

# THE NON-ORIENTABLE 4-GENUS OF 11 CROSSING NON-ALTERNATING KNOTS

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**ABSTRACT.** The non-orientable 4-genus of a knot  $K$  in  $S^3$  is defined to be the minimum first Betti number of a non-orientable surface  $F$  smoothly embedded in  $B^4$  so that  $K$  bounds  $F$ . We will survey the tools used to compute the non-orientable 4-genus, and use various techniques to calculate this invariant for non-alternating 11 crossing knots. We also will view obstructions to a knot bounding a Möbius band given by the double branched cover of  $S^3$  branched over  $K$ .

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Knots bounding orientable surfaces, both in  $S^3$  and  $B^4$ , have been extensively studied, however much is still to be learned about the non-orientable surfaces in  $B^4$  bounded by knots. Recently, the non-orientable 4-genus of torus knots has been computed for all knots  $T(2, q)$  and  $T(3, q)$  by Allen [1], and most knots  $T(4, q)$  by Binns, Kang, Simone, Truöl, and Sabloff [2, 15]. The non-orientable 4-genus of double twist knots was calculated by Hoste, Shanahan, and Van Cott [6], and knots with 10 or fewer crossings have also been computed in detail by Ghanbarian, Jabuka, and Kelly [3, 7], with much focus on alternating knots. This paper aims to shed light on the non-alternating case and strategies to calculate the non-orientable 4-genus. We will explore various techniques in finding this invariant, as well as examining obstructions to knots bounding a Möbius band.

For this paper, a knot  $K$  is in  $S^3$ . The orientable 4-genus of a knot is the minimum genus of an orientable surface smoothly embedded in the 4-ball that is bounded by  $K$  and is denoted  $g_4(K)$ , and knots with  $g_4(K) = 0$  are called slice knots. Following Murakami and Yasuhara in [13], the non-orientable 4-genus of a knot  $K$ , denoted  $\gamma_4(K)$ , is defined to be the minimum first Betti number of non-orientable surfaces  $F$  smoothly embedded in  $B^4$  bounded by  $K$ , that is  $\min\{b_1(F) | \partial F = K\}$ . Note that the first Betti number is defined to be  $b_1(F) = \dim H_1(F; \mathbb{Q})$ . We have, by definition, for any knot  $K$ ,  $\gamma_4(K) \geq 1$  where equivalence applies when  $K$  bounds a Möbius band. Slice knots that bound a smooth disk embedded in  $B^4$  have non-orientable 4-genus one, as we may attach a non-oriented band to such an embedded disk.

**Theorem 1.1.** *For the 185 non-alternating 11 crossing knots,*

- (a) 121 knots have  $\gamma_4(K) = 1$
- (b) 58 knots have  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$

*The remaining 6 knots have  $\gamma_4(K) = 1$  or 2.*

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 is the background on knot invariants, double branched covers, and useful bounds and obstructions for the non-orientable 4-genus. Section 3 is a survey of the techniques used to solve this problem as well as results.

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## 2 BACKGROUND

We begin by reviewing knot invariants and examining bounds for the non-orientable 4-genus as well as obstructions to a knot bounding a Möbius band. First, the crossing number of a knot is denoted  $n(K)$  and is the crossing number of a diagram of a knot with the fewest crossings that could be drawn on the plane to represent the knot. The unknotting number of a knot  $u(K)$  is the minimum number of crossing changes required to transform  $K$  into the unknot. Similarly,  $u_s(K)$  is the minimum number of crossing changes to change  $K$  into a slice knot. The 4-dimensional clasp number,  $c_4(K)$ , is the minimum number of double points of transversely immersed 2-disks in the 4-ball bounded by  $K$  [13]. We then have the following triple inequality from Jabuka and Kelly [7]:

$$g_4(K) \leq c_4(K) \leq u_s(K) \leq u(K)$$

The smooth orientable 4-genus of a knot also offers an upper bound for the non-orientable 4-genus [7]:

$$\gamma_4(K) \leq 2g_4(K) + 1$$

Similar to the orientable 4-genus, we obtain an upper bound for the non-orientable 4-genus from the non-orientable 3-genus of a knot called the *crosscap number* [10], which is the minimum genus non-orientable surface a knot bounds in  $S^3$ , denoted  $c(K)$ , so we have  $\gamma_4(K) \leq c(K)$ .

Following the notation of Murakami and Yasuhara [12], we define  $\Gamma_4(K) = \min\{b_1(F) | \partial F = K\}$ , or similarly  $\Gamma_4(K) = \min\{2g_4(K), \gamma_4(K)\}$ , and thus  $\Gamma_4(K) \leq \gamma_4(K)$ . Murakami and Yasuhara then give us the following proposition [13]:

**Proposition 2.1** (Proposition 2.3 in [13]). *For any knot  $K$ , the following inequalities hold.*

$$\Gamma_4(K) \leq \begin{cases} c_4(K) & \text{if } c_4(K) \text{ is even} \\ c_4(K) + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\gamma_4(K) \leq \begin{cases} c_4(K) & \text{if } c_4(K) \text{ is even and } c_4(K) \neq 2 \\ c_4(K) + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Corollary 2.2** (Corollary 2.4 in [13]). *For a knot  $K$ , if  $g_4(K) = c_4(K) \geq 1$ , then  $\Gamma_4(K) = \gamma_4(K)$ .*

The crossing number of a knot offers an upper bound, so we have [12]:

$$\Gamma(K) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n(K)}{2} \right\rfloor \text{ and } \gamma_4(K) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n(K)}{2} \right\rfloor$$

The signature of a knot  $\sigma(K)$  is defined to be the signature of the sum of knot's Seifert matrix and its transpose,  $\sigma(V + V^t)$ . The Arf invariant of a knot is denoted  $\text{Arf}(K)$  and is a concordance invariant in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  which is calculated using the Seifert form of a knot [10]. These two invariants provide a lower bound for the non-oriented 4-genus of a knot, so we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.3** (Proposition 2.4 in [3]). *Given a knot  $K$ , if  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ , then  $\gamma_4(K) \geq 2$ .*

### Double Branched Cover

Recall the definition of the non-orientable 4-genus is  $\gamma_4(K) = \min\{b_1(F) | \partial F = K\}$  and note that  $b_1(F) = \dim H_1(F, \mathbb{Q})$ . Let  $K$  in  $S^3$  bound a connected surface  $F$  in  $B^4$  and denote the double branched cover of  $B^4$  branched over  $F$  as  $D_F(B^4)$ . Gilmer and Livingston proved in [4], Lemma 1, that  $b_2(D_F(B^4)) = b_1(F)$ . The reasoning here is that the double branched cover of  $S^3$  branched

over  $K$ , denoted  $D_K(S^3)$ , is a rational homology sphere and  $H_1(D_F(B^4); \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ . We thus may use the linking form of  $D_K(S^3)$  to provide information on the intersection form of  $D_F(B^4)$ .

We also have that the first homology of  $D_K(S^3)$  is finite, so we have a linking form  $\lambda$ , and this is explored in detail by Murakami and Yasuhara in [13]

$$\lambda : H_1(D_K(S^3); \mathbb{Z}) \times H_1(D_K(S^3); \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$$

Given a Goeritz matrix  $G$  for  $K$  (see Section III for details), we have that  $G$  is a relation matrix for  $H_1(D_K(S^3); \mathbb{Z})$  and the linking form  $\lambda$  is given by  $\pm G^{-1}$ , where the sign depends on the orientation of  $D_K(S^3)$  [13]. The double branched cover is a useful tool in obstructing knots from bounding a Möbius band or a Klein bottle.

**Corollary 2.4** (Corollary 3 in [4]). *Suppose that  $H_1(D_K(S^3)) = \mathbb{Z}_n$  where  $n$  is the product of primes, all with odd exponent. Then if  $K$  bounds a Möbius band in  $B^4$ , there is a generator  $a \in H_1(D_K(S^3))$  such that  $\lambda(a, a) = \pm 1/n$*

**Theorem 2.5** (Theorem 4 in [4]). *Suppose that  $H_1(D_K(S^3)) = \mathbb{Z}_p \oplus \mathbb{Z}_p$  where  $p$  is prime. Then if  $K$  bounds a punctured Klein bottle in  $B^4$ , the discriminant of the linking form is  $\pm 1 \in \mathbb{F}_p^*/(\mathbb{F}_p^*)^2$*

**Theorem 2.6** (Theorem 11 in [4]). *Suppose that  $H_1(D_K(S^3)) = \mathbb{Z}_p \oplus \mathbb{Z}_p \oplus \mathbb{Z}_q$  where  $q \equiv 1 \in \mathbb{F}_p^*/(\mathbb{F}_p^*)^2$ . If  $H_1(D_K(S^3))$  is the boundary of a 4-manifold  $W$  with second Betti number 2 which has an indefinite intersection form, then the linking form restricted to  $\mathbb{Z}_p \oplus \mathbb{Z}_p \subset H_1(D_K(S^3))$  is metabolic.*

### 3 RESULTS AND TECHNIQUES

There are a total of 185 prime knots that are non-alternating and have 11 crossings, according to the KnotInfo Database [10]. Of those knots, there are 16 that are smoothly slice and thus have  $\gamma_4(K) = 1$ .

