ is a constant map.

This assumption is possible since $\widetilde{\Sigma}_0\cup([-1,4]\times\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ deformation retracts onto the union of a collar neighborhood of $\widetilde{a}$ in $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$ and $\Sigma_V=V\cap\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}$, over which we have imposed Assumption 7.17(2).

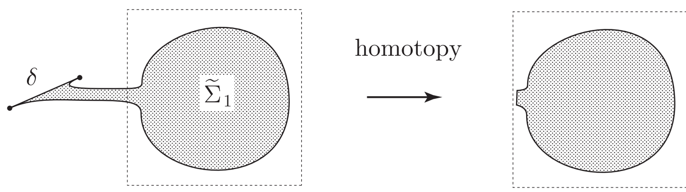
7.3.5. *Homological triviality of $F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a})$: Proof of Lemma 7.18 for the second component.* Once the additivity Lemma 7.20 has been proved, the terms $[F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})]$ and $[F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})]$ can be separately altered by homotopies or addition of boundaries since the two terms are both represented by cycles. We have $[F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a}_{(0)})]=0$ since $C_{*,\geq}(I^2,(I^2)^+)$ as in the proof of Lemma 7.7 is null-homologous.

For $[F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})]$, if the radius of U_s is sufficiently small, then $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ is close to a part of $S(a')$ for a $(d-2)$-cycle a' of the boundary of a type I handlebody V' included in a single fiber of $\widetilde{V}$,



Type I Type II

and there is a homotopy of $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ in $\pi_V^{-1}(U_s)$ which shrinks the part near δ and then make the whole coincide with $S(a')$ that lies in a single fiber.



almost included in fiber included in fiber

This deformation is similar to the one considered in the proof of Lemma 5.3 (2). It does not matter if the boundary of $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ becomes disjoint from the boundary of $\widetilde{V}$ during the homotopy, as long as it does not go out of $\widetilde{V}$. Hence $F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})$ is homologous to $F_{V'}^{d-1}(a')$ in $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$. By Lemma 7.7 for the single fiber, we have $[F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a}_{(1)})] = [F_{V'}^{d-1}(a')] = 0$. Hence we have $[F_{\widetilde{V}}^{d-1}(\widetilde{a})] = 0$. $\square$

7.3.6. *Proof of Lemma 7.18 for the third component.* We show that the famlily $[\beta] \in \pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d))$ has a symmetry with respect to the last two components. According to Proposition 4.12 and Theorem 4.14 of [KoTei], there is an isomorphism

$$\mathsf{Dax}\colon \pi_{d-2}(\mathrm{Imm}(\underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, X), \mathrm{Emb}(\underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, X)) \to \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1(X) \times C],$$

where $X = I^d - I^{d-2}$ and $C = \{t_1, t_2, t_{12}\}$ is the set of three elements. The generators are given explicitly in [KoTei, Theorem 4.21]. In particular, the image of $\mathsf{Dax}^{-1}(t_{12}^k)$ for $k \in \pi_1(X) = \mathbb{Z}$ in $\pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}(\underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, X))$ is given by replacing a small arc μ in the first I^1-component of $I^1 \cup I^1 \subset X$ with an S^{d-3}-family of arcs $B_1 \cup A_1 \cong I$ in X, where B_1 is the side $I \times \partial I$ of a band $I \times I$ attached to μ along $\{0\} \times I$, and A_1 is a smaller arc such that ∂A_1 is attached to ∂B_1 along $\{1\} \times \partial I$. The family of arcs $B_1 \cup A_1$ is given by assuming that

- it is constant (i.e. independent of the parameter) on B_1,
- the core $I \times \{\frac{1}{2}\}$ of the band $I \times I$ goes around the generating loop for $\pi_1(X)$ k times (thus B_1 consists of parallel copies of the core), and
- the S^{d-3}-family of A_1 swings around the meridian of the second I^1-component of the original embedding $I^1 \cup I^1 \to X$.

See [KoTei, Theorem 4.21] for detail. It follows from the ribbon presentation of $B(d-2, d-2, 1)$ in [Wa5, Fig. 6 (move 18)] that our $[\beta] \in \pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d))$ is given by the image from $\mathsf{Dax}^{-1}(\pm(t_{12}^0 - t_{12}^1))$. By the symmetry (up to sign) of the image from $\mathsf{Dax}^{-1}(t_{12}^k)$ with respect to the two components, we have that $[\beta]$ is symmetric up to sign with respect to the last two components. This implies that exchanging the last two components in the construction of β results in the same element of $\pi_{d-3}(\mathrm{Emb}_0^{\mathrm{f}}(\underline{I}^{d-2} \cup \underline{I}^1 \cup \underline{I}^1, I^d))$ up to sign. Hence the proof of Lemma 7.18 for the second component of $[\beta]$ works for the third component. $\square$

7.3.7. *Homology of $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$.*

Lemma 7.22 (Type II)**.** *$H_{2d-3}(E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})) = \Lambda \oplus \Lambda'$, where*

$$\Lambda = \langle [ST^v(b_2)], [ST^v(b_3)] \rangle, \quad \Lambda' = \langle [ST^v(\widetilde{b}_1)] \rangle \oplus H_{2d-3}(\widetilde{V} \times_{S^{d-3}} \widetilde{V}),$$

and $H_{2d-3}(\widetilde{V}\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{V})$ is nonzero only if $d=4$, in which case $H_5(\widetilde{V}\times_{S^1}\widetilde{V})$ has the following basis.

$$\big\{[S^1\times(b_j\times b'_\ell)]\mid \dim b_j=\dim b'_\ell=2\big\},$$

where b'_ℓ is a parallel copy of b_ℓ in ∂V.

Proof. The proof is an analogue of Lemma 7.2(ii). Put $\widetilde{V}^\circ=\mathrm{Int}\,\widetilde{V}$ and $K=S^{d-3}$. We consider the homology exact sequence for the pair

$$\to H_{p+1}(\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ)\xrightarrow{i} H_{p+1}(\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ,\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ-\Delta_{\widetilde{V}^\circ})\to H_p(EC_2(\widetilde{V}^\circ))\to$$

The bundle isomorphism $\widetilde{\varphi}$ of Proposition 3.21 induces trivializations of the bundles $\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ$ and $EC_2(\widetilde{V}^\circ)$ over K, which are natural with respect to the exact sequence above. Hence the long exact sequence splits into tensor product of that of the fiber and the homology of K. It follows from triviality of $H_*(\mathring{V}^2)\to H_*(\mathring{V}^2,\mathring{V}^2-\Delta_{\mathring{V}})$ shown in the proof of Lemma 7.2 that the map i is zero, and we have the isomorphism

$$H_p(EC_2(\widetilde{V}^\circ))\cong H_{p+1}(\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ,\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ-\Delta_{\widetilde{V}^\circ})\oplus H_p(\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ).$$

By excision, we have

$$H_{d+r}(\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ,\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ-\Delta_{\widetilde{V}^\circ})=\begin{cases}\langle[D^d,\partial D^d]\rangle\otimes H_r(\widetilde{V}) & (r\geq 0),\\ 0 & (r<0),\end{cases}$$

where the image of $\langle[D^d,\partial D^d]\rangle\otimes H_r(\widetilde{V})$ in $H_{d+r-1}(EC_2(\widetilde{V}^\circ))$ is spanned by $ST^v(\alpha)$ for r-cycles α of $\widetilde{V}$ generating $H_r(\widetilde{V})$. The generators α can be given explicitly. We have the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd}
\widetilde{V} \arrow[r, "\widetilde{\varphi}_{\mathrm{II}}", "\cong"'] & K\times V \\
\partial\widetilde{V} \arrow[u, "\cup"] \arrow[r, "="'] & K\times\partial V \arrow[u, "\cup"']
\end{tikzcd}$$

where $\widetilde{\varphi}_{\mathrm{II}}$ is a bundle isomorphism by Proposition 3.21. It follows from this that $H_{d-2}(\widetilde{V})$ is generated by the classes of the following cycles in $K\times\partial V$.

$$*\times b_2,\quad *\times b_3,\quad \widetilde{b}_1=K\times b_1.$$

Namely, the image of $H_{d+(d-2)}(\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ,\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ-\Delta_{\widetilde{V}^\circ})$ $(*\geq 0)$ in $H_{2d-3}(EC_2(\widetilde{V}^\circ))$ is generated by $ST^v(b_2), ST^v(b_3)$ and $ST^v(\widetilde{b}_1)$.

