

# Introduction to gentle algebras II: Geometric model(s)

[OPS] = Oppermann, Plamondon, Schroll: A geometric model for the derived category of gentle algebras arXiv:1801.09659

[LP] = Lekili, Polischuk: Derived equivalences of gentle algebras via Fukaya categories arXiv:1801.06370

*This is really a plan for our lecture, too*

Setup:  $k$  is a field

all modules are fin. dim left modules

$$ba = \overset{a}{\rightarrow} \overset{b}{\rightarrow}$$

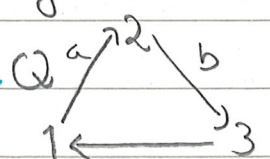
①

## 1: Geometric model for gentle algebras [OPS]

Def: An algebra  $A$  is <sup>locally</sup> gentle if it is isomorphic to one of the form  $kQ/I$  such that:

- 1  $Q$  is a finite quiver
- 2  $I$  is admissible ( $\mathbb{R}^m \subseteq I \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ )
- 3  $I$  is generated by paths of length two
- 4 For any arrow  $a$  there is at most one arrow
  - $b$  such that  $ab \in I$
  - $c$  " "  $ca \in I$
  - $b$  " "  $ab \notin I$
  - $c$  " "  $ca \notin I$

$A$  is gentle if it is in addition

Example   $I = \{ba, cb, ac\}$

$kQ$  and  $kQ/I$  are both locally gentle.  
However, only  $kQ/I$  is gentle

# 1.1 Ribbon graphs

Def: For  $A = kQ/I$  locally gentle, let

$T$ : Set of **permitted threads**, i.e. paths  $w \notin I$  such that for any arrow  $a$  we have  $aw \in I$  and  $wa \in I$ .

$F$ : Set of **forbidden threads**: paths  $w = a_n \dots a_1$  such that  $a_{i+1}a_i \in I$ , and there is no arrow  $b$  with either  $ba_n \in I$  or  $a_1b \in I$ .

$P_0$ : Set of trivial paths  $e_i$  such that  $e_i \rightarrow i$ ,  $i \rightarrow$ , or  $\xrightarrow{a} i \xrightarrow{b}$  with  $ba \notin I$ .

$F_0$ : As  $P_0$ , but have  $ba \in I$

$T = P \cup P_0$  and  $F = F \cup F_0$ .

Note: Each vertex appears in exactly two members of  $P$  if  $A$  is gentle

Example  $Q$  and  $I$  as before.

For  $kQ/I$ :  $\overline{T} = \{a, b, c\}$

$\overline{F} = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$  (all others end up infinite!)

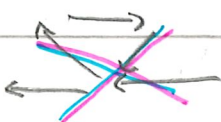
For  $kQ$   $\overline{T}' = \overline{F}$ ,  $\overline{F}' = \overline{T}$ . (these are Koszul, of Jan's talk)

imprecise, but good enough for our purposes.

"Def" A **ribbon graph** is a <sup>undirected</sup> graph with a cyclic ordering of the edges around each vertex.

From now on (and until I say otherwise)  $A = kQ/I$  will be gentle, in particular: fin dim.

To simplify the next definition<sup>(3)</sup> we will assume that no  $w \in T$  has a vertex occurring more than once.



(the def. would still work, but it would be more cumbersome.)



Def: Given a gentle algebra  $A = kQ/I$ , define a ribbon graph  $\overline{\Gamma}_A$ :

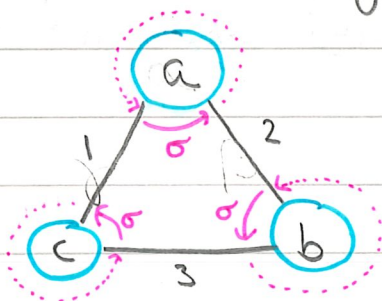
(2)

• vertices:  $\overline{\Gamma}$

edges: add edges whenever two  $w \in \overline{\Gamma}$  pass through the same vertex of  $Q$

ordering: induced by the order  $w \in \overline{\Gamma}$  passes through the vertices of  $Q$

