Applying TQFT to count regular coverings of Seifert 3-manifolds

Haimiao Chen *

Department of mathematics, Peking University, Beijing, China

Abstract

I give a formula for computing the number of regular Γ-coverings of closed orientable Seifert 3-manifolds, for a given finite group Γ. The number is computed using a 3d TQFT with finite gauge group, through a cut-and-glue process.

1 Introduction

The purpose of this article is to count regular coverings of closed orientable Seifert 3-manifolds, with a given finite covering group Γ; the problem is the same as counting homomorphisms from the fundamental groups to Γ.

The main results are the formulae in Theorem 3.3 and 4.1. They give an answer in terms of the conjugacy classes of Γ, the centralizers of elements of these classes and their characters.

A Seifert 3-manifold is a compact 3-manifold together with a decomposition into a disjoint union of circles (called fibers) such that, each fiber has a tubular neighborhood that is the mapping torus of an automorphism of a disk given by rotation by an angle of \(2\pi b/a\) for a pair of coprime integers \((a, b)\) with \(a > 0\). A fiber with \(a = 1\) (resp. \(a > 1\)) is called ordinary (resp. exceptional). The set of fibers forms a 2-dimensional orbifold called the base-surface. There are two types of connected closed orientable Seifert 3-manifolds according to whether the base-surface is orientable or not.

*Email: chenhm@math.pku.edu.cn
Seifert 3-manifolds form an important class of 3-manifolds. Most “small” 3-manifolds are Seifert manifolds, and they account for all compact oriented manifolds in 6 of 8 Thurston geometries of the Geometrization Conjecture. As interesting examples of Seifert 3-manifolds, there are Brieskorn complete intersections (see [11]) which include homology spheres as a subclass, the complements of torus knots in $S^3$ (see [10] Page 28), and so on.

The problem of enumerating finite-fold coverings of manifolds has been studied extensively in the past decades, especially in the last twenty years. For example, [7] gave formulae for regular coverings of surfaces, both orientable and non-orientable, both with and without boundary. There was much work on the realizability of branched coverings of surfaces, see, for instance, [12], [16]; the question is then whether the number of coverings of a certain kind is zero or not. [8] counted the numbers of homomorphisms from the fundamental groups of circle bundles over surfaces to permutation groups, so it actually enables us to count ordinary unbranched coverings of circle bundles over surfaces.

Generally speaking, the enumeration of isomorphism classes of (not necessarily connected) coverings of a space $M$ is reduced to that of homomorphisms from $\pi_1(M)$ to a finite group. Namely, $n$-sheeted ordinary coverings of $M$ correspond bijectively to homomorphisms $\pi_1(M) \to S_n$ ($S_n$ is the permutation group on $n$ letters); for a finite group $\Gamma$, regular $\Gamma$-coverings of $M$ correspond bijectively to homomorphisms $\pi_1(M) \to \Gamma$. For more details see [6].

While there has been much work on enumerations in 2-dimensional topology, there is, besides [8], little on 3-dimensional topology, due to the complexity of 3-manifold groups.

Our results make some contributions to 3-dimensional enumeration. The approach uses TQFT with finite gauge group. Just as V.Turaev ([14], [15]) applied 2d TQFT to count representations of surface groups, we apply 3d TQFT to count representations of the fundamental groups of Seifert 3-manifolds. Compared with [8], we go further in two directions: the manifolds are allowed to have exceptional fibers, so they can be more complicated than just circle bundles; the target group may be any finite group, not just a permutation group.

The article is organized as follows. In Section 2, some basic notions and facts of TQFT are recalled. Section 3 and 4 are devoted to deriving formulae for enumeration. Some concrete computations are done in Section 5. The last section contains some remarks.
Notations.
\(\Sigma_g\): the orientable closed surface of genus \(g\).
\(\Sigma_{g,p,q}\): the orientable surface of genus \(g\), with boundary \((p + q)\) circles, \(p\) of which are oriented negatively, and the other \(q\) positively.
\(P\): the pair of pants
\(ST\): the solid torus \(S^1 \times D\)
\(#A\): the cardinality of a finite set \(A\).
\(C(x)\): the centralizer of an element \(x\) in a group.

2 TQFT with finite gauge group

In this section, we recall some notions and facts on TQFT. References are [2], [3], [4], [5]. Assume all manifolds are compact, smooth and oriented, and all maps are orientation-preserving diffeomorphisms.