Since by Proposition 3.21 the bundle $\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ$ over K is a trivial $\mathring{V}^2$-bundle, we have

$$H_{2d-3}(\widetilde{V}^\circ\times_K\widetilde{V}^\circ)\cong H_{2d-3}(K\times V^2).$$

It follows from Lemma 7.2(i) and the Künneth formula that

$$\begin{aligned}H_{2d-3}(K\times V^2)&=H_{d-3}(K)\otimes H_d(V^2)\\ &=\begin{cases}\langle[S^1\times(b_j\times b_\ell)]\mid\dim b_j=\dim b_\ell=2\rangle & (d=4),\\ 0 & (\text{otherwise}).\end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

The expression $S^1 \times (b_j \times b_\ell)$ also makes sense in $\widetilde{V}^\circ \times_K \widetilde{V}^\circ$ since it is a cycle in $\partial\widetilde{V} \times_K \partial\widetilde{V} = K \times (\partial V \times \partial V)$, where the identification is given by the trivialization $\partial\widetilde{V} = K \times \partial V$. This completes the proof. $\square$

By Lemma 7.18, there exist d-chains $G^d_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_2), G^d_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_3)$ of $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ such that $\partial G^d_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_i) = F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_i)$ $(i = 2, 3)$.

Lemma 7.23. *$H_d(E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}), \partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}))$ has the following basis.*

$$\begin{aligned}&\{[G^d_V(a_1)],\ [G^d_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_2)],\ [G^d_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_3)]\}\\ &\cup\begin{cases}\{[S(a_j)\times S(a_\ell)^+] \mid \dim a_j = \dim a_\ell = 1\} & (d=4),\\ \emptyset & (d>4).\end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

Proof. As in the proof of Lemma 7.9, the dimension of $H_d(E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}), \partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}))$ is determined by Lemma 7.2 and by Poincaré–Lefschetz duality, the linear independence of the generating d-chains can be checked by computing the intersection numbers with the basis of Lemma 7.22. $\square$

7.3.8. *Extension of $\omega'_{4,i}$.*

Lemma 7.24 (Type II)**.** *For the propagator $\omega'_{4,i}$ of Lemma 7.1, the closed form*

$$\omega_\partial = \omega'_{4,i}|_{\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})}$$

on $\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$ extends to a closed form on $E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})$.

Proof. We consider the map $\delta\colon H^{d-1}(\partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V})) \to H^d(E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}), \partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}))$. We would like to prove that $\delta([\omega_\partial]) = 0$. As in the proof of Lemma 7.10, it suffices to show that the evaluation of $\delta([\omega_\partial])$ with a basis of $H_d(E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}), \partial E\overline{C}_2(\widetilde{V}))$ of Lemma 7.23 vanishes.

Moreover, by an argument similar to the type I case, we need only to check that the following integrals are zero.

$$\begin{aligned}&\int_{F^{d-1}_V(a_1)} \omega_\partial, \quad \int_{F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_i)} \omega_\partial \quad (i=2,3), \quad \text{and}\\ &\int_{\partial(S(a_j)\times S(a_\ell)^+)} \omega_\partial \quad (\text{if } d=4 \text{ and } \dim a_j = \dim a_\ell = 1).\end{aligned}$$

The computations of these integrals are similar to the proof of Lemma 7.10. Namely, by Lemma 7.27 below, we have

$$\int_{F^{d-1}_{\widetilde{V}}(\widetilde{a}_i)} \omega_\partial = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\partial(S(a_j)\times S(a_\ell)^+)} \omega_\partial = 0.$$

This completes the proof. $\square$

The idea to prove Lemma 7.27 is similar to that of Lemma 7.16. We give some lemmas to prove Lemma 7.27.

Lemma 7.25. *Let $(\widetilde{V}, \widetilde{\Sigma})$ be as above and let ω_∂ is the form of Lemma 7.24. Then we have*

$$\int_{p(\widetilde{a})\times_{S^{d-3}} \widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}} \omega_\partial = \int_{\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}\times_{S^{d-3}} p(\widetilde{a})^+} \omega_\partial = 0.$$

Proof. We see that

$$\int_{p(\widetilde{a})\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}[-1]^+}\omega_\partial = 0 \tag{7.8}$$

since $p(\widetilde{a})\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}[-1]^+ \subset (E^\Gamma - \mathrm{Int}\,\widetilde{V}[3])\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{V}[0]$ and $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}[-1]\times_{S^{d-3}}p(\widetilde{a})^+ \subset \widetilde{V}[0]\times_{S^{d-3}}(E^\Gamma - \mathrm{Int}\,\widetilde{V}[3])$, and we have explicit formula for ω_∂ there. We have similar identities for the integrals over $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{\widetilde{V}}[-1]\times_{S^{d-3}}p(\widetilde{a})^+$.

Also, we have

$$\int_{p(\widetilde{a})\times_{S^{d-3}}(\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}-\mathrm{Int}\,\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}[-1])}\omega_\partial = 0$$

since the domain is included in the subbundle $S^{d-3}\times p_{B\ell}^{-1}(([-1,4]\times\partial V)^2)$, where ω_∂ is the pullback of ω_1 in a single fiber $p_{B\ell}^{-1}(([-1,4]\times\partial V)^2)$ and the integral vanishes by a dimensional reason. We have a similar vanishing of the integral over $(\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}} - \mathrm{Int}\,\widetilde{\Sigma}^+_{\widetilde{V}}[-1])\times_{S^{d-3}}p(\widetilde{a})$. This completes the proof. □

Lemma 7.26. *Let $(\widetilde{V},\widetilde{\Sigma})$ be as above and let ω_∂ is the form of Lemma 7.24. Then we have*

$$\int_{T(\widetilde{a})+A(\widetilde{a})}\omega_\partial = 0.$$

Proof. The identity holds since $T(\widetilde{a}) = S^{d-3}\times T(a)$ and $A(\widetilde{a}) = S^{d-3}\times A(a)$ are included in the subbundle $S^{d-3}\times p_{B\ell}^{-1}(([-1,4]\times\partial V)^2)$, where ω_∂ is the pullback of ω_1 in a single fiber $p_{B\ell}^{-1}(([-1,4]\times\partial V)^2)$ and the integral vanishes by a dimensional reason. □

Lemma 7.27. *Let ω_∂ be as in the proof of Lemma 7.24. We have*

$$\int_{D_i(\widetilde{V})}\omega_\partial = 0 \quad (i=1,2,3), \tag{7.9}$$

where

1. $D_1(\widetilde{V}) = -p(\widetilde{a})\times_{S^{d-3}}\widetilde{\Sigma}^+ - \widetilde{\Sigma}\times_{S^{d-3}}p(\widetilde{a})^+ + A(\widetilde{a}) + T(\widetilde{a})$,
2. $D_2(\widetilde{V}) = \mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma} - \sum_{p,q}\lambda_{pq}^{V'}\,b_p\times b_q - \delta(\Sigma_{V'})ST(*)$,
3. $D_3(\widetilde{V}) = \partial(S_4(a_j)_{V'}\times S_4(a_\ell)^+_{V'})$ *(*$\dim a_j = \dim a_\ell = 1$*, only for* $d=4$*).*

The superscript + denotes the parallel copy in Σ^+.