**Remark 3.1.** There are 16 non-alternating 11 crossing knots that are slice and thus bound a Möbius band:

$$\begin{aligned} 11n_4, 11n_{21}, 11n_{37}, 11n_{39}, 11n_{42}, 11n_{49}, 11n_{50}, 11n_{67}, \\ 11n_{73}, 11n_{74}, 11n_{83}, 11n_{97}, 11n_{116}, 11n_{132}, 11n_{139}, 11n_{172} \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 3.2.** *The following knots have  $\gamma_4(K) = 1$ :*

$$\begin{aligned} 11n_1, 11n_3, 11n_5, 11n_6, 11n_7, 11n_8, 11n_9, 11n_{11}, 11n_{13}, 11n_{14}, 11n_{15}, \\ 11n_{16}, 11n_{18}, 11n_{19}, 11n_{20}, 11n_{23}, 11n_{24}, 11n_{25}, 11n_{26}, 11n_{27}, 11n_{31}, 11n_{34}, \\ 11n_{36}, 11n_{41}, 11n_{44}, 11n_{45}, 11n_{46}, 11n_{47}, 11n_{52}, 11n_{54}, 11n_{57}, 11n_{58}, 11n_{59}, \\ 11n_{60}, 11n_{62}, 11n_{64}, 11n_{65}, 11n_{66}, 11n_{68}, 11n_{69}, 11n_{70}, 11n_{71}, 11n_{75}, 11n_{76}, \\ 11n_{77}, 11n_{78}, 11n_{79}, 11n_{80}, 11n_{81}, 11n_{82}, 11n_{86}, 11n_{87}, 11n_{88}, 11n_{89}, 11n_{91}, \\ 11n_{93}, 11n_{94}, 11n_{96}, 11n_{102}, 11n_{104}, 11n_{105}, 11n_{106}, 11n_{107}, 11n_{110}, 11n_{111}, \\ 11n_{113}, 11n_{117}, 11n_{118}, 11n_{120}, 11n_{121}, 11n_{122}, 11n_{123}, 11n_{124}, 11n_{126}, 11n_{127}, \\ 11n_{128}, 11n_{129}, 11n_{134}, 11n_{135}, 11n_{136}, 11n_{142}, 11n_{143}, 11n_{145}, 11n_{146}, 11n_{147}, \\ 11n_{148}, 11n_{150}, 11n_{151}, 11n_{152}, 11n_{153}, 11n_{154}, 11n_{157}, 11n_{158}, 11n_{160}, 11n_{162}, \\ 11n_{163}, 11n_{164}, 11n_{167}, 11n_{168}, 11n_{169}, 11n_{170}, 11n_{173}, 11n_{180}, 11n_{181}, 11n_{183} \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 3.3.** *The following knots have  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ :*

$$\begin{aligned}
& 11n_2, 11n_{10}, 11n_{12}, 11n_{22}, 11n_{28}, 11n_{29}, 11n_{30}, 11n_{32}, 11n_{33}, 11n_{35}, \\
& 11n_{38}, 11n_{43}, 11n_{48}, 11n_{51}, 11n_{53}, 11n_{55}, 11n_{56}, 11n_{61}, 11n_{63}, 11n_{72}, \\
& 11n_{84}, 11n_{85}, 11n_{90}, 11n_{92}, 11n_{95}, 11n_{98}, 11n_{99}, 11n_{100}, 11n_{101}, 11n_{103}, \\
& 11n_{108}, 11n_{109}, 11n_{112}, 11n_{114}, 11n_{115}, 11n_{119}, 11n_{125}, 11n_{130}, 11n_{131}, 11n_{133}, \\
& 11n_{137}, 11n_{138}, 11n_{140}, 11n_{141}, 11n_{144}, 11n_{149}, 11n_{155}, 11n_{156}, 11n_{161}, 11n_{165} \\
& 11n_{171}, 11n_{174}, 11n_{175}, 11n_{176}, 11n_{179}, 11n_{182}, 11n_{184}, 11n_{185},
\end{aligned}$$

### Constraints on Invariants

The knot invariant information for this paper was extracted from Knot Info [10].

**Lemma 3.4.** *If  $K$  is a knot satisfying  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ , and  $c_4(K) = 1$ , then  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ .*

The result is clear from Proposition 2.1 and Corollary 2.3. We now examine knots that have  $g_4(K) = u(K) = 1$  (or  $g_4(K) = u_s(K) = 1$ ) and  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$  to see the following knots have  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& 11n_{12}, 11n_{28}, 11n_{48}, 11n_{53}, 11n_{55}, 11n_{85}, 11n_{100} \\
& 11n_{114}, 11n_{115}, 11n_{119}, 11n_{130}, 11n_{156}, 11n_{179}, 11n_{182}
\end{aligned}$$

All knots listed above satisfy  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ . Since they satisfy  $g_4(K) = 1 = u(K)$  (or  $g_4(K) = u_s(K) = 1$ ) by the hypothesis, we have  $c_4(K) = 1$ , and thus by Lemma 3.4 we may conclude  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ .

**Lemma 3.5.** *Given  $K$  is a knot satisfying  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ , and  $c_4(K) = 2$ , then  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ .*

By Corollary 2.2, we have  $\Gamma_4(K) = \gamma_4(K)$ , and thus applying Proposition 2.1 we achieve  $\gamma_4(K) \leq 2$ . Therefore,  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ . We now observe that the following knots have  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ :

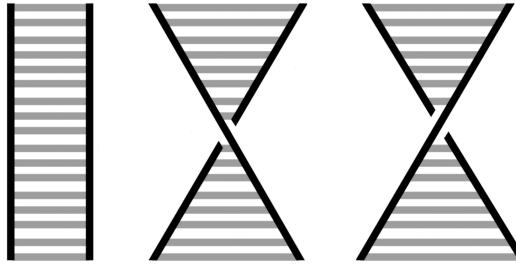
$$11n_2, 11n_{35}, 11n_{95}, 11n_{103}, 11n_{108}, 11n_{109}, 11n_{144}, 11n_{149}, 11n_{174}, 11n_{175}, 11n_{185}$$

The knots listed above all satisfy  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$  and thus  $\gamma_4(K) \geq 2$ . Additionally, these knots all satisfy  $g_4(K) = u(K) = 2$ , and thus  $c_4(K) = 2$ .

### Non-Oriented Band Moves

The primary method used in calculations was via non-oriented band moves. We begin with an oriented knot  $K$  and an oriented band,  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ . Following the conventions of Jabuka and Kelly [7], we attach the band to  $K$  in the sense that the orientation of the band agrees with the orientation of  $K$  on  $[0, 1] \times \{0\}$  but disagrees on  $[0, 1] \times \{1\}$ , or vice versa. One then does surgery along the band. The result of non-orientable band surgery will always be a knot, while the result after *orientable* band surgery is a link. Non-orientable band surgery is explored by Moore and Vazquez in [11] and is called *non-coherent band surgery*.

The notation for a knot  $K$  that has been transformed into a knot  $K'$  by a non-oriented band move is  $K \xrightarrow{h} K'$  where  $h$  is either 0, 1, or -1, determined by the number of half twists given to  $h$  with respect to the blackboard framing. These three band moves can be seen in the Figure 3.1. From left to right, we have  $\xrightarrow{0}$  is the band move without a twist,  $\xrightarrow{-1}$  is the band move with a left-handed half twist, and  $\xrightarrow{1}$  is the band move with a right handed half twist.

FIGURE 3.1. Band Moves with  $h = 0, -1, 1$  from left to right

**Proposition 3.6** (Proposition 2.4 in [7]). *If the knots  $K$  and  $K'$  are related by a non-oriented band move, then*

$$\gamma_4(K) \leq \gamma_4(K') + 1$$

*If a knot  $K$  is related to a slice knot  $K'$  by a non-oriented band move, then  $\gamma_4(K) = 1$ .*

*Proof of Theorem 1.1 part (a).* Every knot listed in Proposition 3.2 is either a slice knot or one non-oriented band move away from a slice knot. See Figure 4.3 - Figure 4.11 for details.

**Lemma 3.7.** *The following knots have  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ :*

$$\begin{aligned} 11n_{10}, 11n_{12}, 11n_{30}, 11n_{32}, 11n_{43}, 11n_{48}, 11n_{51}, 11n_{55}, 11n_{61}, 11n_{72} \\ 11n_{85}, 11n_{90}, 11n_{98}, 11n_{103}, 11n_{130}, 11n_{133} \end{aligned}$$

We now recall Proposition 2.3 and note the knots listed in the above lemma all satisfy  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ . So we know the above knots have  $\gamma_4(K) \geq 2$ . The above listed knots all are one non-oriented band move away from a knot  $K'$  so that  $\gamma_4(K') = 1$  (see Figure 4.12 - Figure 4.15), thus we conclude  $\gamma_4(K) = 2$ .