2.1 Axioms of TQFT

For an integer \(l\), as proposed by Freed (see [5]), an \((l + 1)\)-dimensional topological quantum field theory \(((l + 1)d\) TQFT for short) is an assignment \(Z\), assigning to each \(l\)-dimensional closed manifold \(Y\) a finite-dimensional Hermitian inner product space \(Z(Y)\), with \(Z(\emptyset) = \mathbb{C}\) (equipped with the standard inner product), and to each \((l + 1)\)-dimensional manifold \(X\) an element of the vector space \(Z(\partial X)\), such that the following holds:

(a) (Functoriality) Every map \(f : Y \to Y'\) induces an isometry

\[ f_* : Z(Y) \to Z(Y'); \]

and for \(f : X \to X', f' : X' \to X''\),

\[ f'_* \circ f_* = (f' \circ f)_*. \]

For every map \(F : X \to X'\), one has

\[ (\partial F)_* (Z(X)) = Z(X'). \]

(b) (Orientation) There is a natural isometry

\[ Z(-Y) \cong Z(Y), \]
$(-Y$ has the same underlying manifold as $Y$ but the opposite orientation$)$ through which

$$Z(-X) = Z(X).$$

(c) (Multiplicativity) There is a natural isometry

$$Z(Y_1 \sqcup Y_2) \cong Z(Y_1) \otimes Z(Y_2),$$

through which

$$Z(X_1 \sqcup X_2) = Z(X_1) \otimes Z(X_2).$$

(d) (Gluing) If $Y^l \hookrightarrow X^{l+1}$ is a submanifold and $X^{cut}$ is the manifold obtained by cutting $X$ along $Y$, so that $\partial X^{cut} = \partial X \sqcup Y \sqcup -Y$, then

$$Z(X) = Tr_Y(Z(X^{cut})), $$

where

$$Tr_Y : Z(\partial X) \otimes Z(Y) \otimes \overline{Z(Y)} \rightarrow Z(\partial X)$$

is the contraction using the inner product on $Z(Y)$.

It follows from (b),(c) that when $W$ is a cobordism from $M_1$ to $M_2$, that is, $\partial W = -M_1 \sqcup M_2$, then

$$Z(W) \in \overline{Z(M_1)} \otimes Z(M_2) \cong \text{hom}(Z(M_1), Z(M_2)),$$

hence $Z(W)$ can be identified with a linear map $Z(M_1) \rightarrow Z(M_2)$. The axioms (a),(d) then tell us that $Z$ is also a functor from the category of $(l+1)$-dimensional cobordisms to that of inner product spaces.

Also, (b) says that $Z(-W) : \overline{Z(M_2)} \rightarrow \overline{Z(M_1)}$ is the dual map of $Z(W)$.

**Remark 2.1.** $Z(X), Z(Y)$ are called the path-integrals of $X, Y$, respectively.

**Remark 2.2.** The gluing axiom (d) also means that, when $\partial X_1 = -Y, \partial X_2 = Y$, and $X$ is obtained by gluing $X_1, X_2$ along $Y$ via a map $f : Y \rightarrow Y$, i.e., $X = (X_1 \sqcup X_2)/(y \in \partial X_1) \sim (f(y) \in \partial X_2)$, then

$$Z(X) = Tr_Y(Z(X_2) \otimes f_{*}Z(X_1)).$$
2.2 TQFT with finite gauge group

Given a finite group $\Gamma$ and an integer $l$, there is a general method to construct an $(l + 1)d$ TQFT as follows; see [4], [5].

For a manifold $M$, let $\mathcal{C}_M$ denote the groupoid of principal $\Gamma$-bundles over $M$ with morphisms being the bundle morphisms covering the identity on $M$. Let $\overline{\mathcal{C}}_M$ be the set of equivalence classes of these bundles.

For $P \in \mathcal{C}_M$, setting $\mu(P) = 1/\#\text{Aut}(P)$ defines a measure on $\mathcal{C}_M$, and it descends to $\overline{\mathcal{C}}_M$, by $\mu([P]) = 1/\#\text{Aut}(P)$ for any $P \in [P] \in \overline{\mathcal{C}}_M$.

For $Q \in \mathcal{C}_{\partial M}$, let $\mathcal{C}_M(Q)$ be the groupoid of bundles $P \in \mathcal{C}_M$ such that $\partial P = Q$, with morphisms being the bundle morphisms whose restriction to $Q$ is the identity.

Let $\overline{\mathcal{C}}_M(Q)$ be the set of equivalence classes. As above, one can define a measure on $\overline{\mathcal{C}}_X(Q)$ by

$$\mu_Q([P]) = 1/\#\text{Aut}_Q(P),$$

where $\text{Aut}_Q(P)$ is the group of automorphisms of $P$ fixing $Q$.

For each closed $l$-dimensional manifold $Y$, set

$$Z(Y) = \text{Map}(\overline{\mathcal{C}}_Y, \mathbb{C}),$$

and equip it with the inner product

$$(f, g) = \sum_{[Q] \in \overline{\mathcal{C}}_Y} \mu([Q]) f([Q]) \overline{g([Q])}.$$ 

For each $(l + 1)$-dimensional manifold $X$, set

$$Z(X)([Q]) = \sum_{[P] \in \overline{\mathcal{C}}_X(Q)} \mu_Q([P]) \in \mathbb{C}$$

for all $[Q] \in \overline{\mathcal{C}}_{\partial X}$, where $Q$ is any representative of $[Q]$. Thus $Z(X) \in Z(\partial X)$.