Proof. (1) The identity (7.9) for $i=1$ holds by Lemmas 7.25 and 7.26.

(2) To prove the identity (7.9) for $i=2$, we prove the identity

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}}\omega_\partial = \delta(\Sigma_{V'}).$$

Let $\tau_{\widetilde{V}}$ be the vertical framing on $\widetilde{V}$ as in Corollary 3.22 and let $p(\tau_{\widetilde{V}})\colon ST^v(\widetilde{V})|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}}\to S^{d-1}$ be the composition $ST^v(\widetilde{V})|_{\widetilde{\Sigma}}\xrightarrow{\tau_{\widetilde{V}}}\widetilde{\Sigma}\times S^{d-1}\xrightarrow{\mathrm{pr}}S^{d-1}$. We use the decomposition $\widetilde{\Sigma} = \widetilde{\Sigma}_0\cup\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ given before Lemma 7.20. By Assumption 7.17 for the vertical framing $\tau_{\widetilde{V}}$ and $\widetilde{\nu}$ near $\partial\widetilde{V}$, we see that

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_0}\omega_\partial = 0.$$

Moreover, as we assume $p(\tau_{\widetilde{V}})$ is constant near $\delta = \widetilde{\Sigma}_0 \cap \widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ and near $\partial\widetilde{V}$ (Assumption 7.21), we may assume by a small perturbation of $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1$ in $\widetilde{V}$ that the result $\widetilde{\Sigma}_1'$ of the perturbation is included in a single fiber $\pi_V^{-1}(s)$, without changing the relative homotopy class of $p(\tau_{\widetilde{V}}) \circ \widetilde{\nu}_{\widetilde{\Sigma}_1} : (\widetilde{\Sigma}_1, \partial\widetilde{\Sigma}_1) \to (S^{d-1}, *)$. Thus we have

$$\int_{\mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_1} \omega_\partial = \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_1'} \omega_\partial = \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\nu_{\Sigma_{V'}})\Sigma_{V'}} \omega_\partial|_{\pi_V^{-1}(s)} = \delta(\Sigma_{V'}),$$
$$\int_{D_2(\widetilde{V})} \omega_\partial = \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_0} \omega_\partial + \int_{\mathrm{diag}(\widetilde{\nu})\widetilde{\Sigma}_1} \omega_\partial - \delta(\Sigma_{V'}) = 0.$$

(3) The identity (7.9) for $i = 3$ is for the integral in a single fiber and the same as Lemma 7.16 (3). $\square$

Appendix A. Smooth manifolds with corners

We follow the convention in [BTa, Appendix] for manifolds with corners, smooth maps between them and their (strata) transversality. We quote some necessary terminology from [BTa]. We refer the reader to [Jo] for more detail.

Definition A.1. (1) A *manifold with corners* of dimension $k > 0$ is a topological manifold X such that every point in X has a neighborhood which is homeomorphic to $[0, \infty)^m \times \mathbb{R}^{k-m}$ for some integer $0 \le m \le k$. A *smooth* manifold with corners is defined by requiring that the transition function between two such coordinate charts is smooth, as in the next item.

(2) A map between manifolds with corners is *smooth* if it has a local extension, at any point of the domain, to a smooth map from a manifold without boundary, as usual.

(3) A manifold with corners X has the structure of a natural stratification as follows. Let $k = \dim X$ and let X^m $(0 \le m \le k)$ denote the submanifold of X consisting of points having a neighborhood homeomorphic to $[0, \infty)^m \times \mathbb{R}^{k-m}$. Then X is the disjoint union $X = \bigcup_{m \ge 0} X^m$ and we call each X^m or its component a *(codimension m) stratum* of X.

(4) Let Y, Z be smooth manifolds with corners, and let $f : Y \to Z$ be a bijective smooth map. This map is a *diffeomorphism* if both f and f^{-1} are smooth.

(5) Let Y, Z be smooth manifolds with corners, and let $f : Y \to Z$ be a smooth map. This map is *strata preserving* if the inverse image by f of a connected component S of a stratum of Z of codimension i is a union of connected components of strata of Y of codimension i.

(6) Let X, Y be smooth manifolds with corners and Z be a smooth manifold without boundary. Let $f : X \to Z$ and $g : Y \to Z$ be smooth maps. Say that f and g are *(strata) transversal* when the following is true: Let U and V be connected components in strata of X and Y respectively. Then $f : U \to Z$ and $g : V \to Z$ are transversal.

Appendix B. Blow-up in differentiable manifold

B.1. **Blow-up of $\mathbb{R}^i$ at the origin.** Let $\widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i)$ denote the total space of the tautological oriented half-line ($[0,\infty)$) bundle over the oriented Grassmannian $\widetilde{G}_1(\mathbb{R}^i) = S^{i-1}$. Namely, $\widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i) = \{(x,y) \in S^{i-1} \times \mathbb{R}^i; \exists t \in [0,\infty), y = tx\}$. Then the tautological bundle is trivial and $\widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i)$ is diffeomorphic to $S^{i-1} \times [0,\infty)$.

Definition B.1. Let

$$B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^i) = \widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i)$$

and call $B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^i)$ the *blow-up* of $\mathbb{R}^i$ at 0.

Let $\pi\colon B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^i) = \widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i) \to \mathbb{R}^i$ be the map defined by $\pi = p_2 \circ \varphi$ in the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{tikzcd} B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^i) = \widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i) \arrow[r, "\varphi", "\subset"'] \arrow[dr, "\pi"'] & S^{i-1} \times \mathbb{R}^i \arrow[r, "p_1"] \arrow[d, "p_2"] & S^{i-1} \\ & \mathbb{R}^i & \end{tikzcd} \tag{B.1}$$

where $\varphi\colon \widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i) \to S^{i-1} \times \mathbb{R}^i$ is the embedding which maps a pair $(x,y) \in S^{i-1} \times \mathbb{R}^i$ with $y = tx$ to (x,y). If $y \neq 0$, then $\varphi(x,y) = (\frac{y}{|y|}, y)$. We call π the *blow-down map* of the blow-up. Here, the $(i-1)$-sphere $\pi^{-1}(0) = \partial\widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i)$ is the image of the zero section of the tautological bundle $p_1 \circ \varphi\colon \widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i) \to S^{i-1}$.

Lemma B.2. (1) *The restriction of π to the complement of $\pi^{-1}(0) = \partial\widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i)$ is a diffeomorphism onto $\mathbb{R}^i - \{0\}$.*

(2) *The closure of $\varphi(\widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i) - \pi^{-1}(0))$ in $S^{i-1} \times \mathbb{R}^i$ agrees with the whole image of φ from $\widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^i)$.*

(3) *The map $\phi\colon \mathbb{R}^i - \{0\} \to S^{i-1}$ defined by $y \mapsto \frac{y}{|y|}$ extends to a smooth map $\phi' = p_1 \circ \varphi\colon B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^i) \to S^{i-1}$, in the sense that the composition*

$$\mathbb{R}^i - \{0\} \xrightarrow{\pi^{-1}} \mathrm{Int}\, B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^i) \xrightarrow{\varphi} S^{i-1} \times \mathbb{R}^i \xrightarrow{p_1} S^{i-1}$$

agrees with ϕ.