Ex:  $A = kQ/I$  as before  $\overline{\Gamma} = \{a, b, c\}$

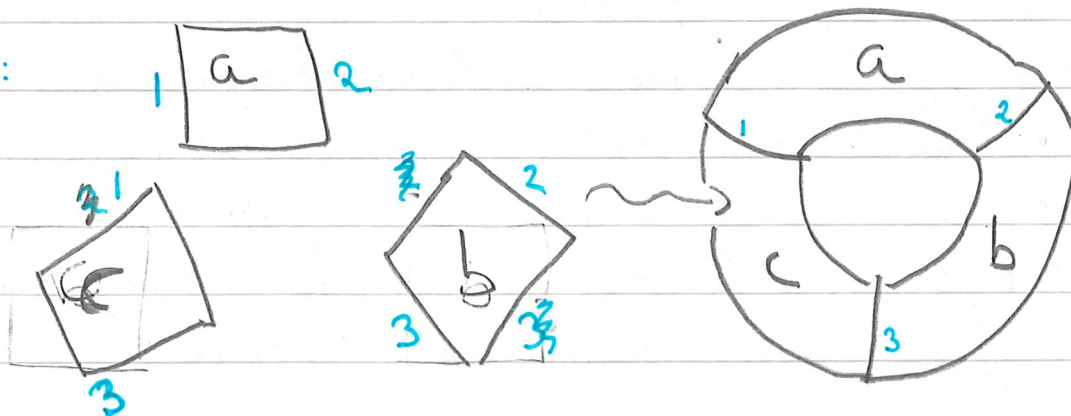


## 1.2. Ribbon Surfaces

Def Let  $\Gamma$  be a connected ribbon graph. We associate to  $\Gamma$  a ribbon surface  $S_\Gamma$  through the following construction:

- 1 For each vertex  $v \in \Gamma$ , with valency  $d(v) = \# \text{ arrows in} + \# \text{ arrows out}$ , associate a  $2d(v)$ -gon  $Q_v$
- 2 Following the orientation, label every other side of  $Q_v$  with the edges incident to  $v$ .
- 3 Glue together sides with the same label

Ex:

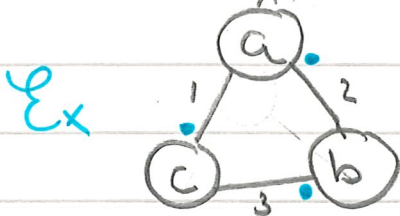


Note: \* The ribbon surface  $S_\Gamma$  is oriented  
 \* We can embed  $\Gamma$  in  $S_\Gamma$ : Vertices = centers of polygons  
 Edges = curves between  
 \* If  $\Gamma = \Gamma_A$ , we write  $S_\Gamma = S_A$ . Ex:

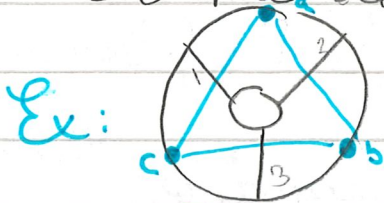
### 1.3 Markings

Def: A marked ribbon graph is a ribbon graph with a map  $m$  mapping each vertex to one of its incident edges.

For  $\Gamma_A$ , we define  $m(w) = t(w)$  (mark end of path)



For  $S_\Gamma$ , we create a marking by putting a mark on the side of  $Q_v$  between  $m(v)$  and  $\sigma(m(v))$ ,  
 $\Rightarrow$  Marked surface  $(S, M)$



Note: Quite different from Marked surfaces in sense of Asseem et al, cf. Bill's talk.

Fomin Thurston

### 1.4 Lamination

Def: Let  $(S, M)$  be a marked surface. A lamination  $\mathcal{L}$  on  $(S, M)$  is a finite set of non-self-intersecting and pairwise non-intersecting curves, considered up to isotopy relative to  $M$ .

Elements of  $\mathcal{L}$  are called laminates and are either

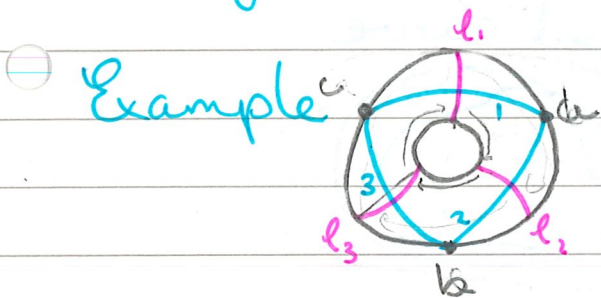
- closed curves not homotopic to a point or
- or • curves between non-marked points on the boundary. Disregard those hom to a part of the boundary without marked points



