

Theorem: There exist smooth 4-manifolds  $W$  and  $W'$  such that

- (1)  $W$  and  $W'$  are homeomorphic
- (2)  $W'$  is diffeomorphic to the 0-trace of a slice knot
- (3) There is no smooth embedding of any knot trace into  $W$  which induces an isomorphism on homology ( $\Rightarrow W$  is not diffeomorphic to any knot trace).

The trace embedding lemma and spinelessness

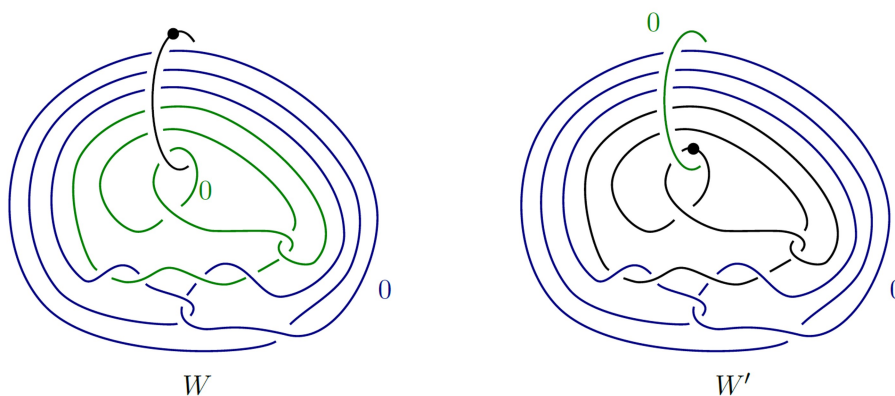


Figure 2: Diagrams for  $W$  and  $W'$  related by a dot-zero exchange.

Spine: A <sup>(top loc flat / smooth / PL)</sup> spine for a manifold  $W^4$  is an <sup>(top loc flat / smooth / PL)</sup> embedding

$$f: \sum^2 \text{ manifold} \longrightarrow W^4$$

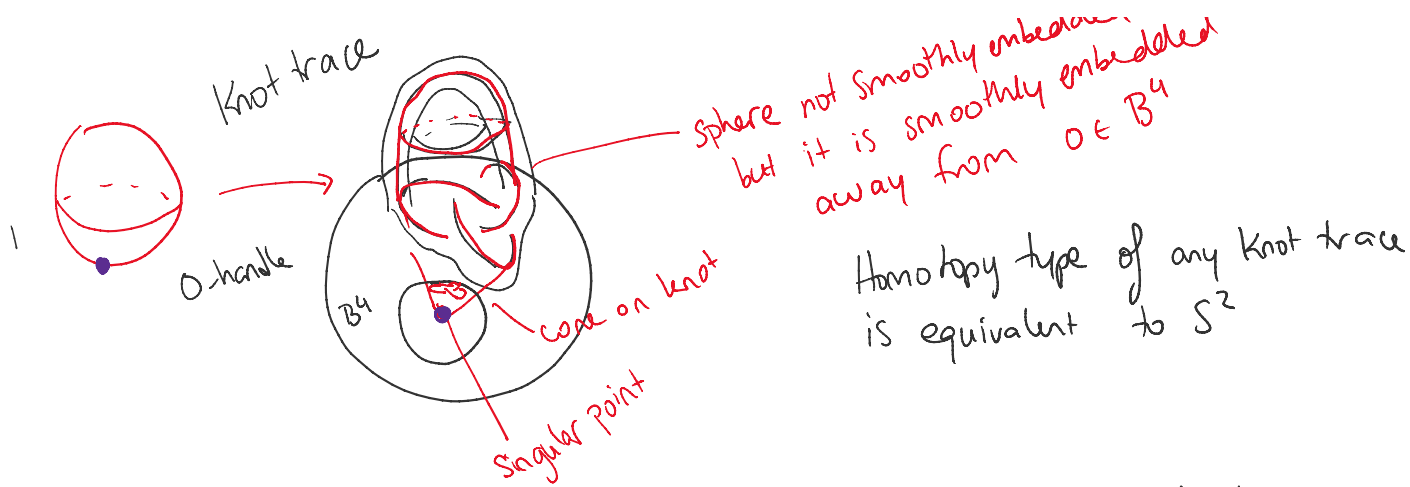
such that the embedding induces a homotopy equivalence.