A more concrete description was given in Section 5 of [5]. Here we state it as a theorem.
Theorem 2.3. Suppose $X^{l+1}, Y^l$ are connected.

$$Z(Y) = \text{Map}(\text{hom}(\pi_1(Y), \Gamma)/\Gamma, \mathbb{C}),$$

(1)

where $\Gamma$ acts by conjugation; for $\gamma : \pi_1(Y) \to \Gamma$, $\mu([\gamma]) = \frac{1}{\#C(\gamma)}$, with $C(\gamma)$ being the centralizer of $\text{im} \gamma \subset \Gamma$.

If $X$ is closed,

$$Z(X) = \frac{1}{\#\Gamma} \cdot \# \text{hom}(\pi_1(X), \Gamma).$$

(2)

And if $\partial X \neq \emptyset$, for $\beta \in \text{hom}(\pi_1(\partial X), \Gamma)$,

$$Z(X)([\beta]) = \#(\iota^*)^{-1}(\beta),$$

(3)

where $\iota^* : \text{hom}(\pi_1(X), \Gamma) \to \text{hom}(\pi_1(\partial X), \Gamma)$ is the restriction map.

Remark 2.4. Such a TQFT is known as (untwisted) Dijkgraaf-Witten theory, named by the authors of [3], who first proposed it.

2.3 (2+1)-dimensional DW theory

When $l = 2$, $E := Z(\Sigma_1)$ becomes the vector space of maps

$$\theta : \{(x, h) \in \Gamma \times \Gamma | xh = h\} \to \mathbb{C}$$

(4)

satisfying

$$\theta(uxu^{-1}, uhu^{-1}) = \theta(x, h), \quad \forall u \in \Gamma;$$

(5)

and the inner product is given by

$$(\theta_1, \theta_2) = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \cdot \sum_{x, h} \overline{\theta_1(x, h)} \theta_2(x, h).$$

(6)

By Lemma 5.4 of [3], $E$ has a canonical orthonormal basis $\{\chi_i | i \in \Lambda\}$, where $\Lambda = \{i = (c, \rho)\}$, with $c$ a conjugacy class of $\Gamma$ and $\rho$ an irreducible character of $C(x)$, the centralizer of $x$ for an arbitrary choice of $x \in c$. We say that $\chi_i$ is supported in the conjugacy class $c$ and denote

$$c = \text{supp}(\chi_i).$$

(7)
The Explicit expression of $\chi_i$ is
\[
\chi_{(c,\rho)}(x, h) = \rho(h), \forall x \in c, h \in C(x); \quad \chi_{(c,\rho)}(x, h) = 0, \forall x \notin c.
\] (8)

Define
\[
\dim \chi_{(c,\rho)} = \#c \cdot \rho(e).
\] (9)

Let $P$ be the pair of pants (see Figure 1). Since $\partial(P \times S^1) = -\Sigma_1 \sqcup -\Sigma_1 \sqcup \Sigma_1$, we have
\[
Z(P \times S^1) \in \overline{E} \otimes \overline{E} \otimes E \cong \text{hom}(E \otimes E, E),
\]
so it gives a product on $E$,
\[
m : E \otimes E \to E,
\]
\[
m(\theta \otimes \vartheta)(x, h) = \sum_{x_1x_2=x} \theta(x_1, h)\vartheta(x_2, h).
\] (10)

The proof of formula (10) is similar to the proof of Proposition 5.17 of [5].

![Figure 1: the pair of pants](image)

The mapping class group of $\Sigma_1$, which is isomorphic to $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ (see [13], Page 22), acts on $E$ by
\[
\left( \begin{array}{cc} a & b \\ c & d \end{array} \right) \theta(x, h) = \theta(x^a h^b, x^c h^d).
\] (11)

For the generators $T = \left( \begin{array}{cc} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{array} \right)$, $S = \left( \begin{array}{cc} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$, the expressions are (see [5], Proposition 5.8)
\[
T * \chi_i = \kappa_i \chi_i,
\] (12)
\[
S * \chi_i = \sum_{j \in \Lambda} s_i^j \chi_j,
\] (13)
where
\[ \kappa_i = \chi_i(x, x)/\chi_i(x, e), \quad (14) \]
with \( x \in \text{supp}(\chi_i) \) chosen arbitrarily, and
\[ s_i^j = \langle S_i \chi_i, \chi_j \rangle = \frac{1}{\#\Gamma} \sum_{x, h} \chi_i(h^{-1}, x) \chi_j(x, h). \quad (15) \]
In particular,
\[ s_i^0 = \frac{\dim \chi_i}{\#\Gamma}. \quad (16) \]

Suppose \( m(\chi_i \otimes \chi_j) = \sum_k N_{ij}^k \chi_k \). By Proposition 3.1.12 of \cite{2}, if we define the matrices \( s, N_i, D_i \) respectively by
\[ s_{ij} = s_i^j, \quad (N_i)_{jk} = N_{ij}^k, \quad (D_i)_{ab} = \delta_{ab} \frac{s_i^a}{s_0^i}, \]
then \( s N_i s^{-1} = D_i \). So setting
\[ \tau_i = S_s^{-1} \chi_i \quad (17) \]
will diagonalize the product:
\[ m(\tau_i \otimes \tau_j) = \frac{\delta_{ij}}{s_0^i} \tau_i. \quad (18) \]
Since \( S_s^{-1} \) is unitary, \( \{ \tau_i \mid \in \Lambda \} \) is still an orthonormal basis of \( E \).