## Proposition (Canonical lamination)

For the finite dimensional gentle algebra  $A = kQ/I$ , there is a unique lamination  $L_A$  on  $S_A$  s.t

- 1  $L$  contains no closed loops
  - 2 For every vertex  $i \in Q_0$  (= edge of  $\Gamma_A$ )  $\exists!$   $l_i \in L$  that crosses the curve labeled by  $i$  in the embedding of  $\Gamma_A$  once, and none other
  - 3 (2) describes all laminations  $L_A$
- "Proof" Reuse the "seams" from the construction of  $S_A$

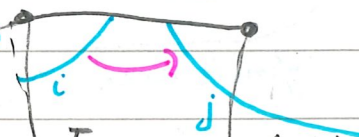


Prop: Let  $A = kQ/I$  be gentle,  $L_A$  its canonical lamination

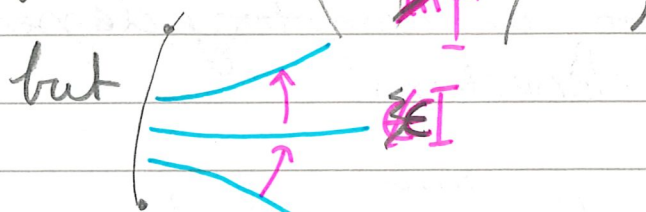
Define  $Q_L$  as follows:

vertices laminates  $^{\text{in } L_A}$

arrows



Define  $I_L$  as follows:



Then  $kQ_L/I_L \cong kQ/I$  as  $k$ -algebras.

2.6 Lemma:  $L_A$  divides  $S_A$  into polygons whose sides are laminates and boundary segments

- 2 Each such polygon contains exactly one marked point
- 3 Each boundary segment of  $S_A$  contains endpoint of at least one lamination

## 2 Derived categories [OPS]

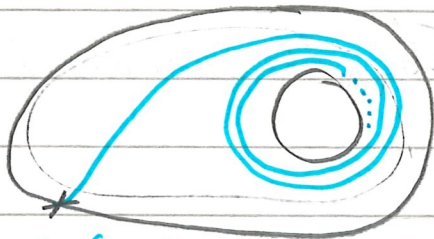
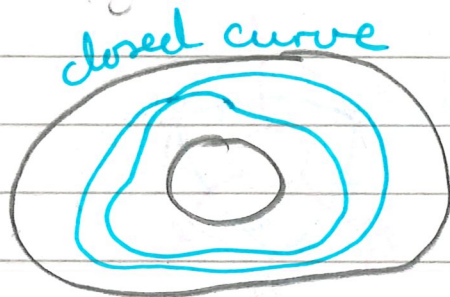
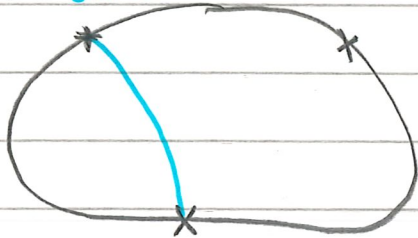
Aim: Create a model for  $\mathbb{D}^b(A)$  using the ribbon surface  $S_A$

"Def" Let  $A$  be gentle,  $\Gamma_A$  ribbon graph,  $S_A$  ribbon surface with marked points  $M$  (from embedding,  $L$   $L_A$  canonical lamination. (free

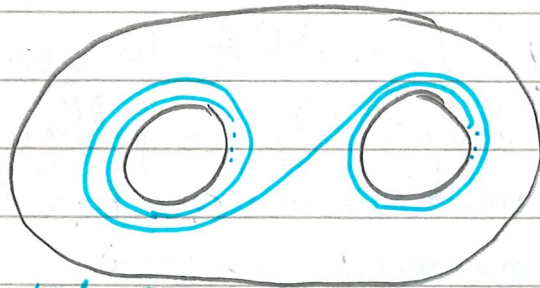
Let all curves in the following be non-contractible; everything is up to homotopy

A ~~closed finite arc~~ =

A arc:



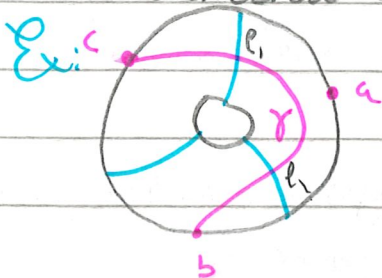
infinite arc



infinite arc.