### Linking Form Calculation

We look for a knot  $K$  so that  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv 0, \pm 2 \pmod{8}$ , and thus  $K$  does not meet the obstruction from Proposition 2.3. We calculate the linking form of  $H_1(D_K(S^3))$  to see if  $K$  meets the obstruction from Corollary 2.4. The first thing we do is calculate the Goeritz matrix for  $K$ . We will do an example here, but an interested reader is referred to Gordan and Litherland [5].

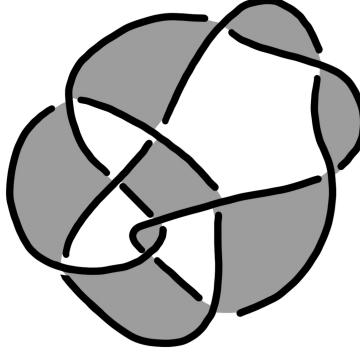
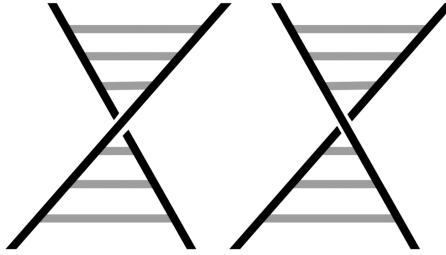
To construct the Goeritz matrix, we first make a checkerboard coloring of a knot.

Each white region is labeled  $R_i$  and the unbounded region is  $R_0$ . We then assign a value to each crossing  $C$ ,  $\eta(C) = \pm 1$ , via the figure below, and following the conventions from Gordan and Litherland [5].

Next, we construct a matrix  $G'$  with the algorithm:

$$g'(i, j) = \begin{cases} -\sum \eta(C) & \text{where the sum ranges over all crossings } C \text{ incident to } R_i \text{ and } R_j, i \neq j \\ -\sum_{k \neq i} g'(i, k) = g'(i, i) & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

Then, the Goeritz matrix  $G$  is obtained from  $G'$  by deleting the  $0^{th}$  row and column. The determinant of  $G$  is an invariant of the knot, and  $G$  is a linking matrix for  $H_1(D_K(S^3))$  [5, 13].

FIGURE 3.2. Checkerboard coloring for  $11n_{155}$ FIGURE 3.3. left:  $\eta(C) = 1$ , right:  $\eta(C) = -1$ 

Now, we may calculate the linking form. As previously mentioned,  $\pm G^{-1}$  represents the linking form  $\lambda$  where  $\lambda : H_1(D_K(S^3); \mathbb{Z}) \times H_1(D_K(S^3); \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ . To continue the example, we have  $G$  and  $G^{-1}$  for the knot  $11n_{155}$  as:

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 5 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad G^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{20}{51} & \frac{2}{17} & \frac{10}{51} & \frac{1}{17} \\ \frac{2}{17} & \frac{4}{17} & \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{9} \\ \frac{10}{51} & \frac{1}{17} & \frac{17}{5} & \frac{9}{17} \\ \frac{1}{17} & \frac{2}{17} & \frac{9}{17} & \frac{1}{17} \end{bmatrix}$$

Now we have the linking form  $\lambda(g, g) = \pm 20/51$ . Suppose  $11n_{155}$  bounds a Möbius band. We wish to find an  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  so that  $\lambda(ng, ng) = \pm 1/51$ . This means  $\pm 20/51 = \lambda(ng, ng) = n^2 \lambda(g, g) = \pm 20n^2/51 = \pm 1/51$ , so  $20n^2 \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{51}$ . A quick calculation shows this is not possible, and thus  $11n_{155}$  does not bound a Möbius band.

## Results

**Theorem 3.8** (Theorem 2 in [4]). *Let  $K$  in  $S^3$  be a knot. The linking form  $(H_1(D_K(S^3)), \lambda)$  splits as a direct sum  $(G_1, \lambda_1) \oplus (G_2, \lambda_2)$  where  $(G_2, \lambda_2)$  is metabolic and  $(G_1, \lambda_1)$  has a presentation of rank  $\lambda_1(F)$ .*

**Lemma 3.9.** *Let  $K$  in  $S^3$  be a knot and suppose that  $H_1(D_K(S^3)) = \mathbb{Z}_{p^2q}$  where  $p$  is prime and  $q$  is a product of primes, all with odd exponent. Then if  $K$  bounds a Möbius band in  $B^4$ , there is a generator  $a \in H_1(D_K(S^3))$  such that either  $\lambda(a, a) = \pm 1/p^2q$  or  $\lambda(a, a) = \pm 1/q$ .*

*Proof.* As we see in Theorem 3.8,  $(H_1(D_K(S^3)), \lambda)$  splits as a direct sum  $(G_1, \lambda_1) \oplus (G_2, \lambda_2)$  where  $(G_2, \lambda_2)$  is metabolic and  $\lambda_1$  is presented by the linking matrix of  $D_K(S^3)$ , which has a presentation

of rank one. As  $q$  is square-free, we have that  $\mathbb{Z}_q$  is completely contained (as a subgroup) in  $G_1$ . Then either  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$  is completely contained in  $G_2$ , which implies it is metabolic, or  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$  is contained in  $G_1$ .

If  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$  is completely contained in  $G_2$ , then there exists a subgroup  $H$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$  so that  $|H|^2 = p^2$  and  $\lambda(g, g') = 0$  for any  $g, g' \in H$ , since  $\lambda_2$  is metabolic. Then, as  $\lambda_1$  must have a presentation of rank one, we have that the presentation matrix must be of the form  $(\pm|G_1|) = (\pm q)$ . Therefore, the linking form  $\lambda_1$  on  $G_1$  is given by  $\pm 1/q$ .

If  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$  is completely contained in  $G_1$ , a similar argument shows  $\lambda_1$  is given by  $\pm 1/q$   $\square$

The following knots:

$11n_{22}, 11n_{29}, 11n_{33}, 11n_{56}, 11n_{84}, 11n_{92}, 11n_{101}, 11n_{112}, 11n_{125}, 11n_{131}, 11n_{138}, 11n_{155}, 11n_{176}, 11n_{184}$

have the respective linking forms:

$$\frac{42}{55}, \frac{14}{51}, \frac{22}{51}, \frac{12}{35}, \frac{18}{35}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{19}{39}, \frac{53}{55}, \frac{61}{63}, \frac{39}{67}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{20}{51}, \frac{11}{63}, \frac{2}{87}$$

All of the 14 linking forms listed above satisfy the obstruction from Corollary 2.4 and Lemma 3.9. Additionally, all of these knots have an non-orientable band move to a knot  $K'$  where  $\gamma_4(K') = 1$  (Figures 4.12 - 4.15). Thus, each of these knots has non-orientable 4-genus equal to 2.

### Knot Floer Homology

Ozsváth, Stipsicz, and Szabó explored non-orientable knot floer homology and how the Upsilon invariant provides lower bounds for the non-orientable 4-genus [14]. Given  $K$  is a knot, denote  $\Upsilon_K(1)$  as  $v(K)$  (lower case Upsilon), and then we have:

$$\left| v(K) - \frac{\sigma(K)}{2} \right| \leq \gamma_4(K)$$

However, if  $K$  is not an L-space knot, this invariant is rather difficult to compute. Additionally, we have from [14] that for an alternating (or quasi-alternating) knot  $K$ ,

$$v(K) = \frac{\sigma(K)}{2}$$

For the 185 non-alternating 11-crossing knots, only 3 are not quasi-alternating. Of those 3, two are slice and one is not. This is thus not a useful lower bound for the knots being considered in this paper. However, this is a useful invariant for torus knots, demonstrated in detail by Binns, Kang, Simone, and Truöl in [2]. Additionally, Allen explored a geography problem where the Upsilon invariant was wonderfully utilized in [1].

## 4 SPECIAL CASES

**Lemma 4.1.** *The knot  $11n_{38}$  does not bound a Möbius band.*

The knot  $11n_{38}$  has  $H_1(D_K(S^3)) = \mathbb{Z}_3$  and thus the linking form is represented by the  $1 \times 1$  matrix [1/3]. This is clear, as the non-zero elements of  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  are 1 and -1. Then, if  $K$  bounds a Möbius band  $F$  in  $B^4$ , we have  $b(F) = b(D_F(B^4)) = 1$  and  $D_F(B^4)$  is negative definite [4]. From Theorem 3 in [5], we have that the intersection form on  $H_2(D_F(B^4))$  is represented by the linking

matrix on  $H_1(D_K(S^3))$ , which can be viewed from the entries in the Goeritz matrix. The Goeritz matrix  $G$  is a  $4 \times 4$  matrix that is indefinite, and when diagonalized,  $G = SJS^{-1}$ , the matrix  $J$  is also indefinite. We may suppose that there exists a presentation matrix that represents the linking form, and by checking the diagonal entries on  $-G^{-1}$ , we have that  $1/3$  represents the form. This implies the manifold is positive definite, which is a contradiction. Thus,  $11n_{38}$  does not bound a Möbius band. We then have that there is a non-orientable band move from  $11n_{38}$  to the trefoil knot, which has  $\gamma_4(3_1) = 1$ , therefore we may conclude that  $\gamma_4(11n_{38}) = 2$ . The figure below was obtained from Knot Atlas [9].