It is easy to see, by dualizing, that \( Z(-P \times S^1) \) gives a coproduct
\[ m' : E \to E \otimes E, \]
\[ m'(\tau_i) = \frac{1}{s_0^i} \tau_i \otimes \tau_i. \quad (19) \]

For the solid torus which is denoted \( ST \), let \( h \) indicate the longitude, and \( x \) the meridian.
Note that the homomorphism $\pi_1(T) \to \pi_1(ST)$ induced by the inclusion $T \hookrightarrow ST$ is a surjection whose kernel is generated by $x$, so we have

$$Z(ST)(x, h) = \delta_{x,e}, \quad (S_*Z(ST))(x, h) = \delta_{h,e},$$

and

$$Z(ST) = \sum_{i \in \Lambda} s_i^0 \tau_i,$$

(20)

since $(Z(ST), \tau_i) = (S_*Z(ST), \chi_i) = s_i^0$.

Regarding $Z(-ST)$ as a morphism $E \to \mathbb{C}$,

$$Z(-ST)(\tau_i) = (\tau_i, Z(ST)) = s_i^0 = s_i^0.$$

(21)

3 Formula for Seifert 3-manifolds I: orientable base-surfaces

The strategy for determining $\# \hom(\pi_1(M), \Gamma)$ for a 3-manifold $M$ is, relying on Theorem 2.3 to compute $Z(M)$.

3.1 Orientable Seifert 3-manifolds

According to [13], a closed orientable Seifert 3-manifold $M$ can be obtained as follows. Take a circle bundle $F$ which is orientable as a manifold, over a surface $R$ with $\partial R = \sqcup_n S^1$, so that $\partial F = \sqcup_n \Sigma_1$, and glue $n$ solid tori onto $F$ along the boundary $\Sigma_1$'s, via diffeomorphisms $f_j : \Sigma_1 \to \Sigma_1, j = 1, \ldots, n$. The “closure” of $R$, $\overline{R} = R \cup (\sqcup_n D)$, is the base-surface, and the images of the cores of $ST$, $S^1 \times 0 \subset ST$, are the exceptional fibers.

When $f_j$ lies in the mapping class of $\Sigma_1$ represented by $\left( \begin{array}{cc} a_j & b_j \\ u_j & v_j \end{array} \right)$, denote $M$ as $M(\overline{R}; (a_1, b_1), \ldots, (a_n, b_n))$.

In this section we assume $\overline{R}$ is orientable, $R = \Sigma_{g;n,0}$. Then $F$ is diffeomorphic to $\Sigma_{g;n,0} \times S^1$. Denote $M$ as $M_O(g; (a_1, b_1), \ldots, (a_n, b_n))$.

3.2 Computing $Z(\Sigma_{g;p,q} \times S^1)$

Since $\Sigma_{1;1,1} = -P \cup_{S^1} P$, $Z(\Sigma_{1;1,1} \times S^1)$ is the composite

$$E \overset{m'}{\to} E \otimes E \overset{m}{\to} E, \quad \tau_i \mapsto (s_i^0)^{-2} \tau_i.$$

(22)
In general, since $\Sigma_{g,1,1}$ can be obtained by gluing $g \Sigma_{1,1,1}$’s successively, as shown in Figure 2(a), we have

$$Z(\Sigma_{g,1,1} \times S^1) = (m \circ m')^g : E \to E, \quad \tau_i \mapsto (s_0^i)^{-2g} \tau_i.$$

(23)

Figure 2: (a) $\Sigma_{g,1,1}$ obtained by gluing $\Sigma_{1,1,1}$’s; (b) $\Sigma_{0,p,1}$ obtained by gluing $P$’s

For $p > 0$, $\Sigma_{0,p,1}$ can be obtained by gluing $(p-1) P$’s successively, (Figure 2(b) illustrates the case $p = 3$), hence $Z(\Sigma_{0,p,1} \times S^1) : E^\otimes p \to E$ is equal to

$$m \circ (1 \otimes m) \circ \cdots \circ (1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 \otimes m),$$

$$\tau_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_{i_p} \mapsto (s_0^i)^{1-p} \delta_{i_1,\ldots,i_p} \tau_{i_1}. \quad (24)$$

Dually, for $q > 0$, $Z(\Sigma_{0,1,q} \times S^1) : E \to E^\otimes q$ is equal to

$$(1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 \otimes m') \circ \cdots \circ (1 \otimes m') \circ m', \quad \tau_i \mapsto (s_0^i)^{1-q} \tau_i^\otimes q.$$

(25)