Assume we pick "minimal" representations for our homotopy classes: No unnecessary intersections!

Lemma: Any <sup>finite</sup> arc, infinite arc or closed curve  $\gamma$  is uniquely determined by the sequence of laminates it crosses,  $L_\gamma$



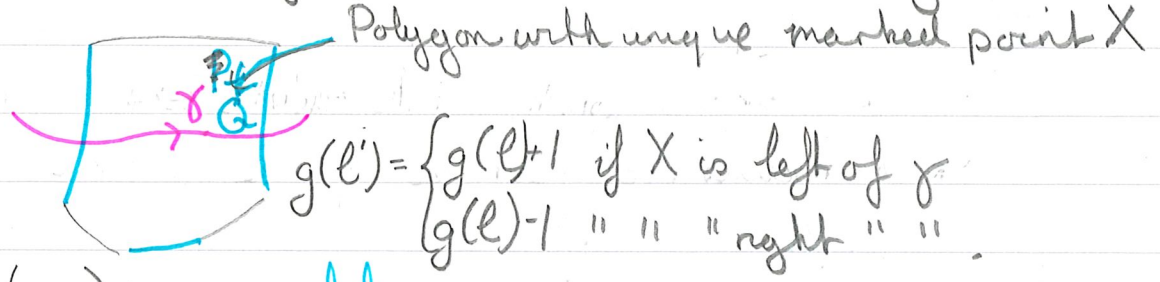
$L_A = (l_1, l_2)$

↑ ordered <sup>multi</sup> set w/ well def. "previous" & "next" crossings

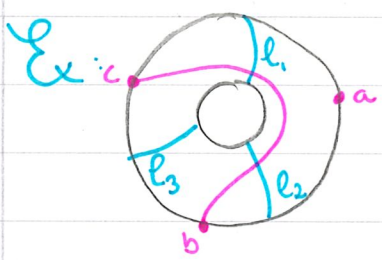


Def:  $\gamma$  are closed curve on  $S_A$ .

A **grading** on  $\gamma$  is a function  $g: L_\gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  satisfying:  
 Let  $l \in L_\gamma$ , and  $l'$  the next crossing:



$(\gamma, g)$  is a **graded curve**.



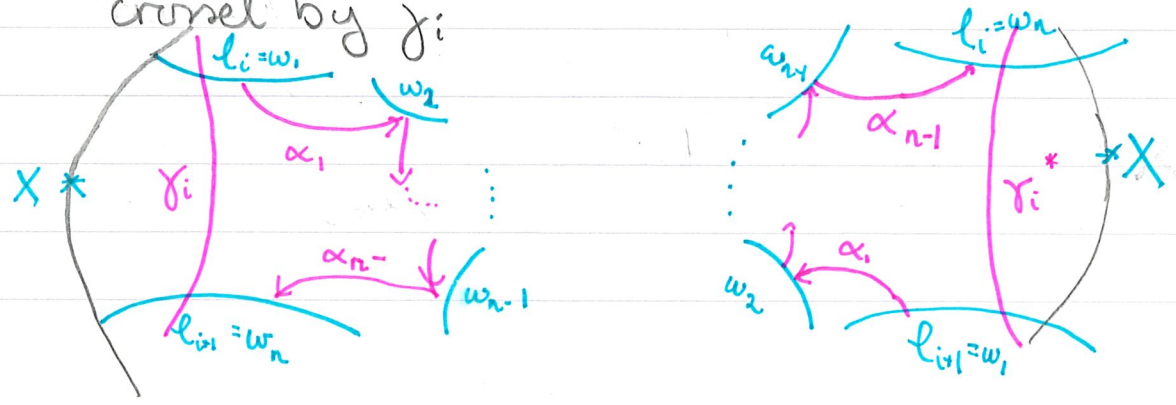
$$L_\gamma = (l_1, l_2)$$

$$g(L_\gamma) = (0, 1)$$

- Note:
- \* Any grading is defined by its value on a single element of  $L_\gamma$
  - \* If  $g$  is a grading of  $\gamma$ , then so is  $g[n]: l \mapsto g(l) - n$
  - \* All gradings of  $\gamma$  can be written as  $g[n]$
  - \* finite & infinite arcs always have gradings
  - \* Closed curves don't!