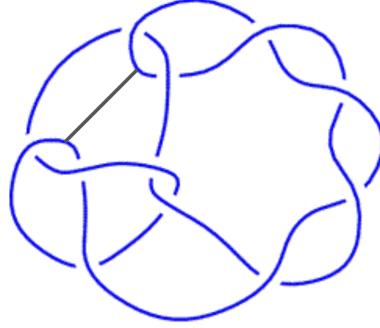


FIGURE 4.1. A non-oriented band move from  $11n_{38} \xrightarrow{0} 3_1$

We thus have a combination of Lemmas 3.4, 3.5, and 4.1, Proposition 3.6, and Theorem 3.8 showing Proposition 3.3 is true, thus proving part (b) of Theorem 1.1.

**Lemma 4.2.** *The knots  $11n_{17}$ ,  $11n_{40}$ ,  $11n_{159}$ ,  $11n_{166}$ ,  $11n_{177}$  and  $11n_{178}$  all have  $\gamma_4(K) = 1$  or 2.*

We have the following table:

Knot	linking form	definiteness of $D_F(B^4)$	4-genus
$11n_{17}$	$1/47$	positive	1
$11n_{40}$	$-1/79$	negative	1
$11n_{159}$	$1/71$	positive	1
$11n_{166}$	$1/59$	positive	1
$11n_{177}$	$1/83$	positive	1
$11n_{178}$	$-1/95$	negative	1

*Proof.* Denote  $K$  as a knot listed in Lemma 4.2. We first examine the knot signature and Arf invariant to see  $\sigma(K) + 4\text{Arf}(K) \equiv \pm 2 \pmod{8}$ . Thus, no obstruction arises from Proposition 2.3, so we may only conclude  $\gamma_4(K) \geq 1$ . We then move on to examining the linking form of  $K$ . Note that the determinant of  $K$ ,  $d = \det(K)$ , is either a prime number or a product of exactly 2 prime numbers. As  $d = |H_1(D_K(S^3))|$ , we cannot have a splitting of  $H_1(D_K(S^3))$  into  $G_1 \oplus G_2$  where

$G_2$  is metabolic, since  $d$  is square free. We thus see that the linking form  $\lambda$  for each knot is of the form  $\pm 1/d$ . We also compare the linking form of the knot to the definiteness of  $D_F(B^4)$ . The sign of the 4-manifold  $D_F(B^4)$  corresponds to the sign of the quadratic form [4], thus the linking form, and we see that our signs are corresponding for the linking form and definiteness of  $D_F(B^4)$ . Additionally, each knot is one band move away from a knot  $K'$  so that  $\gamma_4(K') = 1$ , see Figure 4.2, and thus  $\gamma_4(K) \leq 2$ . We thus cannot find an obstruction to these knots bounding a Möbius band, but also cannot find the desired band move to a slice knot. Therefore,  $\gamma_4(K) \leq 2$  for the knots in Lemma 4.2.  $\square$

This concludes the proof for Theorem 1.1.

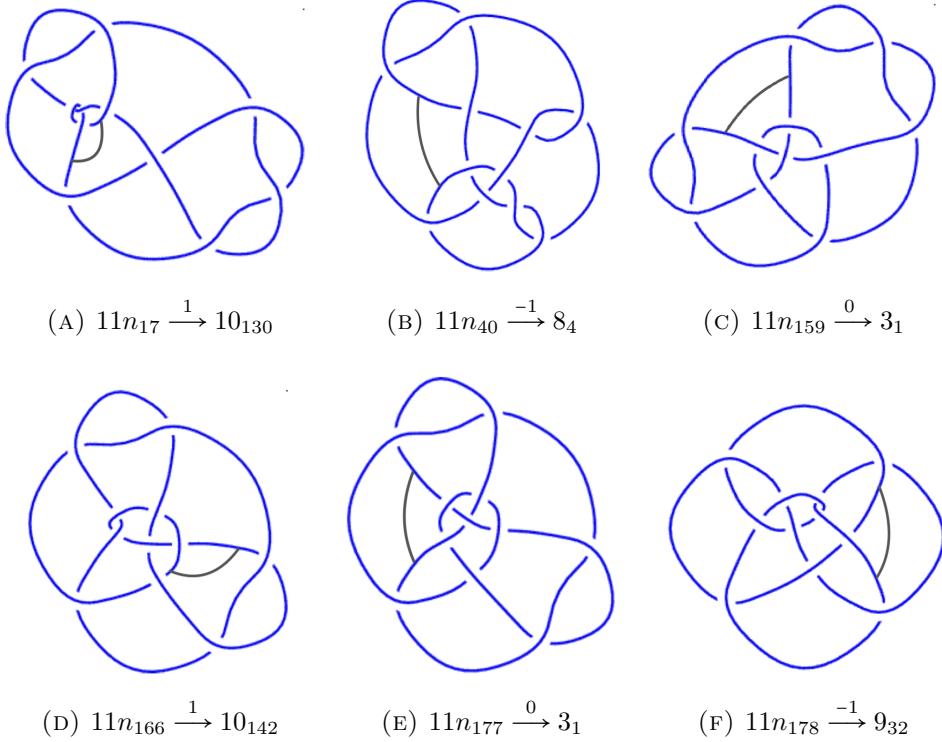


FIGURE 4.2. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{17}, 11n_{40}, 11n_{159}, 11n_{166}, 11n_{177}$ , and  $11n_{178}$  to knots with non-orientable genus 1.

### Concordance

Given  $K$  and  $J$  two concordant knots, it is well known that  $g_4(K) = g_4(J)$  and easy to see that  $\gamma_4(K) = \gamma_4(J)$ . Thus one may wonder if studying concordance of knots may help us solve this non-orientable 4-genus problem. For the six remaining knots, their concordance genus is known [10], however the knots to which they are concordant is still unknown.

**Question 4.3.** Is  $11n_{40}$  concordant to  $10_{57}$ ?

$10_{57}$  is a wonderful candidate for concordance to  $11n_{40}$ , just by a simple analysis of their invariants [10]. If the answer to Question 4.3 is yes, then the knot  $11n_{40}$  has  $\gamma_4(11n_{40}) = 1$ .

**Conjecture 4.4.** The knots  $11n_{17}$ ,  $11n_{159}$ ,  $11n_{166}$ ,  $11n_{177}$ , and  $11n_{178}$  are not concordant to any knot with 11 or fewer crossings. Moreover,  $11n_{17}$ ,  $11n_{159}$ , and  $11n_{166}$  are not concordant to any knot with 12 or fewer crossings.

It should be noted that Kearny has found the concordance genus of 11-crossing knots in [8], as well as specific concordances from 11-crossing knots to knots of lower crossings.