For $p, q > 0$, $Z(\Sigma_{g,p,q} \times S^1) : E^\otimes p \to E^\otimes q$ is equal to the composite

$$E^\otimes p \xrightarrow{Z(\Sigma_{0,p,1} \times S^1)} E \xrightarrow{Z(\Sigma_{g,1,1} \times S^1)} E \xrightarrow{Z(\Sigma_{0,1,q} \times S^1)} E^\otimes q,$$

$$Z(\Sigma_{g,p,q} \times S^1)(\tau_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_{i_p}) = \left(\frac{1}{s_0^i}\right)^{p+q+2g-2} \delta_{i_1,\ldots,i_p} \tau_{i_1}^\otimes q. \quad (26)$$
3.3 Considering exceptional fibers

Let $M'_O = M_O(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))$ be $M_O(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))$ with an ST deleted. It is obtained by gluing $n$ ST’s onto $\Sigma_{g: n, 1} \times S^1$, using $f_j : \Sigma_1 \rightarrow \Sigma_1$, $j = 1, \cdots, n$.

Since $(f_j)_*(Z(ST))(x, h) = \delta_{e, x, a_j h^b_j}$, we have

$$(f_j)_*(Z(ST)) = \frac{1}{\#\Gamma} \cdot \sum_{i \in \Lambda} \left( \sum_{x h = h x, x^a h^b = e} \tau_i(x, h) \right) \tau_i. \quad (27)$$

For any pair of coprime integers $(a, b)$, define

$$\eta_i(a, b) = \sum_{x h = h x, x^a h^b = e} \tau_i(x, h). \quad (28)$$

Lemma 3.1.

$$\eta_i(a, b) = \sum_{z \in \Gamma} \chi_i(z^a, z^{-b}). \quad (29)$$

Proof. since $(a, b) = 1$, there exists a $k$ such that $(ka - b, \#\Gamma) = 1$, (just let $k$ be the product of all prime factors of $\#\Gamma$ that do not divide $b$). Take $r$ such that $r(ka - b) \equiv 1 \pmod{\#\Gamma}$, then whenever $h x = x h, x^a h^b = e$, one has $h = h^{r(ka-b)} = h^{rka} x^{ra} = (xh^k)^{ra}$; let $y = xh^k$, we see $h = y^ra, x = yh^{-k} = y^{1-rka} = y^{-rb}$. Note that the map

$$\{(x, h) | x h = h x, x^a h^b = e\} \rightarrow \Gamma, \ (x, h) \mapsto (xh^k)^{ra},$$

is bijective, with the inverse map given by $z \mapsto (z^{-b}, z^a)$. So the lemma is established. \hfill \Box

Remark 3.2. Suppose $(a, \#\Gamma) = d$. Taking $c$ such that $ac \equiv d \pmod{\#\Gamma}$, we have

$$\eta_i(a, b) = \sum_{z^{a/d} = y \in \Gamma} \chi_i(z^a, z^{-b}) = \sum_{y \in \Gamma} \chi_i(y^d, y^{-bc}). \quad (30)$$

In particular, when $(a, \#\Gamma) = 1$, $\eta_i(a, b) = \dim \chi_i \cdot \kappa_i^{-bc}$. 

11
Going on, \( Z(M'_O) \) is the composite
\[
\mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\otimes} \mathbb{C}^{\otimes n} \xrightarrow{\bigotimes_{j=1}^{n} (f_j \ast Z(ST))} E^{\otimes n} Z(\Sigma_{g,n,1 \times S^1}) \xrightarrow{\bigotimes} E.
\]

\[
Z(M'_O)(1) = \sum_{i \in \Lambda} \left( \frac{1}{(\#\Gamma)^n(s^i_0)^{n+2g-1}} \prod_{j=1}^{n} \eta_i(a_j, b_j) \right) \tau_i. \quad (31)
\]

Finally, \( Z(M_O(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))) \) is the composite
\[
\mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{Z(M'_O)} E \rightarrow \mathbb{C},
\]

\[
Z(M_O(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))) = \sum_{i \in \Lambda} \frac{(\#\Gamma)^{2g-2}}{(\dim \chi_i)^{n+2g-2}} \prod_{j=1}^{n} \eta_i(a_j, b_j). \quad (32)
\]

Thus we have the following

**Theorem 3.3.** The number of regular \( \Gamma \)-coverings of the Seifert 3-manifold \( M_O(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n)) \) is
\[
\sum_{i \in \Lambda} \frac{(\#\Gamma)^{2g-1}}{(\dim \chi_i)^{n+2g-2}} \prod_{j=1}^{n} \eta_i(a_j, b_j). \quad (33)
\]

**Remark 3.4.** Be careful that, by (2), \( Z(M) \) is the number of homomorphisms \( \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \Gamma \) divided by \( \#\Gamma \).

### 4 Formula for Seifert 3-manifolds II: non-orientable base-surfaces

When the base-surface \( \overline{R} \) is non-orientable, \( \overline{R} \) is the connected sum of some \( \mathbb{R}P^2 \)'s. Denote \( \Pi_g = \#_g \mathbb{R}P^2 \). Let \( \Pi_{g,n} \) be \( \Pi_g \) with \( n \) disks removed.