(4) *$B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^i)$ admits a collar neighborhood $\partial B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^i) \times [0,\varepsilon)$ such that $\{(0,x)\} \times [0,\varepsilon)$ is the preimage of the half-ray $\{x\} \times \{tx \mid t \geq 0\}$ under φ, which agrees with $\phi'^{-1}(x)$.*

B.2. **Blow-up along a submanifold.**

Definition B.3. When $d > i \geq 0$, we put $B\ell_{\mathbb{R}^i}(\mathbb{R}^d) = \mathbb{R}^i \times \widetilde{\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^{d-i})$ (the blow-up of $\mathbb{R}^d$ along $\mathbb{R}^i$) and define the projection $p_{B\ell}\colon B\ell_{\mathbb{R}^i}(\mathbb{R}^d) \to \mathbb{R}^d$ by $\mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{R}^i} \times \pi$.

This can be straightforwardly extended to the blow-up $B\ell_X(Y)$ of a manifold Y along a submanifold X, by working on one chart at a time thanks to the naturality properties of the blow-up with respect to linear isomorphisms ([ArK, Corollary 2.6]).

Lemma B.4. *Let Y be a smooth k-manifold with corners and let X be a submanifold of Y that is strata transversal to ∂Y. Then $B\ell_X(Y)$ is a smooth manifold with corners.*

Proof. By strata transversality, a standard local model of X at a corner point $x \in X \cap \partial Y$ can be given by the subspace $[0,\infty)^m \times \mathbb{R}^\ell \subset [0,\infty)^m \times \mathbb{R}^{k-m}$ for some ℓ, m such that $0 \leq \ell \leq k-m$. Hence the blow-up along X can be locally given by

$$[0,\infty)^m \times B\ell_{\mathbb{R}^\ell}(\mathbb{R}^{k-m}),$$

which is a manifold with corners. □

Appendix C. Compactification of configuration spaces of a manifold with boundary

Lemma C.1. *Let Y be a smooth m-manifold with nonempty boundary that is a submanifold of a manifold X without boundary. Let $\overline{C}_2(Y)$ denote the closure of $p_{B\ell}^{-1}(Y \times Y - \Delta_Y)$ in $\overline{C}_2(X) = B\ell_{\Delta_X}(X \times X)$. Then $\overline{C}_2(Y)$ is the image of a smooth manifold with corners under a smooth map.*

Proof. A standard local model of Δ_Y at a corner point in $\partial Y \times \partial Y \subset Y \times Y$ can be given by the pair $((\mathbb{R}^{m-1})^2 \times [0,\infty)^2, \Delta_{\mathbb{R}^{m-1}} \times \Delta_{[0,\infty)})$, which is identified with $\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times (\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times [0,\infty)^2, 0 \times \Delta_{[0,\infty)})$. In this model

$$\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times (0 \times \Delta_{[0,\infty)}), \quad \mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times (\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times (0,0)), \quad \mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times (0 \times (0,0))$$

give local models of $\Delta_Y, \partial Y \times \partial Y, \Delta_{\partial Y}$, respectively. We consider the sequence $L_1 \subset L_2 \subset L_3$ of subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times \mathbb{R}^2$, where

$$\begin{aligned} &L_1 = \{0\}, \quad L_2 = \mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times (0,0), \\ &L_3 = L_2 \cup (0 \times \Delta_{\mathbb{R}}) \cup (\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times \mathbb{R} \times 0) \cup (\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times 0 \times \mathbb{R}), \end{aligned}$$

and consider the successive blow-ups $\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times \mathbb{R}^2 = Y_0 \leftarrow Y_1 \leftarrow Y_2 \leftarrow Y_3$ along this sequence. This gives a local model of the blow-ups along the sequence $\Delta_{\partial Y} \subset \partial Y \times \partial Y \subset (\partial Y \times \partial Y) \cup \Delta_Y \cup (Y \times \partial Y) \cup (\partial Y \times Y)$. One can see that Y_3 is a smooth manifold with corners.

Let Y_3^{++} be the component of Y_3 that is projected to $\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times [0,\infty)^2$. Then there is a smooth projection $Y_3^{++} \to B\ell_{0\times\Delta_{[0,\infty)}}(\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times [0,\infty)^2)$, which is induced by the smooth projection $Y_3 \to B\ell_{0\times\Delta_{\mathbb{R}}}(\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times \mathbb{R}^2)$. Since $\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times Y_3^{++}$ is a smooth manifold with corners and $\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times B\ell_{0\times\Delta_{[0,\infty)}}(\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times [0,\infty)^2)$ is a local model of $\overline{C}_2(Y)$ at a corner point in $\partial Y \times \partial Y$, the result follows. □

Definition C.2 (Compactification of $C_2(Y)$)**.** Let Y be as in Lemma C.1. Let $\overline{C}_2(Y; \partial Y)$ denote the manifold with corners obtained by the blow-ups of $Y \times Y$ along the sequence

$$\Delta_{\partial Y} \subset \partial Y \times \partial Y \subset (\partial Y \times \partial Y) \cup \Delta_Y \cup (Y \times \partial Y) \cup (\partial Y \times Y)$$

of strata as in the proof of Lemma C.1. Let $p'_{B\ell} \colon \overline{C}_2(Y; \partial Y) \to B\ell_{\Delta_Y}(Y \times Y)$ denote the smooth projection of Lemma C.1.

Remark C.3. (1) $\overline{C}_2(Y)$ is not a smooth manifold with corners. In particular, along the restriction of the normal sphere bundle over Δ_Y to $\partial \Delta_Y$ in $\partial \overline{C}_2(Y) = \overline{C}_2(Y) - C_2(Y)$.

(2) In Definition C.2, the blow-ups along $(Y\times\partial Y)\cup(\partial Y\times Y)$ is in fact not necessary since without this we get a diffeomorphic result. This was necessary in the proof of Lemma C.1 to cut out one piece from $\mathbb{R}^m\times\mathbb{R}^m$.
(3) A detail about a compactification of $C_n(Y)$ is given in [CILW].

Lemma C.4. *Let Y and $\overline{C}_2(Y)$ be as in Lemma C.1. Then the maps $p'_{B\ell}\colon \overline{C}_2(Y;\partial Y)\to \overline{C}_2(Y)$ and $\mathrm{incl}\colon C_2(V)\to\overline{C}_2(Y)$ are homotopy equivalences. Moreover, the induced map $p'_{B\ell}\colon (\overline{C}_2(Y;\partial Y),\partial\overline{C}_2(Y;\partial Y))\to(\overline{C}_2(Y),\partial\overline{C}_2(Y))$ is a homotopy equivalence.*

Proof. This is evident from the local model in the proof of Lemma C.1, as it is easy to give explicit deformation retractions. Namely, we observe that $\overline{C}_2(Y;\partial Y)$ is embedded as the complement of the lift of a small tubular neighborhood of $\Delta_{\partial Y}$ in $\overline{C}_2(Y)$ by pressing a small collar neighborhood the boundary of the blow-up along $\partial Y\times\partial Y$ into the interior of $\overline{C}_2(Y)$. Then there is a deformation retract of $\overline{C}_2(Y)$ onto $\overline{C}_2(Y;\partial Y)$, which gives a homotopy inverse. □

Appendix D. Orientations on manifolds and on their intersections

D.1. **Orientation of intersection.** Suppose M and N are two cooriented submanifolds of R of dimension m and n that intersect transversally. The transversality implies that at an intersection point x, the product $o_R^*(M)_x\wedge o_R^*(N)_x$ is a non-trivial $(2r-m-n)$-tensor. We define

$$o_R^*(M\pitchfork N)_x=o_R^*(M)_x\wedge o_R^*(N)_x. \tag{D.1}$$

This depends on the order of the product. When M and N are compact and $m+n=r$, this convention is the same as the integral interpretation of the intersection number:

$$\int_R \eta_M\wedge\eta_N$$

under the identification $\Gamma(\bigwedge^* T^*M)=\Gamma(\bigwedge^* TM)$ by the metric duality. See §4.1 for the η-forms representing the Thom classes of the normal bundles. There are other interpretations of the intersection of submanifolds, such as $\int_M\eta_N$ or $\int_N\eta_M$. The relationship between these interpretations is as follows:

$$(-1)^{m(r-m)}\int_M\eta_N=\int_R\eta_M\wedge\eta_N=\int_N\eta_M.$$

Indeed, the integral $\int_M\eta_N$ counts an intersection point by $+1$ if $o(M)\sim o_R^*(N)$, which is equivalent to $o_R^*(M)\wedge o_R^*(N)\sim(-1)^{m(r-m)}o(R)$ by (1.1). The integral $\int_N\eta_M$ counts an intersection point by $+1$ if $o(N)\sim o_R^*(M)$, which is equivalent to $o_R^*(M)\wedge o_R^*(N)\sim o(R)$ by (1.1).