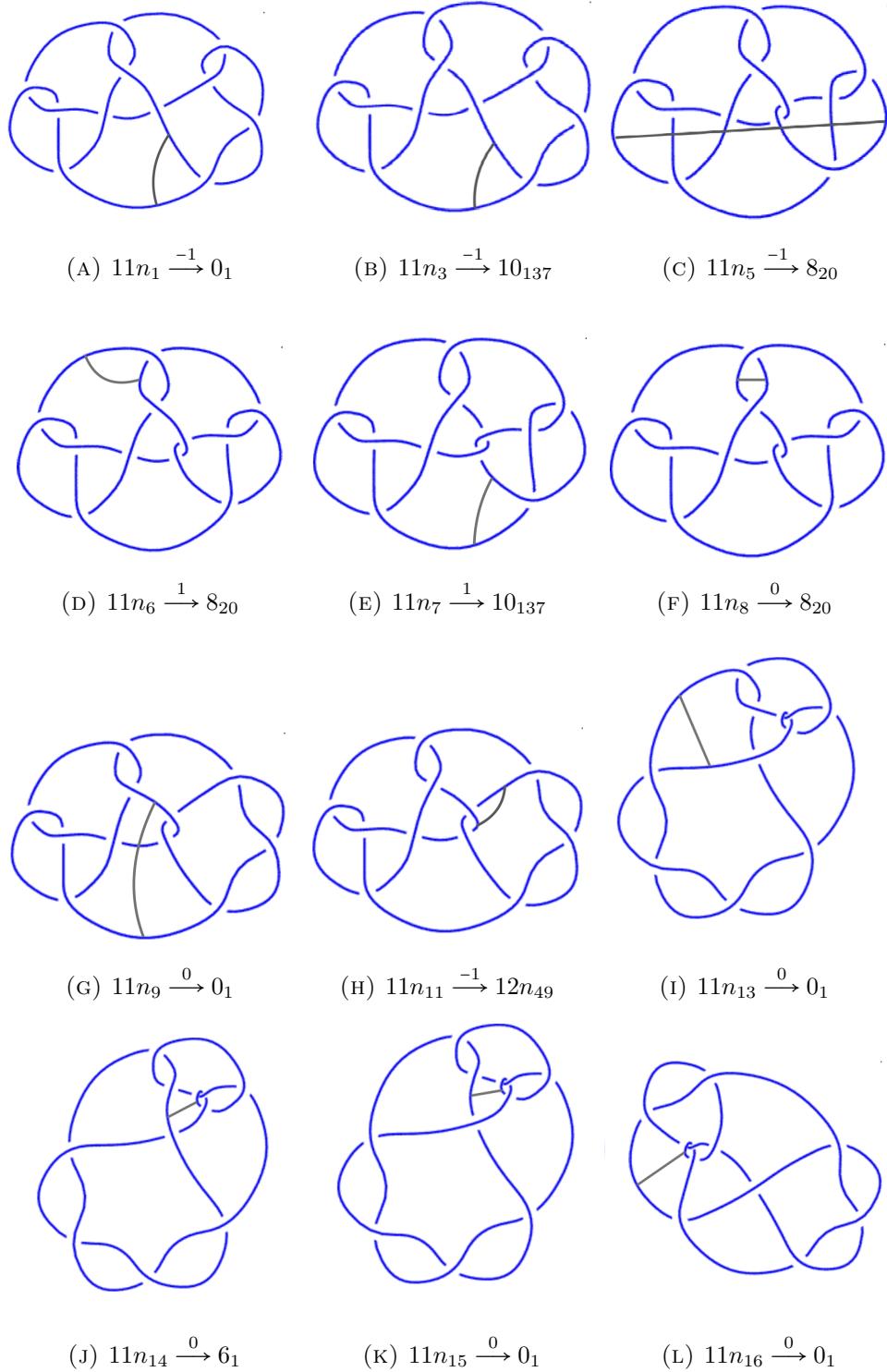


FIGURE 4.3. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_1, 11n_3, 11n_5, 11n_6, 11n_7, 11n_8, 11n_9, 11n_{11}, 11n_{13}, 11n_{14}, 11n_{15}$ , and  $11n_{16}$  to smoothly slice knots.

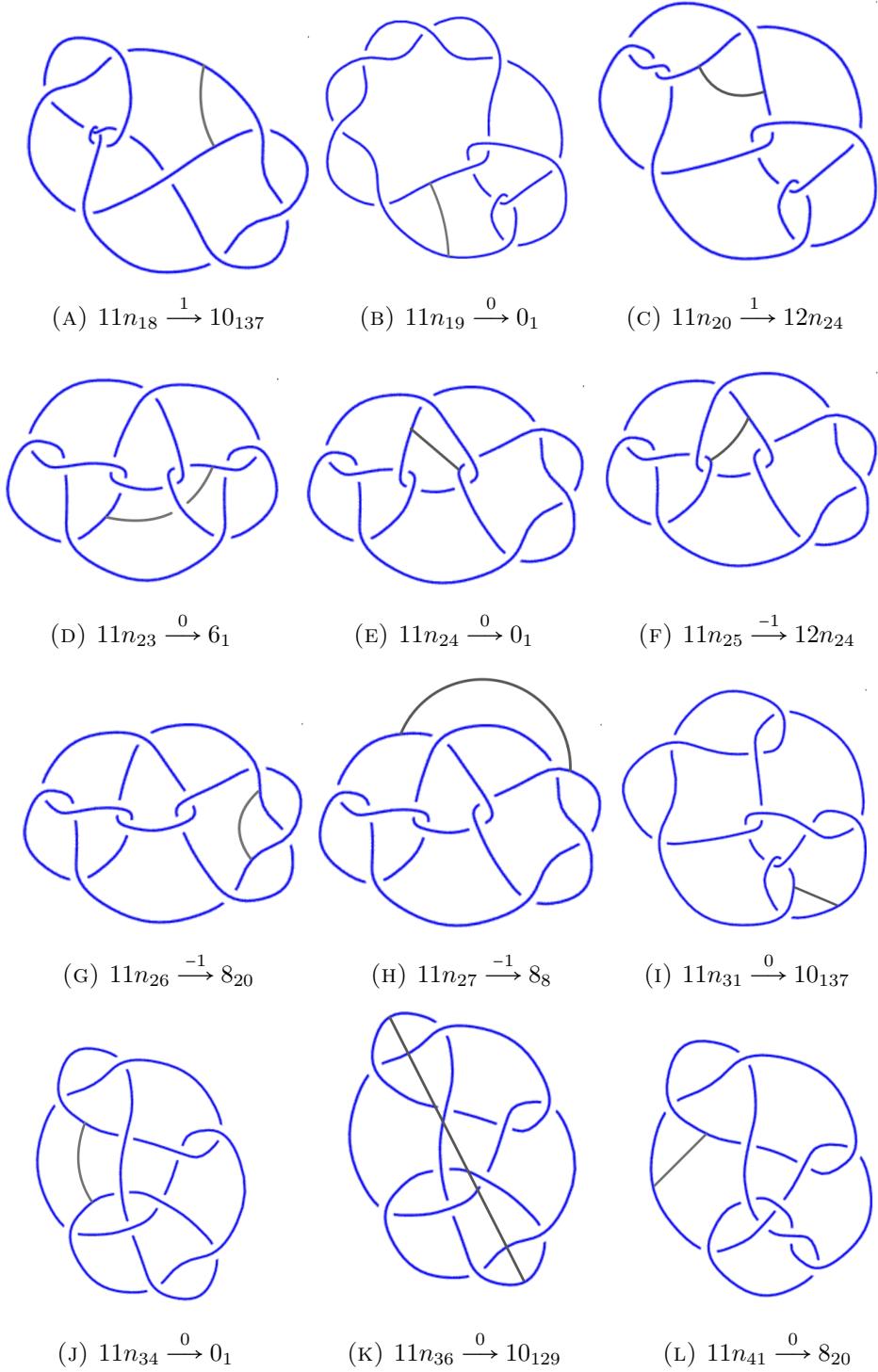


FIGURE 4.4. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{18}, 11n_{19}, 11n_{20}, 11n_{23}, 11n_{24}, 11n_{25}, 11n_{26}, 11n_{27}, 11n_{31}, 11n_{34}, 11n_{36}$ , and  $11n_{41}$  to smoothly slice knots.