In the notation of Section 3.1, when \( R = \Pi_{g,n} \), denote the Seifert manifold by \( M_N(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n)) \).

According to [8], over \( \Pi_{g;1} \) there is up to isomorphism only one orientable circle bundle \( F_g \), whose fundamental group has the presentation
\[
\langle x, h, y_1, \cdots, y_g | x = \prod_{j=1}^{g} y_j^2, y_j h = h y_j, h^2 = e \rangle.
\]
Noticing that $\Pi_{g,n} = \Pi_{g,1} \cup_{\Sigma_{0,n,1}} \Sigma_{0,n,1}$, it is then easy to see that the Seifert manifold $M_N(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))$ can be obtained by gluing $F_g$ with $M'_O(0; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))$ along $\Sigma_1$.

Since $\partial F_g = \Sigma_1$, $Z(F_g) \in E$. By (3), when $h^2 \neq e$, $Z(F_g)(x, h) = \#\{(y_1, \cdots, y_g) \in \Gamma^g | y_jh = hy_j, \prod_{j=1}^g y_j^2 = x\}$. Thus

\[
(Z(F_g), \tau_i) = (S_* Z(F_g), \chi_i) = \frac{1}{\# \Gamma} \sum_{x^2 = e} \#\{(y_1, \cdots, y_g) \in \Gamma^g | h \prod_{j=1}^g y_j^2 = e, y_j \in C(x)\} \chi_i(x, h). \tag{34}
\]

But by [7] Theorem 4,

\[
\#\{(y_1, \cdots, y_g) \in \Gamma^g | h \prod_{j=1}^g y_j^2 = e, y_j \in C(x)\} = \left(\# C(x)\right)^g - \sum_{\chi \in \text{irr}(C(x))} c_\chi^g \chi(e)^{1-g} \chi(h), \tag{35}\]

where $\chi$ ranges over the irreducible characters of $C(x)$, and $c_\chi$ is the Frobenius-Schur indicator (see [7]), which is defined for any character $\rho$ of a group $G$,

\[
c_\rho = \frac{1}{\# G} \sum_{y \in G} \rho(y^2). \tag{36}\]

Here for $j \in \Lambda$, we modify it to define by taking any $x \in \text{supp}(\chi_j)$,

\[
\tilde{c}_j = \frac{\delta_{e, x^2}}{\# C(x)} \sum_{h \in C(x)} \chi_j(x, h^2). \tag{37}\]

Then

\[
(Z(F_g), \tau_i) = \frac{1}{\# \Gamma} \sum_{x^2 = e} \sum_{x \in \text{supp}(\chi_j)} \sum_{h \in C(x)} \left(\# C(x)\right)^{g-1} c_\chi^g \chi_j(x, e)^{1-g} \chi_j(x, h) \chi_i(x, h) = \frac{\tilde{c}_j^g}{\# \Gamma} \sum_{x \in \text{supp}(\chi_i)} \# C(x) \left(\frac{\# C(x)}{\chi_i(x, e)}\right)^{g-1} = \left(\frac{\# \Gamma}{\dim \chi_i}\right)^{g-1} \tilde{c}_j^g, \tag{38}\]

13
where we have used the orthogonality relation \( \sum_{h \in C(x)} \chi_j(x, h) \overline{\chi_i(x, \delta)} = \#C(x) \cdot \delta_{i,j} \), the identity \( \#\text{supp}(\chi_i) \cdot \#(x) = \#\Gamma \) and \( (31) \).

Now \( Z(M_N(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))) \) is equal to the composite

\[
\mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{Z(M'_C)} E \xrightarrow{(\cdot, Z(F_g))} \mathbb{C}.
\]

By \( (31), (38) \), we obtain

\[
Z(M_N(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))) = \sum_{i \in \Lambda} \frac{(\#\Gamma)^{g-2} c_i^{g}}{(\dim \chi_i)^{n+g-2}} \prod_{j=1}^{n} \eta_i(a_j, b_j). \quad (39)
\]

Thus the enumeration for regular coverings of Seifert 3-manifolds with non-orientable base-surfaces is completed:

**Theorem 4.1.** The number of regular \( \Gamma \)-coverings of the Seifert 3-manifold \( M_N(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n)) \) is

\[
\sum_{i \in \Lambda} \frac{(\#\Gamma^{g-1} c_i^{g}}{(\dim \chi_i)^{n+g-2}} \prod_{j=1}^{n} \eta_i(a_j, b_j). \quad (40)
\]

### 5 Computations

Take \( \Gamma = A_5 \), the group of even permutations on 5 elements. It is the smallest nontrivial simple group.

In this section we compute the number of regular \( A_5 \)-coverings of any orientable closed Seifert 3-manifold with orientable base-surface.

#### 5.1 Facts on representation theory

The facts on \( A_5 \) which we recall below have been taken from [1] (Page 324).