D.2. **Integration over direct product.** Suppose that M_1 is a submanifold of R_1 and M_2 is a submanifold of R_2, both oriented. Then $M_1\times M_2$ is a submanifold of $R_1\times R_2$, which we orient by $o(M_1)\wedge o(M_2)$. Suppose that M_i has a geometric dual T_i of R_i, namely, M_i intersects T_i transversally in one point (we do not assume the sign of the intersection is $+1$). Suppose that T_i is coorientable in R_i, and let η_{T_i}

be an η-form for T_i in R_i (§4.1). Then $T_1 \times T_2$ is a geometric dual of $M_1 \times M_2$ in $R_1 \times R_2$, and moreover the following identity holds.

$$\int_{M_1\times M_2} p_1^*\eta_{T_1} \wedge p_2^*\eta_{T_2} = \int_{M_1} \eta_{T_1} \int_{M_2} \eta_{T_2}. \tag{D.2}$$

Indeed, the sign of this integral is determined by the sign of the evaluation

$$(p_1^*\eta_{T_1} \wedge p_2^*\eta_{T_2})(o(M_1) \wedge o(M_2)) = p_1^*\eta_{T_1}(o(M_1))\, p_2^*\eta_{T_2}(o(M_2)).$$

D.3. **Proof of Lemma 4.1.**

Lemma D.1 (Lemma 4.1)**.** *We have the following identities.*

(1) $\displaystyle\int_{b_\ell^-} \eta_{S(a_\ell)} = (-1)^{kd+k+d-1}$, *where* $k = \dim a_\ell$.

(2) $\displaystyle\int_{a_\ell^+} \eta_{S(b_\ell)} = (-1)^{d+k}$, *where* $k = \dim a_\ell$.

(3) $L_{\ell m}^{ij} = (-1)^{d-1}\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^i, b_m^j)$ *for* i, j, ℓ, m *such that* $\dim b_\ell^i + \dim b_m^j = d-1$.

Proof. We assume without loss of generality that a_ℓ and b_ℓ intersect orthogonally at one point, say x, in ∂V. Moreover, we assume that $S(a_\ell)$ is orthogonal to ∂V at x. To prove (1), we take a Euclidean local coordinate system $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_d)$ around x, in which a_ℓ agrees with the $x_1 \cdots x_k$-plane, b_ℓ agrees with the $x_{k+1} \cdots x_{d-1}$-plane, the outward normal vector at x corresponds to the positive direction in the x_d coordinate. We let

$$o(a_\ell)_x = \alpha\, \partial x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial x_k, \quad o(b_\ell)_x = \beta\, \partial x_{k+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial x_{d-1}$$

for $\alpha = \pm 1$, $\beta = \pm 1$. Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned} o(S(a_\ell))_x &= (-1)^k \alpha\, \partial x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial x_k \wedge \partial x_d, \\ o(S(b_\ell))_x &= (-1)^{d-k} \beta\, \partial x_{k+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial x_{d-1} \wedge \partial x_d \end{aligned}$$

by the outward-normal-first convention for the boundary orientations. This implies

$$\begin{aligned} o_V^*(S(a_\ell))_x &= (-1)^{d-1} \alpha\, \partial x_{k+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial x_{d-1}, \\ o_V^*(S(b_\ell))_x &= (-1)^{k(d-k)+d-k} \beta\, \partial x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial x_k. \end{aligned}$$

(See §1.4 (l) for the convention of coorientation.) By comparing $o(b_\ell)_x$ and $o_V^*(S(a_\ell))_x$, we get

$$\int_{b_\ell^-} \eta_{S(a_\ell)} = (-1)^{d-1}\alpha\beta. \tag{D.3}$$

Now we recall that α and β are related by the condition $\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^-, a_\ell) = +1$. More precisely, suppose that the embeddings b_ℓ^- and a_ℓ are locally given near x by

$$\begin{aligned} &b_\ell^-(x'_{k+1}, \ldots, x'_{d-1}) = (0, \ldots, 0, x'_{k+1}, \ldots, x'_{d-1}, -\varepsilon) \quad (\varepsilon > 0), \\ &a_\ell(x''_1, \ldots, x''_k) = (x''_1, \ldots, x''_k, 0, \ldots, 0, 0). \end{aligned}$$

Applying the rule of §D.2, we have

$$o(b_\ell^- \times a_\ell)_{(x',x'')} = o(b_\ell^-)_{x'} \wedge o(a_\ell)_{x''} = \alpha\beta\, \partial x'_{k+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial x'_{d-1} \wedge \partial x''_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial x''_k,$$

where $x'=(x'_{k+1},\ldots,x'_{d-1})$, $x''=(x''_1,\ldots,x''_k)$. To obtain $\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^-,a_\ell)$, we compute

$$\phi(b_\ell^-(x'),a_\ell(x''))=\frac{a_\ell(x'')-b_\ell^-(x')}{|a_\ell(x'')-b_\ell^-(x')|}=\frac{(x''_1,\ldots,x''_k,-x'_{k+1},\ldots,-x'_{d-1},\varepsilon)}{|(x''_1,\ldots,x''_k,-x'_{k+1},\ldots,-x'_{d-1},\varepsilon)|},$$

and we have that $\phi^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$ at $(x',x'')=(0,0)$ is a positive multiple of

$$\begin{aligned}&(-1)^{d-1}\varepsilon\,dx''_1\wedge\cdots\wedge dx''_k\wedge d(-x'_{k+1})\wedge\cdots\wedge d(-x'_{d-1})\\ &=(-1)^k(-1)^{k(d-1-k)}\varepsilon\,dx'_{k+1}\wedge\cdots\wedge dx'_{d-1}\wedge dx''_1\wedge\cdots\wedge dx''_k.\end{aligned}$$

Since $(x',x'')=(0,0)$ is the only point in the preimage of the regular value $(0,\ldots,0,1)\in S^{d-1}$ of ϕ, the sign at $(x',x'')=(0,0)$ gives

$$1=\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^-,a_\ell)=\int_{b_\ell^-\times a_\ell}\phi^*\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}=(-1)^{kd+k}\alpha\beta.$$

By (D.3), we obtain (1).