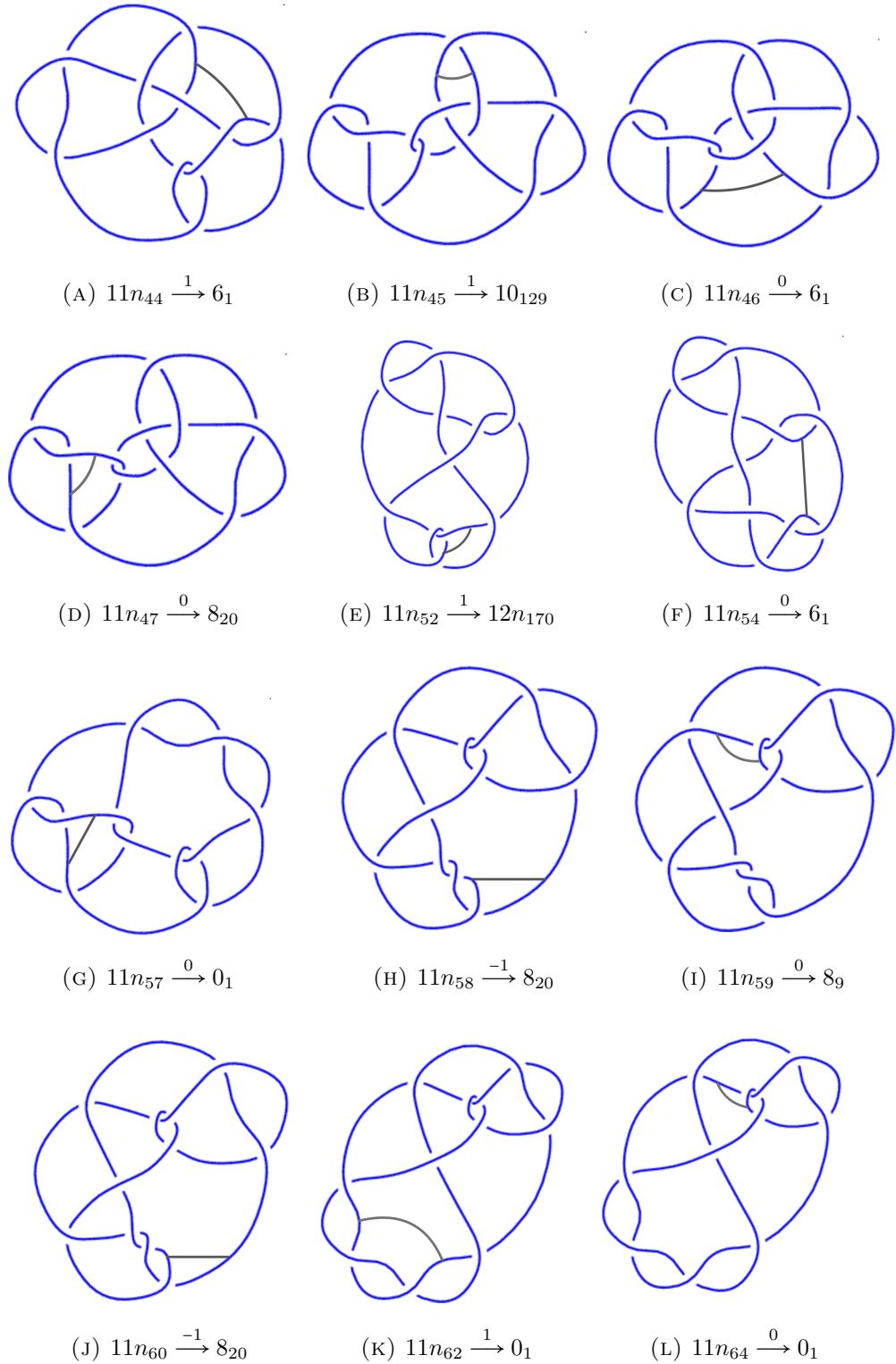


FIGURE 4.5. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{44}, 11n_{45}, 11n_{46}, 11n_{47}, 11n_{52}, 11n_{54}, 11n_{57}, 11n_{58}, 11n_{59}, 11n_{60}, 11n_{62}$ , and  $11n_{64}$  to smoothly slice knots.

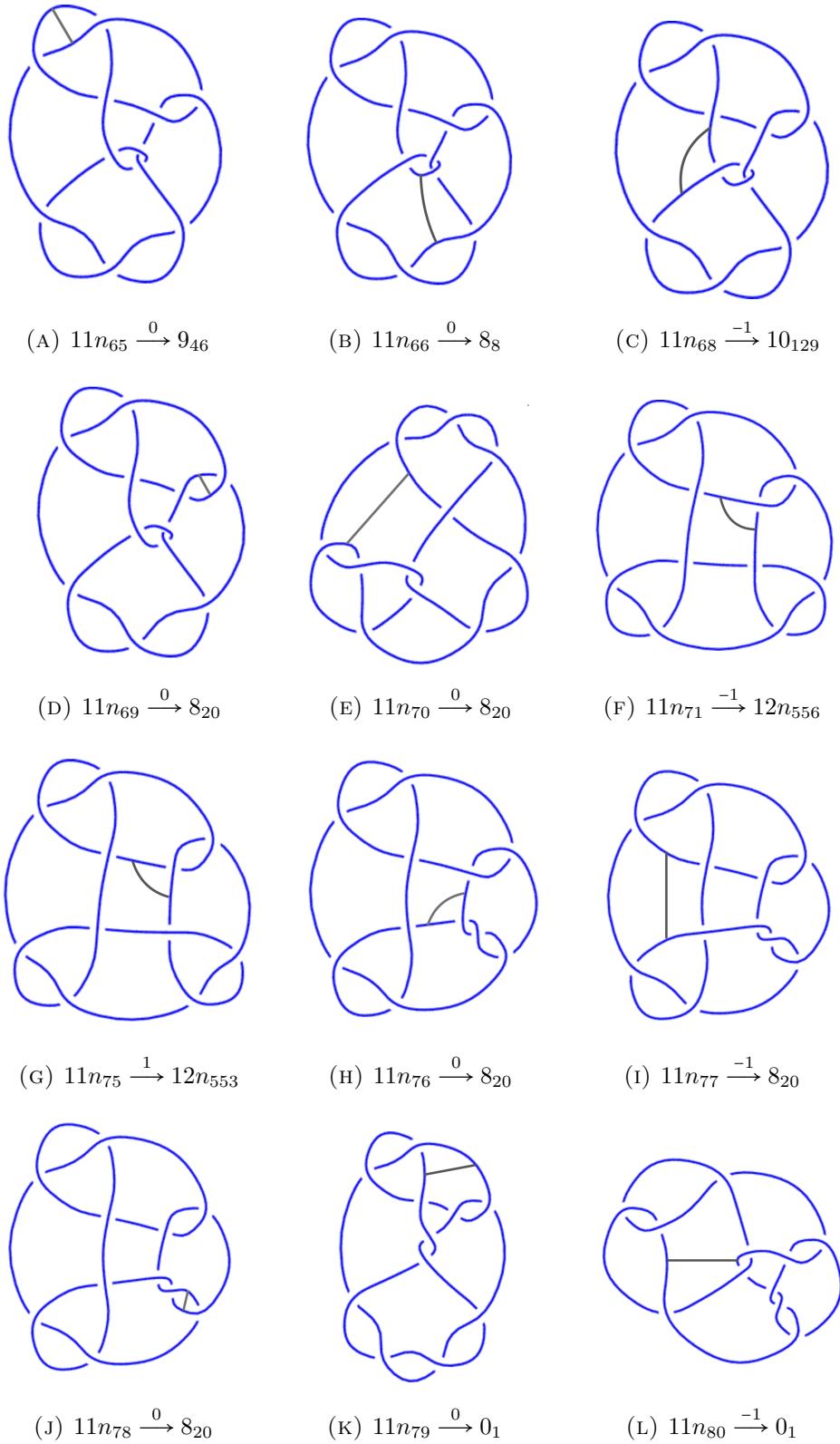


FIGURE 4.6. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{65}, 11n_{66}, 11n_{68}, 11n_{69}, 11n_{70}, 11n_{71}, 11n_{75}, 11n_{76}, 11n_{77}, 11n_{78}, 11n_{79}$ , and  $11n_{80}$  to smoothly slice knots.