There are 5 conjugacy classes:

\[
[1], \ [\alpha], \ [\beta], \ [\gamma], \ [\gamma^2],
\]

where

\[
1 = (1), \ \alpha = (12)(34), \ \beta = (123), \ \gamma = (12345),
\]

and \([x]\) stands for the conjugacy class represented by \( x \).
It is known that
\[
(#[1], #[\alpha], #[\beta], #[\gamma], #[\gamma^2]) = (1, 15, 20, 12, 12).
\] (41)
The corresponding centralizers are
\[
C(1) = A_5, \quad C(\alpha) = \{(1), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z},
\]
\[
C(\beta) = \langle \beta \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}, \quad C(\gamma) = C(\gamma^2) = \langle \gamma \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}.
\]
The irreducible characters of \(C(1) = A_5\) are given by
\[
\rho_1^1(1, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \gamma^2) = (1, 1, 1, 1),
\]
\[
\rho_2^1(1, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \gamma^2) = (3, -1, 0, \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}, \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}),
\]
\[
\rho_3^1(1, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \gamma^2) = (3, -1, 0, \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}, \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}),
\]
\[
\rho_4^1(1, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \gamma^2) = (4, 0, 1, -1, -1),
\]
\[
\rho_5^1(1, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \gamma^2) = (5, 1, -1, 0, 0).
\] (42) (43) (44) (45) (46)
The other four centralizers are all abelian, and their irreducible characters are easy to find.

For \(C(\alpha)\), set
\[
\rho_1^\alpha \equiv 1, \quad \rho_2^\alpha(1, \alpha, (13)(24), (14)(23)) = (1, -1, 1, -1),
\]
\[
\rho_3^\alpha(1, \alpha, (13)(24), (14)(23)) = (1, 1, -1, -1), \quad \rho_4^\alpha = \rho_2^\alpha \rho_3^\alpha.
\]
For \(C(\beta)\), set
\[
\rho_j^\beta(\beta) = e^{2(j-1)\pi i/3}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 3.
\]
For \(C(\gamma)\), set
\[
\rho_j^\gamma(\gamma) = e^{2(j-1)\pi i/5}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 5.
\]
For \(C(\gamma^2)\), set
\[
\rho_j^\gamma = \rho_j^\gamma, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 5.
\]
These are all the irreducible characters.

At last, to be convenient, let
\[
\Lambda = \{([x], \rho) | x = 1, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \gamma^2, \rho = \rho_j^\gamma\}.
\] (47)
And for \(i = ([x], \rho) \in \Lambda\), define \(\chi_i \in E\) by putting \(\chi_i(y, g) = \rho(g)\) if \(y\) is conjugate to \(x\) and \(g \in C(y)\), and putting \(\chi_i(y, g) = 0\) otherwise.
5.2 Evaluating $\eta$

Now begin to evaluate $\eta_i(a,b)$ for any pair of coprime integers $(a,b)$. Remark 3.2 will be referred to repeatedly.

For $1 \leq j \leq 5$ set

$$\omega_j(2) = \sum_{h \in [\alpha]} \rho_j^1(h) = 15 \rho_j^1(\alpha),$$

$$\omega_j(3) = \sum_{h \in [\beta]} \rho_j^1(h) = 20 \rho_j^1(\beta),$$

$$\omega_j(5) = \sum_{h \in [\gamma] \cup [\gamma^2]} \rho_j^1(h) = 12(\rho_j^1(\gamma) + \rho_j^1(\gamma^2)).$$

Then

$$\eta_{([1],\rho_j^1)}(a,b) = \rho_j^1(1) + \sum_{\{2,3,5\} \ni p \mid a} \omega_j(p).$$

To see this, note that $\forall h \in \Gamma$, $|h| \in \{1,2,3,5\}$. Suppose $(a,60) = d$, choose an integer $c$ such that $ac \equiv d \pmod{60}$, as in Remark 3.1. If $2 \nmid d$ and $3,5 \nmid d$, then

$$\eta_{([1],\rho_j^1)}(a,b) = \sum_{h^d=1} \rho_j^1(h^{-bc}) = \rho_j^1(1) + \sum_{h \in [\alpha]} \rho_j^1(h^{-bc})$$

$$= \rho_j^1(1) + \sum_{h \in [\alpha]} \rho_j^1(h) = \rho_j^1(1) + \omega_j(2).$$

The other cases are dealt with similarly.

The other values of $\eta_i(a,b)$ can be worked out more easily:

$$\eta_{([\alpha],\rho_j^\alpha)}(a,b) = \delta_{1,a} \pmod{2} \cdot 15 \cdot (-1)^{b(1-j)}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 4,$$

$$\eta_{([\beta],\rho_j^\beta)}(a,b) = \delta_{1,a^2} \pmod{3} \cdot 20 \cdot (e^{2\pi i/3})^{ab(1-j)}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 3,$$

$$\eta_{([\gamma],\rho_j^\gamma)}(a,b) = \delta_{1,a^4} \pmod{5} \cdot 12 \cdot (e^{2\pi i/5})^{a^3b(1-j)}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 5,$$

$$\eta_{([\gamma^2],\rho_j^{\gamma^2})}(a,b) = \delta_{1,a^4} \pmod{5} \cdot 12 \cdot (e^{2\pi i/5})^{2a^3b(1-j)} \quad 1 \leq j \leq 5.$$
5.3 The result