Example: Any knot trace has a PL 2-sphere spine

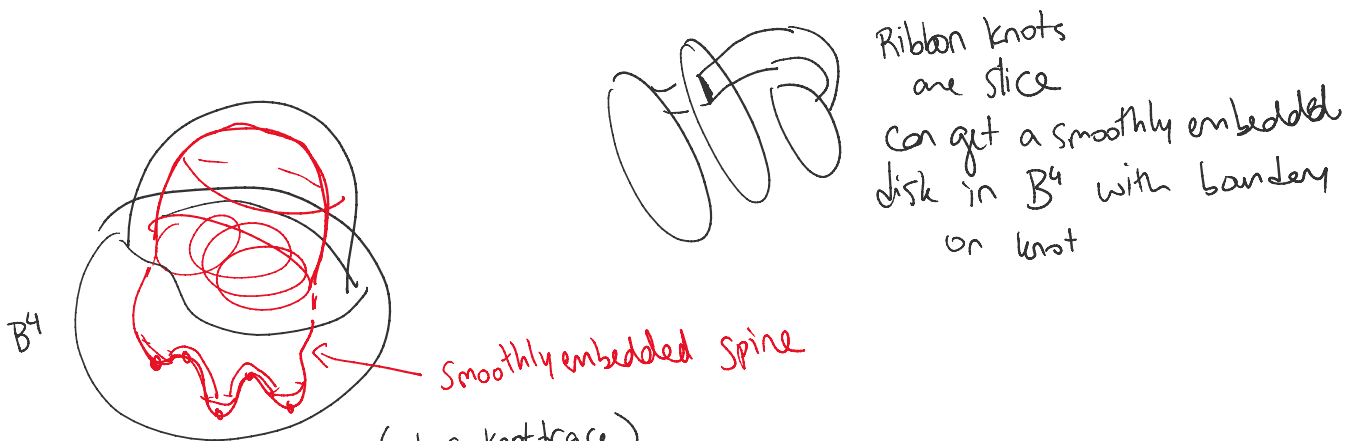
Knot trace



• can not smoothly embed  
 • not smoothly embeddable  
 $\mathbb{R}^4$



If the knot is slice, then have a smoothly embedded spine



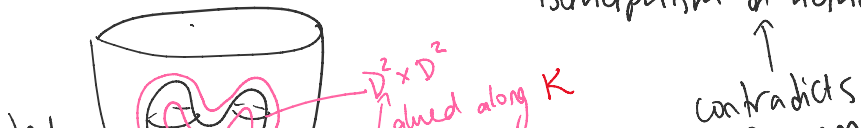
Corollary of Theorem  $W$  (not a knot trace) is homotopy equivalent to  $S^2$  and contains a topologically locally flat spine but not a smooth or PL spine.

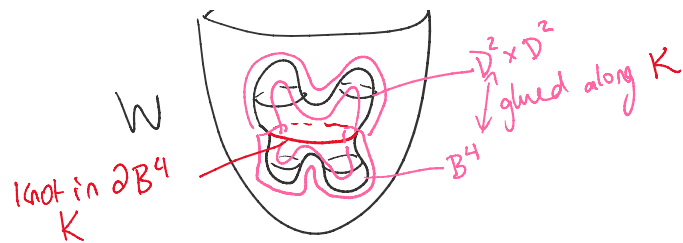
Theorem says  $W$  is homeomorphic to  $W'$  and  $W'$  is diffeomorphic to  $\partial$ -trace on a slice knot  $\Rightarrow$

$$S^2 \xrightarrow{\text{Smooth Spine}} W' \xrightarrow{\text{homeomorphism}} W$$

$\Rightarrow W$  contains a topologically locally flat spine

If  $W$  had a smooth spine then a nbhd of that spine is a knot trace inclusion of knot trace into  $W$  induce isomorphism on homology

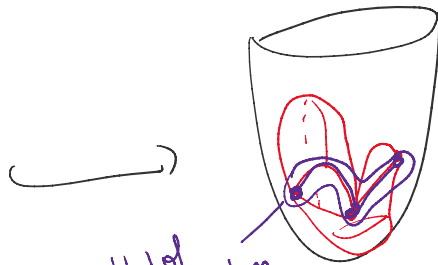
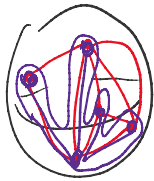