**Construction** Let  $(\gamma, g)$  be a finite graded arc on  $S_A$ .  
 Let  $L_A = (l_1, l_2, \dots, l_r)$

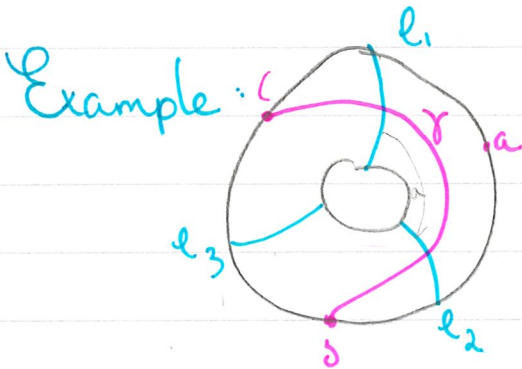
For  $1 \leq i \leq r-1$ , let  $\gamma_i$  be the part of  $\gamma$  between  $l_i$  and  $l_{i+1}$ .  
 Look at the laminates in the polygon  $Q$  crossed by  $\gamma_i$ :



$$\sigma(\gamma_i) = (\gamma_{n-1}, \dots, \gamma_1) \quad \sigma(\gamma_i^*) = (\gamma_{n-1}, \dots, \gamma_1)^{-1}$$

$$\sigma(\gamma) = \begin{cases} \prod \sigma(\gamma_i) & \text{if } r \geq 1 \\ e_{e_1} & \text{if } r = 1 \end{cases}$$

this is a string (you don't need to know what that means).



$$L_\gamma = (l_1, l_2)$$

$$\sigma(\gamma) = a$$

Construction (continued)

Define  $P_{(\gamma, g)}^j = \dots \rightarrow P^j \xrightarrow{d^j} P^0 \xrightarrow{d^0} P^1 \rightarrow \dots$  by

$$\forall j \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad P^j = \bigoplus_{\substack{0 \leq i < r \\ g(l_i) = j}} P_{e_i}$$

← indec. proj. corr. to vertex labeled  $l_i$

Each direct (resp. inverse)  $\sigma(\gamma_i)$  defines a map  $P_{e_i} \rightarrow P_{e_{i+1}}$  (resp.  $P_{e_{i+1}} \rightarrow P_{e_i}$ ); these maps form the differential in  $P_{(\gamma, g)}^j$ .

Similarly, we can create complexes of projectives for graded infinite arcs, and (somewhat less similarly) for graded closed curves.

The objects  $P_{(\gamma, g)}^j$  are indecomposable in  $D^b(\text{mod } A)$ . In fact...



**Theorem [OPS]** The following classes are in bijection:

$\{\text{indecomposable objects in } D^b(\text{mod } A)\} / \cong$

and

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{graded finite arcs,} \\ \text{graded infinite arcs} \\ \text{graded closed curves in } S_A \end{array} \right\}$

"Proof": Show that the latter class is in bijection with Bekker & Merklen's graded homotopy strings & bands.  $\square$

**Example:**

$L_\gamma = (l_1, l_2)$   
 $\sigma(\gamma) = a \quad g(\gamma) = (0, 1)$

$P_{(\gamma, g)}^\bullet = 0 \rightarrow P^0 \rightarrow P^1 \rightarrow 0$   
 where  $P^0 = P_{e_1} = P_1$   
 $P^1 = P_{l_2} = P_2$

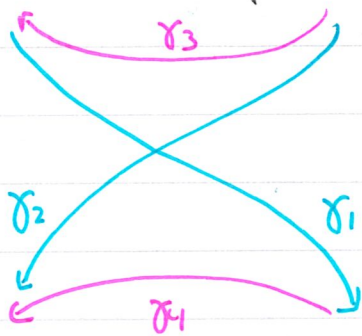
$\Rightarrow P_{(\gamma, g)}^\bullet = 0 \rightarrow P_1 \xrightarrow{(a)} P_2 \rightarrow 0$

**Note:** The geometric model of  $D^b(\text{mod } A)$  also gives us:

(i) **maps:** The basis for  $\text{Hom}_{D^b(\text{mod } A)}(P_{(\gamma_1, g_1)}^\bullet, P_{(\gamma_2, g_2)}^\bullet)$  is in bijection with the set of graded intersections (i.e. intersections where grading agrees) of  $(\gamma_1, g_1)$  and  $(\gamma_2, g_2)$  (unless  $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2$  closed curve). This follows from [Arnesen, Laking, Pankajgolla '16], which found  $\text{Hom}_{D^b}$  for string & band objects