The assertion (2) follows by using the coorientation of $S(b_\ell)$ and the value of $\alpha\beta$ obtained above, as

$$\int_{a_\ell^+}\eta_{S(b_\ell)}=(-1)^{k(d-k)}(-1)^{d-k}\alpha\beta=(-1)^{kd+d}(-1)^{kd+k}=(-1)^{d+k}.$$

The assertion (3) follows from $\int_{b_\ell^i\times b_m^j}\omega=\mathrm{Lk}(b_\ell^i,b_m^j)$, and

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{b_\ell^{i-}\times b_m^{j-}}\eta_{S(a_\ell^i)}\wedge\eta_{S(a_m^j)}&=\int_{b_\ell^{i-}}\eta_{S(a_\ell^i)}\int_{b_m^{j-}}\eta_{S(a_m^j)}\\ &=(-1)^{kd+k+d-1}\times(-1)^{k'd+k'+d-1}=(-1)^{(k+k')(d+1)}=(-1)^{d-1}\end{aligned}$$

by (D.2) and (1), where $k=\dim a_\ell^i$ and $k'=\dim a_m^j=d-1-k$. □

Appendix E. Well-definedness of Kontsevich's characteristic class

E.1. **Integral along the fiber (e.g.,** [BTu, §6]**,** [GHV, Ch.VII]**).** We follow [BTu, p.61–p.62] or [GHV, Ch.II,§5] for the definition of integral along the fiber.

Proposition E.1 (Generalized Stokes theorem, e.g., [GHV, Ch.VII])**.** *For a p-form α on the total space of a fiber bundle $\pi\colon E\to B$ with compact oriented n-dimensional fiber with $n\le p$, the following identity holds.*

$$d\pi_*\alpha=\pi_*d\alpha+(-1)^{p-n}\pi^\partial_*\alpha,$$

where $\pi^\partial\colon\partial^vE\to B$ is the restriction of π to the fiberwise boundary[*].

The following identities for the pushforward, which are direct consequences of the definition of π_*, will be frequently used:

$$\pi_*(\pi^*\beta\wedge\alpha)=\beta\wedge\pi_*\alpha \tag{E.1}$$

for forms α on E and β on B. If $\pi\colon E\to B$ is an orientation preserving diffeomorphism between oriented manifolds, then (E.1) gives

$$\pi_*(\pi^*\beta)=\beta. \tag{E.2}$$

[*]The sign convention is different from that of [Wa2], where the boundary was oriented by the inward-normal-first convention.

When $\deg\alpha = \dim E$, we have

$$\int_B \pi_*\alpha = \int_E \alpha, \tag{E.3}$$

by the definition of π_*.

We need to consider pushforward in a fiber bundle with fiber a manifold with corners. In general, the map $\overline{C}_r(X) \to \overline{C}_s(X)$ induced by the forgetful map $C_r(X) \to C_s(X)$ may not be a submersion and pushforwards may produce non-smooth forms. We need only to consider pushforwards of submersions for our purpose, in which case we have smooth forms as in the following lemma, whose proof is standard.

Lemma E.2. *Suppose that $\pi\colon E \to B$ is a fiber bundle with fiber a compact oriented n-manifold with corners. Then pushforward of a smooth form on E gives a smooth form on B.*

E.2. **Family of codimension 1 strata.** According to the description of the codimension 1 strata of $\partial\overline{C}_v(S^d;\infty)$, the codimension 1 strata of $E\overline{C}_v(\pi)$ in $\partial^v E\overline{C}_v(\pi)$ are parametrized by subsets $\Lambda \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, v, \infty\}$ such that $|\Lambda| \geq 2$. Let

$$\pi_\Lambda\colon E\overline{S}_\Lambda(\pi) \to B \tag{E.4}$$

denote the $\overline{S}_\Lambda$-bundle associated to the given bundle $\pi\colon E \to B$.

If $\infty \notin \Lambda$, the stratum $E\overline{S}_\Lambda(\pi)$ can be written as

$$E\overline{S}_\Lambda(\pi) \cong E\overline{C}_{v,\Lambda}(\pi) \times \overline{C}^*_r(\mathbb{R}^d). \tag{E.5}$$

Here, $r = |\Lambda|$, the identification is induced by the vertical framing τ_E at the multiple point, and $E\overline{C}_{v,\Lambda}(\pi)$ is the total space of the $\overline{C}_{v,\Lambda}(S^d;\infty)$-bundle associated to π. Recall from Definition 2.5 that $\overline{C}_{v,\Lambda}(S^d;\infty) \cong \overline{C}_{v-r+1}(S^d;\infty)$. Under the identification (E.5), the restriction of $\omega(\Gamma)$ can be written as

$$\omega(\Gamma)|_{E\overline{S}_\Lambda(\pi)} = \pm p_1^*\,\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda) \wedge p_2^*\,\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda), \tag{E.6}$$

where Γ_Λ is the subgraph of Γ spanned by the vertices labelled by Λ, Γ/Λ is the graph obtained from Γ by contracting Γ_Λ, $\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda)$ and $\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ are defined similarly as (2.17), where $\phi_{\rho,i}$ may be replaced with $\phi'_i\colon \overline{C}^*_r(\mathbb{R}^d) \to \overline{C}^*_2(\mathbb{R}^d) = S^{d-1}$ to pullback $\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$ if i is an edge of Γ_Λ. The sign is determined by the permutation $\{1, 2, \ldots, e\} \to \{\text{edges of } \Gamma/\Lambda\} \cup \{\text{edges of } \Gamma_\Lambda\}$.

If $\infty \in \Lambda$, then we have

$$E\overline{S}_\Lambda(\pi) = E\overline{C}_{N-\Lambda}(\pi) \times \overline{C}^*_r(\mathbb{R}^d), \tag{E.7}$$

where $r = |\Lambda|$, $E\overline{C}_{N-\Lambda}(\pi)$ is the $\overline{C}_{N-\Lambda}(S^d;\infty)$-bundle associated to π. Recall that $\overline{C}_{N-\Lambda}(S^d;\infty) \cong \overline{C}_{v-r+1}(S^d;\infty)$ and we identify $\overline{C}^*_r(T_\infty X)$ with $\overline{C}^*_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ as in §2.3.3. Under the identification (E.7), the restriction of $\omega(\Gamma)$ can be written as

$$\omega(\Gamma)|_{E\overline{S}_\Lambda(\pi)} = \pm p_1^*\,\omega(\Gamma_{\Lambda^c}) \wedge p_2^*\,\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda^c), \tag{E.8}$$

where $\Lambda^c = N - \Lambda$, and $\omega(\Gamma_{\Lambda^c})$, $\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda^c)$ are defined similarly as the previous case. The sign is also similar to the previous case.

E.3. **Proof of Theorem 2.16.** By the generalized Stokes theorem (Proposition E.1), we have

$$dI(\Gamma)=(-1)^{(d-3)k+\ell}\,\overline{C}_v(\pi)^\partial_*\,\omega(\Gamma)=(-1)^{(d-3)k+\ell}\sum_{\substack{\Lambda\subset\{1,\ldots,v,\infty\}\\ |\Lambda|\geq 2}}\pi_{\Lambda *}\,\omega(\Gamma).$$

Moreover, by Lemmas E.3, E.4 and E.5 below, we have

$$dI(\Gamma)=(-1)^{(d-3)k+\ell}\sum_{\substack{\Lambda\subset\{1,\ldots,v,\infty\}\\ |\Lambda|=2}}\pi_{\Lambda *}\,\omega(\Gamma)=(-1)^{(d-3)k+\ell+1}\,I(\delta\Gamma),$$

where π_Λ is the bundle projection (E.4). This completes the proof of (1) (that I is a chain map).