The values of \( \dim \chi_i \) for \( i \in \Lambda \) are:

\[
(\dim \chi_{([1],\rho^1_1)}, \dim \chi_{([1],\rho^1_2)}, \dim \chi_{([1],\rho^1_3)}, \dim \chi_{([1],\rho^1_4)}; \dim \chi_{([1],\rho^1_5)} = (1, 3, 3, 4, 5); \tag{56}
\]

\[
\dim \chi_{([\alpha]\rho^\alpha_j)} = 15, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 4; \tag{57}
\]

\[
\dim \chi_{([\beta]\rho^\beta_j)} = 20, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 3; \tag{58}
\]

\[
\dim \chi_{([\gamma]\rho^{\gamma_j^2}) = \dim \chi_{([\gamma^2]\rho^{\gamma^2_j}) = 12, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 5. \tag{59}
\]

Below we simplify \((\mod p)\) into \((p)\).

\[
\sum_{j=1}^{4} \left( \frac{\#\Gamma}{\dim \chi_{([\alpha]\rho^\alpha_j)}} \right)^{2g-2} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \eta_{([\alpha]\rho^\alpha_j)}(a_k, b_k)
\]

\[
= \sum_{j=1}^{4} 4^{2g-2} \left( \prod_{k=1}^{n} \delta_{1,a_k(2)} \right) (-1)^{j-1} \sum_{k=1}^{n} b_k
\]

\[
= 4^{2g-1} \delta_{0, \sum_{k=1}^{n} b_k(2)} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \delta_{1,a_k(2)}. \tag{60}
\]

Similarly,

\[
\sum_{j=1}^{3} \left( \frac{\#\Gamma}{\dim \chi_{([\beta]\rho^\beta_j)}} \right)^{2g-2} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \eta_{([\beta]\rho^\beta_j)}(a_k, b_k) = 3^{2g-1} \delta_{0, \sum_{k=1}^{n} a_k b_k(3)} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \delta_{1,a_k(3)}; \tag{61}
\]

\[
\sum_{j=1}^{5} \left( \frac{\#\Gamma}{\dim \chi_{([\gamma]\rho^{\gamma_j^2})}} \right)^{2g-2} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \eta_{([\gamma]\rho^{\gamma_j^2})}(a_k, b_k) = 5^{2g-1} \delta_{0, \sum_{k=1}^{n} a_k b_k(5)} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \delta_{1,a_k(5)}; \tag{62}
\]

\[
\sum_{j=1}^{5} \left( \frac{\#\Gamma}{\dim \chi_{([\gamma^2]\rho^{\gamma^2_j})}} \right)^{2g-2} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \eta_{([\gamma^2]\rho^{\gamma^2_j})}(a_k, b_k) = 5^{2g-1} \delta_{0, \sum_{k=1}^{n} a_k b_k(5)} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \delta_{1,a_k(5)}. \tag{63}
\]
Using (51) to compute the last term, and noting \( \omega_2(p) = \omega_3(p) \), we have

\[
\sum_{j=1}^{5} \frac{\left(\#\Gamma\right)^{2g-2}}{\left(\dim \chi([1], \rho_j)\right)^{2g-2}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \eta([1], \rho_j)(a_k, b_k) =
\]

\[
60^{2g-2} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \left(1 + \sum_{\{2,3,5\} \ni p \mid a_k} \omega_1(p)\right) + 2 \cdot 20^{2g-2} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \left(1 + \sum_{\{2,3,5\} \ni p \mid a_k} \omega_2(p)\right) +
\]

\[
15^{2g-2} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\{2,3,5\} \ni p \mid a_k} \omega_4(p)\right) + 12^{2g-2} \prod_{k=1}^{n} \left(1 + \sum_{\{2,3,5\} \ni p \mid a_k} \omega_5(p)\right).
\]

Finally, \( Z(M_O(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n))) \) is the sum of the expressions on the right-hand side of (60)-(64). Multiplying by 60 gives the number of regular \( A_5 \)-coverings of the Seifert 3-manifold \( M_O(g; (a_1, b_1), \cdots, (a_n, b_n)) \).

### 6 Further remarks

1. As the last section illustrates, we can compute explicitly the number of regular \( \Gamma \)-coverings of any closed orientable Seifert 3-manifolds, as long as we know enough about \( \Gamma \).

   We choose \( \Gamma \) to be \( A_5 \) in the example, because it is a non-solvable finite group, whence beyond the scope of [9].

2. In [8] the authors did not deal with exceptional fibers, because they would present additional difficulties in their approach. In our approach they are easy to deal with, thanks to the cut-and-glue property of TQFT.

3. In principle the same method can be used for computing regular \( \Gamma \)-coverings of general graph 3-manifolds, which can be obtained by gluing Seifert 3-manifolds along boundary tori. In that case the \( s \)-matrix, which can be complicated, will play a key role, because the gluing of the tori depends on the mapping class group of \( \Sigma_1 \).
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