contradicts Theorem

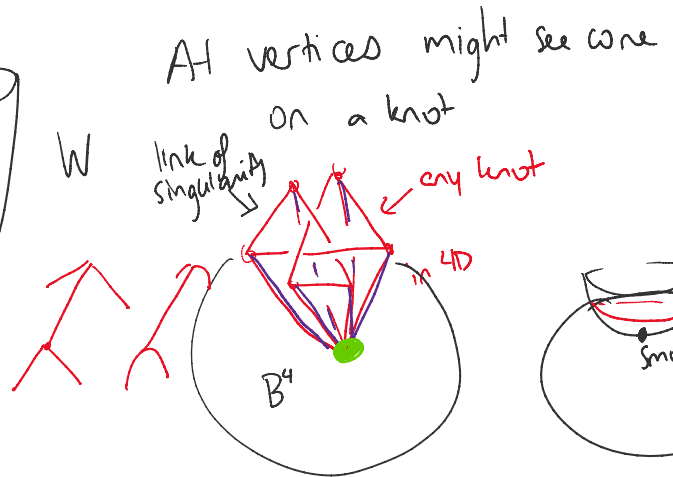
PL version: also find that a nbhd of PL spine will be a knot trace

maximal tree



nbhd of embedded tree is diffeo to  $B^4$

The rest of  $S^2$  can be smoothed to a smooth embedding of  $D^2$  ← its nbhd gives a 2-handle attached to  $B^4$



attaching sphere: connected sum of the links of vertices

→ embedding of knot trace

Thm:  $W, W'$  diffeo to knot trace  $W$  homeo to  $W'$

There is no <sup>(smooth)</sup> embedding of any knot trace into  $W$  inducing an isomorphism on homology.

Proof outline:

①  $W$  embeds into  $S^4$  ← add 2-handle, to diagram 3-h, 4-h do Kirby calculus to show result of adding handles is diffeo to  $S^4$

②  $W$  satisfies the adjunction inequality:

$$[\Sigma] \cdot [\Sigma] + |\langle c_1(W), [\Sigma] \rangle| \leq 2g(\Sigma) - 2$$

for any surface  $\Sigma$  representing a nontrivial homology class.

$W$  has nice presentation in contact / symplectic topology (stein) (Use gauge theory, symplectic, complex)

to any surface  $\subset$  representing a nontrivial homology class. (Use gauge theory, symplectic, complex geometry)

③  $W$  and  $W'$  are homeomorphic  
 $\uparrow$   
 Mazur cork twist

④  $W'$  is diffeomorphic to a knot trace  $\leftarrow$  Kirby calculus simplify diagram by cancelling 1-handle + 2-handle

Using trace embedding lemma, if there were any embedding of a knot trace

$$\underline{X_n(K)} \hookrightarrow W \quad \text{inducing an iso on homology}$$

then  $X_n(K) \hookrightarrow W \hookrightarrow S^4 \Rightarrow n=0$  and  $K$  is slice  
 $\Rightarrow$  there is a smooth 2-sphere  $\Sigma$  in  $X_n(K)$  generating  $H_2(X_n(K))$

$$\Sigma \hookrightarrow X_n(K) \hookrightarrow W$$

$\Sigma$  represents a nontrivial homology class in  $W$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{[\Sigma] \cdot [\Sigma]}_0 + |\langle c_1(W), [\Sigma] \rangle| \leq 2g(\Sigma) - 2$$

$$0 + |\langle c_1(W), [\Sigma] \rangle| \leq -2$$

$$0 \leq -2$$

$\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$  contradiction

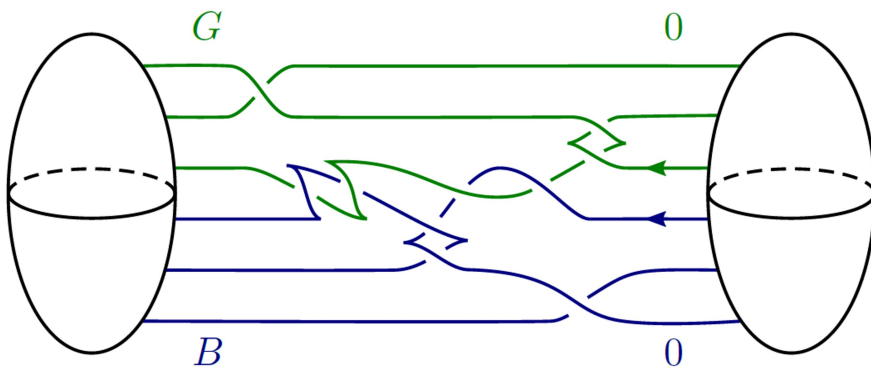


Figure 1: A Stein handlebody diagram for  $W$ .