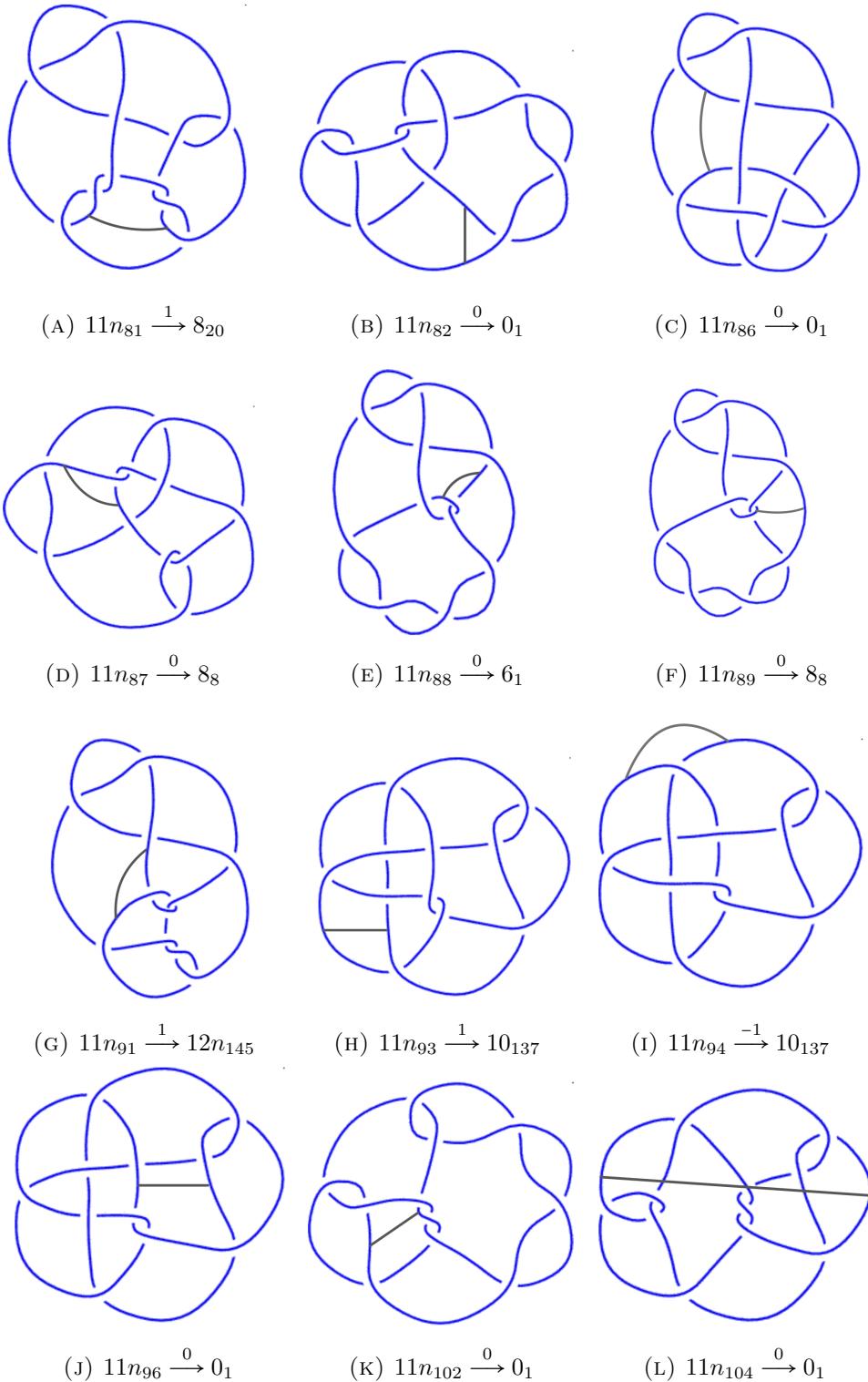


FIGURE 4.7. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{81}, 11n_{82}, 11n_{86}, 11n_{87}, 11n_{88}, 11n_{89}, 11n_{91}, 11n_{93}, 11n_{94}, 11n_{96}, 11n_{102}$ , and  $11n_{104}$  to smoothly slice knots.

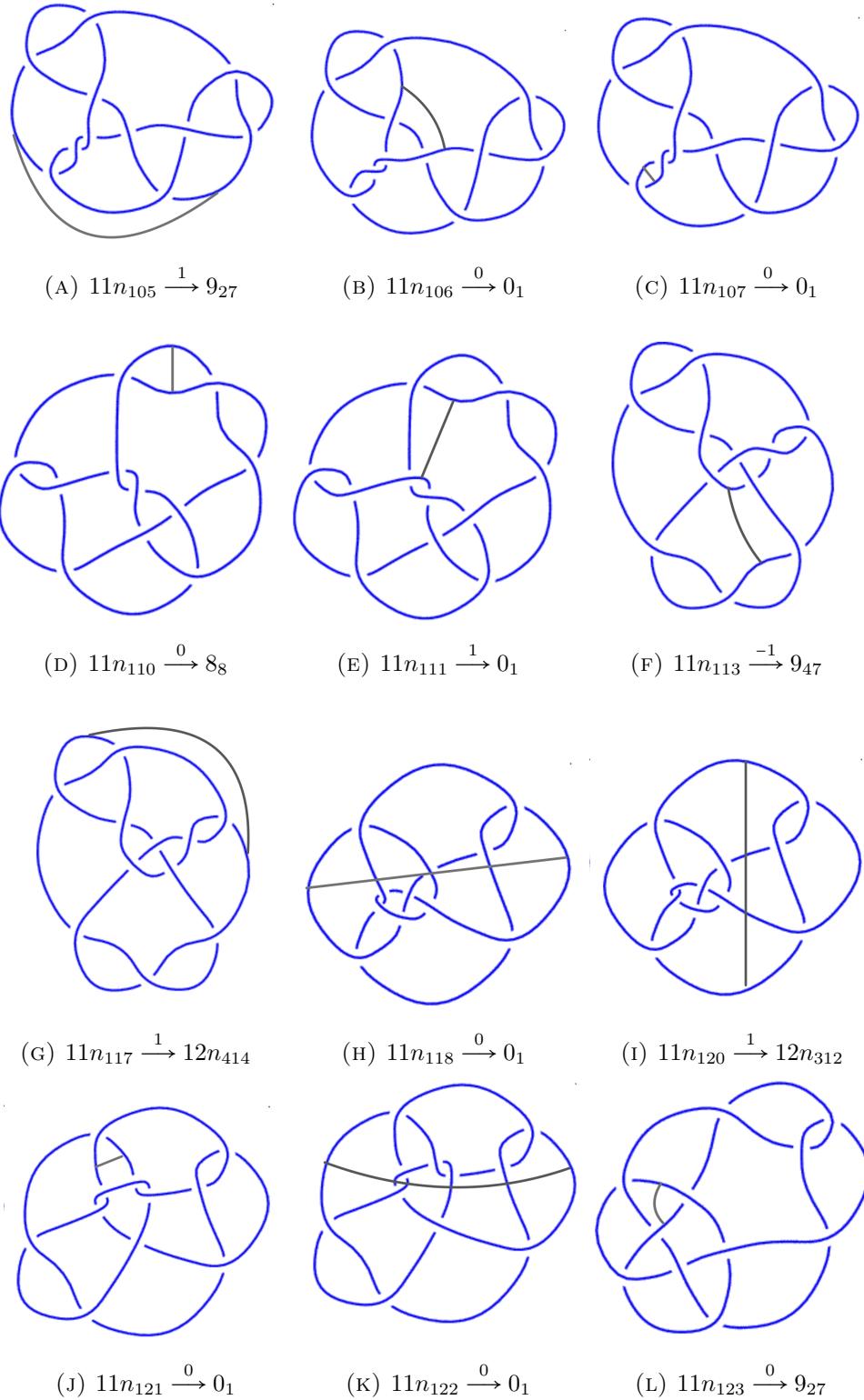


FIGURE 4.8. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{105}, 11n_{106}, 11n_{107}, 11n_{110}, 11n_{111}, 11n_{113}, 11n_{117}, 11n_{118}, 11n_{120}, 11n_{121}, 11n_{122}$ , and  $11n_{123}$  to smoothly slice knots.

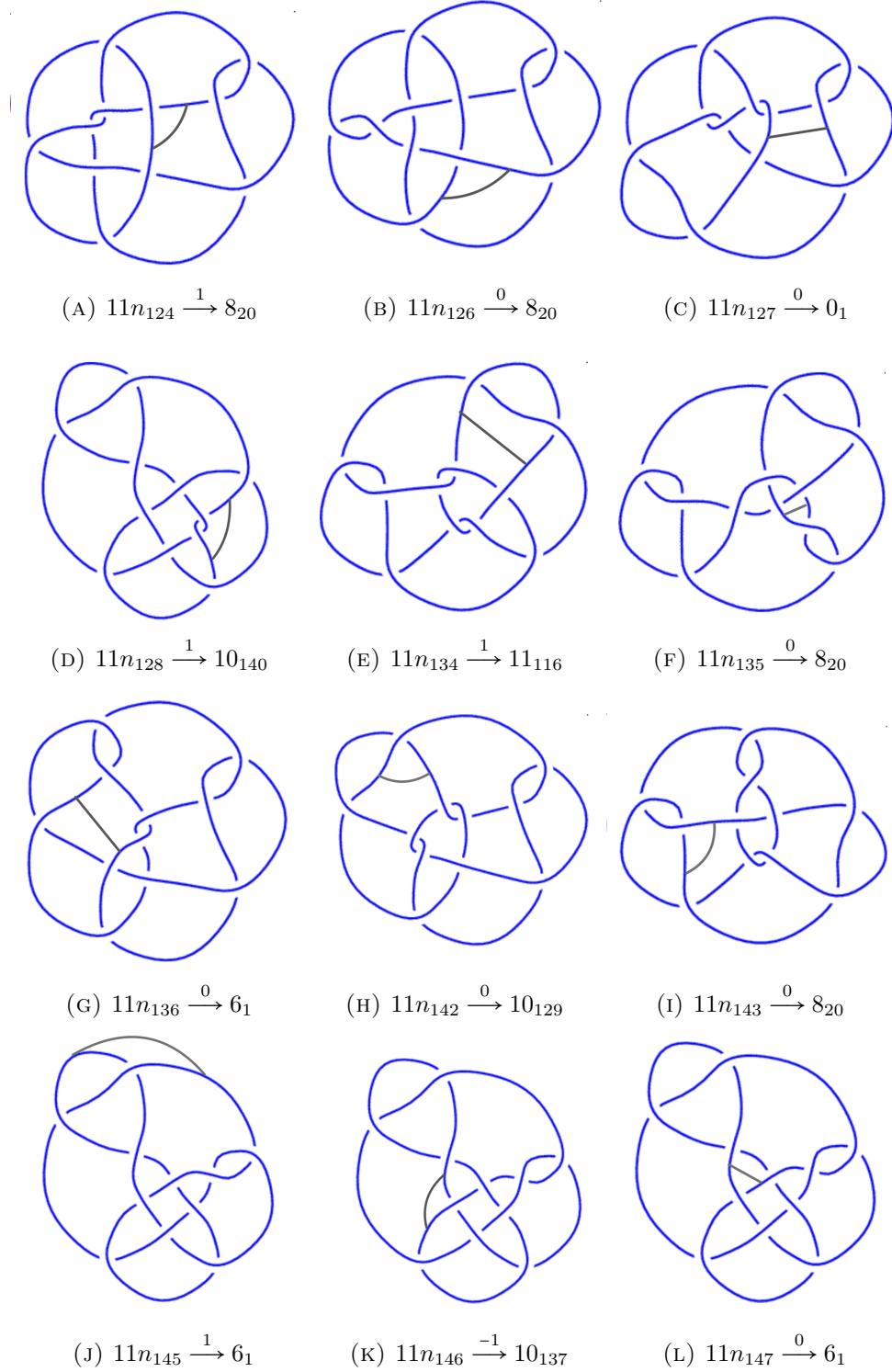


FIGURE 4.9. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{124}, 11n_{126}, 11n_{127}, 11n_{128}, 11n_{134}, 11n_{135}, 11n_{136}, 11n_{142}, 11n_{143}, 11n_{145}, 11n_{146}$ , and  $11n_{147}$  to smoothly slice knots.