## Mapping cones

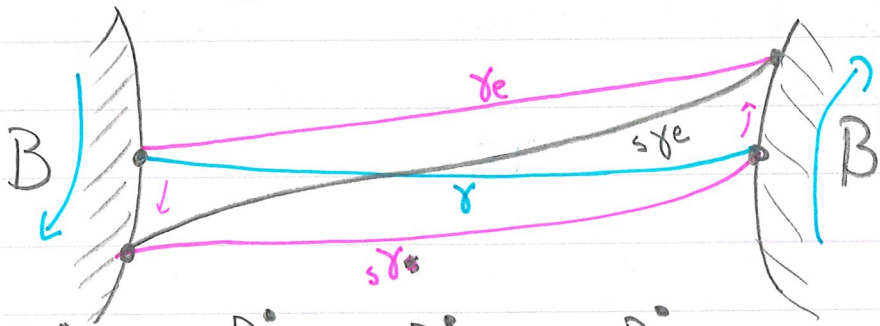
(2) Suppose we have a basis map  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_{\text{D}^b(\text{Mod})}(P_{(\gamma_1, g_1)}, P_{(\gamma_2, g_2)})$   
 $\rightarrow$  corresponds to a crossing of  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2$



$(\gamma_3, g_3)$  and  $(\gamma_4, g_4)$  are arcs on  
 doted curves given by the  
 resolution of the crossing

$\Rightarrow M_\varphi^\bullet = P_{(\gamma_3, g_3)} \oplus P_{(\gamma_4, g_4)}$  is the mapping cone of  $\varphi$

(3) AR-triangles: Take a (graded) arc  $(\gamma, g)$ .



$$P_{(\gamma, g)} \rightarrow P_{(\gamma_e, g_e)} \oplus P_{(s\gamma, g)} \rightarrow P_{(s\gamma_e, s g_e)} \rightarrow P_{(\gamma, g)}[1]$$

is an AR-triangle

*gradings are inherited from  $\gamma$*

(We can do something similar for bands)

## 3. Homologically smooth algebras

$\Rightarrow$  no infinite forbidden paths

• [Green-Zachariah]: A gentle algebra  $A$  is Koszul, and its dual  $A'$  is gentle or locally gentle.

• Recall that Jan identified  $A = k\langle Q \rangle_I$  with  $(Q, P, F)$   
 Its Koszul dual  $A'$  was identified with  $(Q^{\text{op}}, F^{\text{op}}, P^{\text{op}})$

• By [Bessenrodt-Holm], if  $A$  is finite dimensional, then  $A'$  is homologically smooth.



Via a theorem of Keller, [KP] show that

$$D_f(A) \simeq D(A')$$

where:

- $A$  is viewed as gentle, graded in degree 0
- $A'$  has path length grading
- NB: •  $D(A')$  is the perfect derived category of  $A'$  viewed as a dg algebra with zero differential.

However, we can do more!

Let  $A = A = kQ/I$  be a graded, homologically smooth locally gentle algebra

Model of the algebra

Construct a ribbon graph, then surface, using using the **forbidden paths** of  $A$  (so far, ignore grading). Don't forget to get a lamination!

Model of grading

Recall from Jan's talk: • A boundary component of  $A$  is a cyclic path in  $Q = Q \cup Q^{\text{op}}$ , consisting of alternating forbidden & opposite permitted threads avoiding "aa" (a is a letter)

• Boundary components of  $A$  are in 1-1 correspondence with boundary components in  $S_A$ .

Grading<sub>n</sub> of a permitted thread  $p = \alpha_n \dots \alpha_1 \in kQ$ :  $|p| = \sum_{i=1}^n |\alpha_i|$

Grading<sub>n</sub> of a forbidden thread  $f = \alpha_n \dots \alpha_1 \in kQ$ :  $|f| = \sum_{i=1}^n |\alpha_i| - (n-2)$

To each boundary component  $\Theta$  in  $S_A, \text{com}$ ,  
to a boundary component  $f_1 p_1 \dots f_i p_i$  of  $A$ ,  
we attach a **winding number**  
 $w(\Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n |f_i| + |p_i|$

With a winding number attached to each  
component in this way we can:

- Read off the grading (thus all information  
about the algebra) from the surface.

- Define a **line field**  $\eta$  on  $S_A$ , which  
we will need to get the correspondence  
with the partially wrapped Fukaya  
category....

but that will be in David's talk.