For (2) (independence of ω), we consider the cylinder $\overline{C}_v(I\times\pi)\colon I\times E\overline{C}_v(\pi)\to I\times B$, which is a $\overline{C}_v(S^d;\infty)$-bundle obtained by direct product with I. We extend the vertical framing τ_E on $I\times E$ naturally by the product structure. Now we take two propagators ω_0 and ω_1 on the ends $\{0,1\}\times E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$. Then by Corollary 2.14, there exists a propagator ω on $I\times E\overline{C}_2(\pi)$ for the extended framing that extends both ω_0 and ω_1 on the ends. Then the form $\omega(\Gamma)$ on $I\times E\overline{C}_v(\pi)$ is defined by (2.17) by using the extended propagator ω. Let $\overline{C}_v(\pi)^I=p\circ\overline{C}_v(I\times\pi)\colon I\times E\overline{C}_v(\pi)\to B$, where $p\colon I\times B\to B$ is the projection. Then by the generalized Stokes theorem for this $I\times\overline{C}_v(S^d;\infty)$-bundle, we have

$$\begin{aligned}d\overline{C}_v(\pi)^I_*\omega(\Gamma)&=\epsilon\,\overline{C}_v(\pi)^{I\partial}_*\omega(\Gamma)\\&=\epsilon\left\{\overline{C}_v(\pi)_*\omega_1(\Gamma)-\overline{C}_v(\pi)_*\omega_0(\Gamma)-\int_I\overline{C}_v(\pi)^\partial_*\omega(\Gamma)\right\},\end{aligned}$$

where $\epsilon=(-1)^{(d-3)k+\ell-1}$. This is the identity between $(d-3)k+\ell$-forms on B and $\int_I$ is the pushforward along I. The linear combination of this identity for a δ-cocycle $\gamma=\sum_\Gamma W(\Gamma)\Gamma$ of $\mathscr{G}^{\mathrm{even}}_{\ell,k}$ gives rise to

$$\begin{aligned}dI(\gamma)(\omega)&=\epsilon\left\{I(\gamma)(\omega_1)-I(\gamma)(\omega_0)+\int_I I(\delta\gamma)(\omega)\right\}\\&=\epsilon\left\{I(\gamma)(\omega_1)-I(\gamma)(\omega_0)\right\}\end{aligned}$$

by a similar argument as in the proof of (1) and by $\delta\gamma=0$. This implies (2).

The assertion (3) (invariance under homotopy of τ_E) can be proved similarly by extending the vertical framing over $I\times E$ by the given homotopy, and by Corollary 2.14 again.

The assertion (4) (naturality under bundle map) follows since the bundle map over f can be used to pullback the propagator. Since the integral along the fiber commutes with the pullback by a bundle map: $\overline{C}_v(\pi)_*\tilde{f}^*=f^*\overline{C}_v(\pi')_*$, the result follows. ☐

Lemma E.3. *When* $|\Lambda|\geq 3$,

$$\pi_{\Lambda *}\,\omega(\Gamma)=0.$$

Proof. When $\infty\notin\Lambda$, let Γ_Λ be as defined in §E.2. When $\infty\in\Lambda$, let Γ_Λ be the Γ/Λ^c in §E.2. There are two cases to be considered.

(1) Every vertex of Γ_Λ is at least trivalent.
(2) Γ_Λ has a vertex with valence 2, 1 or 0.

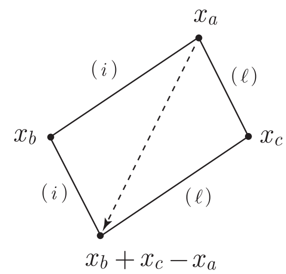


FIGURE 18. The automorphism ι_Λ.

Case (1): Suppose that Γ_Λ has v' vertices and e' edges. The condition (1) implies the inequality

$$2e' - 3v' \geq 0. \tag{E.9}$$

The product structure (E.5) or (E.7) and the decomposition (E.6) or (E.8) allows us to integrate $\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ first along the fiber $\overline{C}_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$, where $r = |\Lambda| = v'$. The integral of $\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ is non-trivial only if $\deg \omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) = \dim \overline{C}_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$, that is,

$$(d-1)e' = dv' - d - 1. \tag{E.10}$$

This is because if $\deg \omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) < \dim \overline{C}_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ the integral of $\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda)$ vanishes. If $\deg \omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) > \dim \overline{C}_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ the result of the integral of $\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ along $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is a form of positive degree that is the pullback of some form on one point, which vanishes. Now (E.9) and (E.10) imply $(d-3)v' + 2d + 2 \leq 0$, which is a contradiction when $d \geq 3$.

Case (2): In this case, we follow [Les1, Lemma 2.20], which also uses a symmetry due to Kontsevich ([Kon, Lemma 2.1]), and [Les1, Lemma 2.18]†. If Γ_Λ has a bivalent vertex, say a, then there are two edges of Γ_Λ incident to a, say with the boundary vertices $\{a, b\}$ and $\{a, c\}$, respectively. Here, we may assume that $b \neq c$, as we may assume Γ does not have multiple edges, since otherwise $\omega(\Gamma) = 0$ *if d is even*. Let C be the subset of $C_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ consisting of configurations $\boldsymbol{x} = (\ldots, x_a, x_b, x_c, \ldots)$ such that $x_b + x_c - x_a = x_e$ for some $e \neq a$, where we assume the points are labelled by Λ. Then C is a disjoint union of codimension d submanifolds, which has measure 0. We consider $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ as the subspace of $C_r(\mathbb{R}^d)$ by letting

$$C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) = \big\{(y_1, \ldots, y_r) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^r \mid |y_1|^2 + \cdots + |y_r|^2 = 1,\ y_i \neq y_j \text{ if } i \neq j,\ y_r = 0\big\}.$$

Let $\psi\colon C_{r-1}(\mathbb{R}^d) \times \{0\} \to C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ denote the projection $\psi(\boldsymbol{x}, 0) = \boldsymbol{x}/|\boldsymbol{x}|$.

We consider the automorphism $\iota'_\Lambda\colon C_r(\mathbb{R}^d) - C \to C_r(\mathbb{R}^d) - C$, which

$$\text{takes } x_a \text{ to } x'_a := x_b + x_c - x_a \text{ and fixes other points.}$$

See Figure 18. Let $\iota_\Lambda\colon C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) - C \to C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) - C$ denote the induced map $\psi \circ \iota'_\Lambda$, which is an automorphism. Note that $C \cap C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is codimension d in $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$, too. Then $\iota_\Lambda^* \omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) = -\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ because

$$\iota_\Lambda^*(\phi_i'^* \upsilon \wedge \phi_\ell'^* \upsilon) = \iota_\Lambda^* \phi_i'^* \upsilon \wedge \iota_\Lambda^* \phi_\ell'^* \upsilon = \phi_\ell'^* \upsilon \wedge \phi_i'^* \upsilon = -\phi_i'^* \upsilon \wedge \phi_\ell'^* \upsilon$$

†There are other approaches to prove this lemma ([LV, KuTh]), which work with compactifications.

($\upsilon = \mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$) and ι_Λ^* acts trivially on other edge forms. Here the relations $\iota_\Lambda^*\phi_i'^*\upsilon = \phi_\ell'^*\upsilon$ etc. follow from the commutativity of the following diagram and Lemma 2.11.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) & \xrightarrow{\phi'_\ell} & S^{d-1} & \qquad & (\ldots, x_a, x_b, x_c, \ldots) & \longmapsto & \frac{x_a - x_c}{|x_a - x_c|} \\ \Big\downarrow{\scriptstyle \iota_\Lambda} & & \Big\downarrow{\scriptstyle \iota} & & \Big\downarrow & & \Big\downarrow \\ C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) & \xrightarrow{\phi'_i} & S^{d-1} & & (\ldots, x'_a, x_b, x_c, \ldots) & \longmapsto & \frac{x'_a - x_b}{|x'_a - x_b|} \end{array}$$

Moreover, the automorphism ι_Λ preserves the orientation of $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) - C$. Since the integral of $\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ on the noncompact manifold $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) - C$ is absolutely convergent and C has measure zero, we have that the integral of $\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ over $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ can be replaced with that over $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) - C$, and

$$\int_{C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)-C} \omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) = \int_{\iota_\Lambda(C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)-C)} \omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) = \int_{C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)-C} \iota_\Lambda^*\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) = -\int_{C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)-C} \omega(\Gamma_\Lambda).$$

Note that the integral depends on the orientation of the domain of integral. Hence the integral $\pi_{\Lambda*}\omega(\Gamma)$ vanishes.

If Γ_Λ has a univalent vertex, say a, then there is an edge i of Γ_Λ incident to a, say with the boundary vertices $\{a, b\}$. Let $C_{r-1,i}^*(\mathbb{R}^d) = C_{r-1}^*(\mathbb{R}^{d-1}) \times S^{d-1}$. We consider the map $q\colon C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d) \to C_{r-1,i}^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ given by

$$q(x_1, \ldots, x_r) = (\mu x_1, \ldots, \widehat{\mu x}_a, \ldots, \mu x_r, (x_a - x_b)/|x_a - x_b|)$$

(the factor μx_a deleted), where $\mu = 1/\sqrt{1 - |x_a|^2}$. Then the form $\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ restricted to $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is basic with respect to q, namely, it is the pullback of some $(d-1)e'$-form on the manifold $C_{r-1,i}^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ of one less dimension since $r = |\Lambda| \geq 3$. It follows that the integral of $\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda)$ over $C_r^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is zero. The case where Γ_Λ has a zerovalent vertex is similar to this case. □

Lemma E.4. *When $|\Lambda| = 2$ and $\infty \in \Lambda$,*

$$\pi_{\Lambda*}\,\omega(\Gamma) = 0.$$

Proof. If $\Lambda = \{j, \infty\}$ for some $j \neq \infty$, and if j has valence ℓ in Γ, then the form $\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda^c)$ on $\overline{C}_2^*(\mathbb{R}^d)$ in (E.8) is $(\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}})^\ell$ for the volume form $\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$ on $\overline{C}_2^*(\mathbb{R}^d) = S^{d-1}$, which vanishes. □

Lemma E.5. *When $|\Lambda| = 2$ and $\infty \notin \Lambda$,*

$$\pi_{\Lambda*}\,\omega(\Gamma) = -I(\Gamma/\Lambda, \textit{induced ori}).$$

Proof. Let $\Lambda = \{a, b\} \subset N$. We first describe the orientation on the stratum $\overline{S}_\Lambda$ induced from that of $\overline{C}_v(S^d; \infty)$. The stratum $\overline{S}_\Lambda$ is the face produced by the blow-up along the locus $\{x_a = x_b\}$. A neighborhood of a generic point of $\overline{S}_\Lambda$ can be canonically identified with that of a generic point of $\partial B\ell_{\Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d) \times (\mathbb{R}^d)^{n-2}$ in $B\ell_{\Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d) \times (\mathbb{R}^d)^{n-2}$. Here, the order of the factors $\mathbb{R}^d$ is not important since d is even and their permutation does not affect the orientation. Coordinates on $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$ with respect to the decomposition $\Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d} \times \Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}^\perp$ are given by the map

$$\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d} \times \Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}^\perp; \quad (t, t') \mapsto \Big(\Big(\frac{t+t'}{2}, \frac{t+t'}{2}\Big), \Big(\frac{t-t'}{2}, \frac{t'-t}{2}\Big)\Big).$$

We fix the following identifications

$$\begin{aligned} &\varpi\colon \mathbb{R}^d \xrightarrow{\cong} \Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}; \quad \varpi(t) = (t,t), \\ &\varpi^\perp\colon \mathbb{R}^d \xrightarrow{\cong} \Delta^\perp_{\mathbb{R}^d}; \quad \varpi^\perp(t) = (-t,t). \end{aligned} \tag{E.11}$$

The pushforwards of the orientation $\partial t = \partial t_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial t_d$ of $\mathbb{R}^d$, where $\partial t_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial t_i}$, gives

$$\begin{aligned} \varpi_*(\partial t) \wedge \varpi^\perp_*(\partial t) &= (\partial t_1 + \partial t_1') \wedge \cdots \wedge (\partial t_d + \partial t_d') \wedge (\partial t_1' - \partial t_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge (\partial t_d' - \partial t_d) \\ &= 2^d\, \partial t \wedge \partial t', \end{aligned}$$

which agrees with the orientation of $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$. Thus $\varpi_*(\partial t)$ and $\varpi^\perp_*(\partial t)$ give natural orientations on the subspaces $\Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ and $\Delta^\perp_{\mathbb{R}^d}$.

Since $B\ell_{\Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d) = \Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d} \times B\ell_{\{0\}}(\Delta^\perp_{\mathbb{R}^d})$, it suffices to determine the orientation induced on $\Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d} \times \partial B\ell_{\{0\}}(\Delta^\perp_{\mathbb{R}^d})$ from $\varpi_*(\partial t) \wedge \varpi^\perp_*(\partial t)$ by the outward-normal-first convention. Further, as $\varpi_*(\partial t)$ is of even degree, we need only to determine the induced orientation of $\partial B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ from ∂t. Since the outward normal vector at a point u of $\partial B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^d) = S^{d-1}$ is the preimage of $-u$ under the blow-down map, the induced orientation on $\partial B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is $-\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}$. Thus we have obtained the following formula of the orientation of $\partial B\ell_{\Delta_{\mathbb{R}^d}}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d) \times (\mathbb{R}^d)^{n-2}$:

$$-\varpi^\perp_*(\mathrm{Vol}_{S^{d-1}}) \wedge \varpi_*(\partial t^{(a)}) \wedge \bigwedge_{j \neq a,b} \partial t^{(j)}, \tag{E.12}$$

where we identified $\partial B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with the unit sphere $S^{d-1} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ via the isotopy in $B\ell_{\{0\}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ generated by the preimages of the radial rays from the origin.

Next, we need to determine the sign caused by the permutation of propagators in $\omega(\Gamma)$. Namely, as in (E.6), one may transform as

$$\omega(\Gamma)|_{E\overline{S}_\Lambda(\pi)} = \pm p_2^*\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) \wedge p_1^*\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda) = p_2^*\omega(\Gamma_\Lambda) \wedge (\pm p_1^*\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda)). \tag{E.13}$$

The term $\pm p_1^*\omega(\Gamma/\Lambda)$ corresponds to the induced orientation $o(\Gamma/i)$ in (2.4). Hence it turns out that the $\pm$ is in fact $+$. By (E.12) and (E.13), the integral along the fiber gives

$$\pi_{\Lambda*}\omega(\Gamma) = -I(\Gamma/\Lambda, \text{induced ori}).$$

□

Appendix F. Homology class of the diagonal

Proposition F.1. *Let S be a closed oriented manifold. Suppose that $H_*(S;\mathbb{Z})$ is free and has finite $\mathbb{Z}$-bases $\{e_i\}$ and $\{e_i^*\}$, which are represented by oriented submanifold cycles $\{\gamma_i\}$ and $\{\gamma_i^*\}$, respectively, and are dual to each other, namely, $\gamma_i \cdot \gamma_j^* = \delta_{ij}$ (the algebraic intersection number, $\alpha \cdot \beta = 0$ if $\dim\alpha + \dim\beta \neq \dim S$). Then we have*

$$[\Delta_S] = \sum_i e_i \otimes e_i^*$$

in $H_*(S \times S;\mathbb{Z})$.

This can be deduced from the cohomology version in [MS, Theorem 11.11], except for a sign. We leave the reader to check the sign.

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