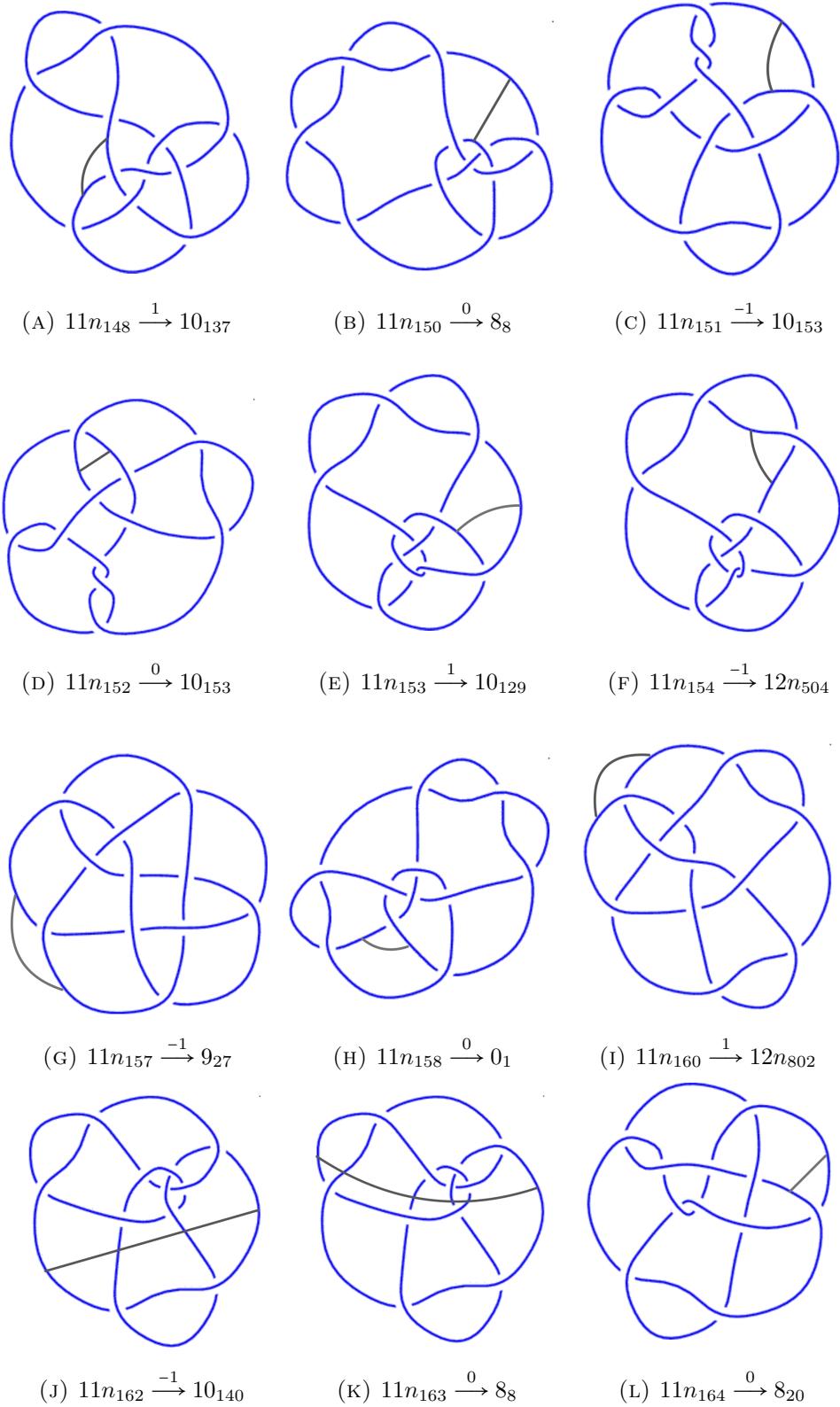


FIGURE 4.10. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{148}, 11n_{150}, 11n_{151}, 11n_{152}, 11n_{153}, 11n_{154}, 11n_{157}, 11n_{158}, 11n_{160}, 11n_{162}, 11n_{163}$ , and  $11n_{164}$  to smoothly slice knots.

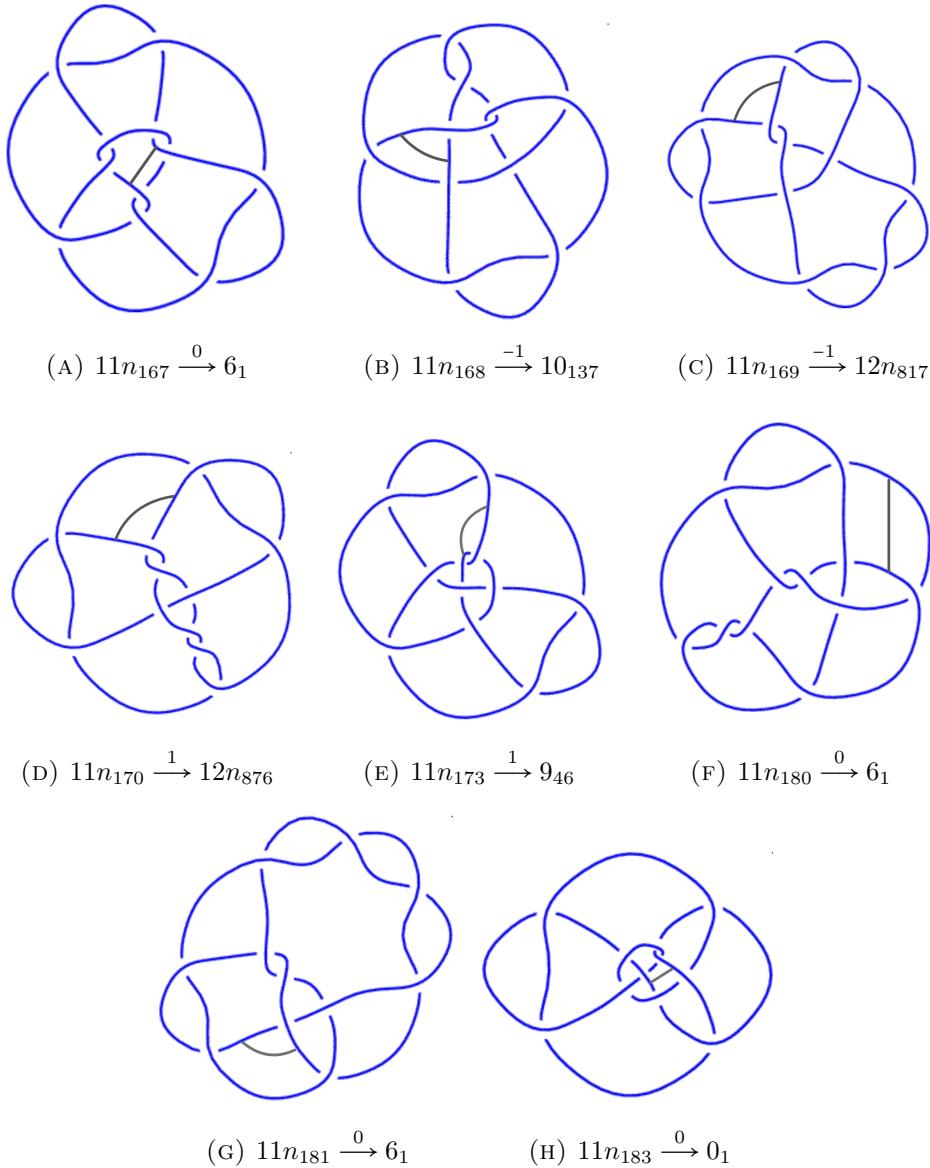


FIGURE 4.11. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{167}, 11n_{168}, 11n_{169}, 11n_{170}, 11n_{173}, 11n_{180}, 11n_{181}$ , and  $11n_{183}$  to smoothly slice knots.

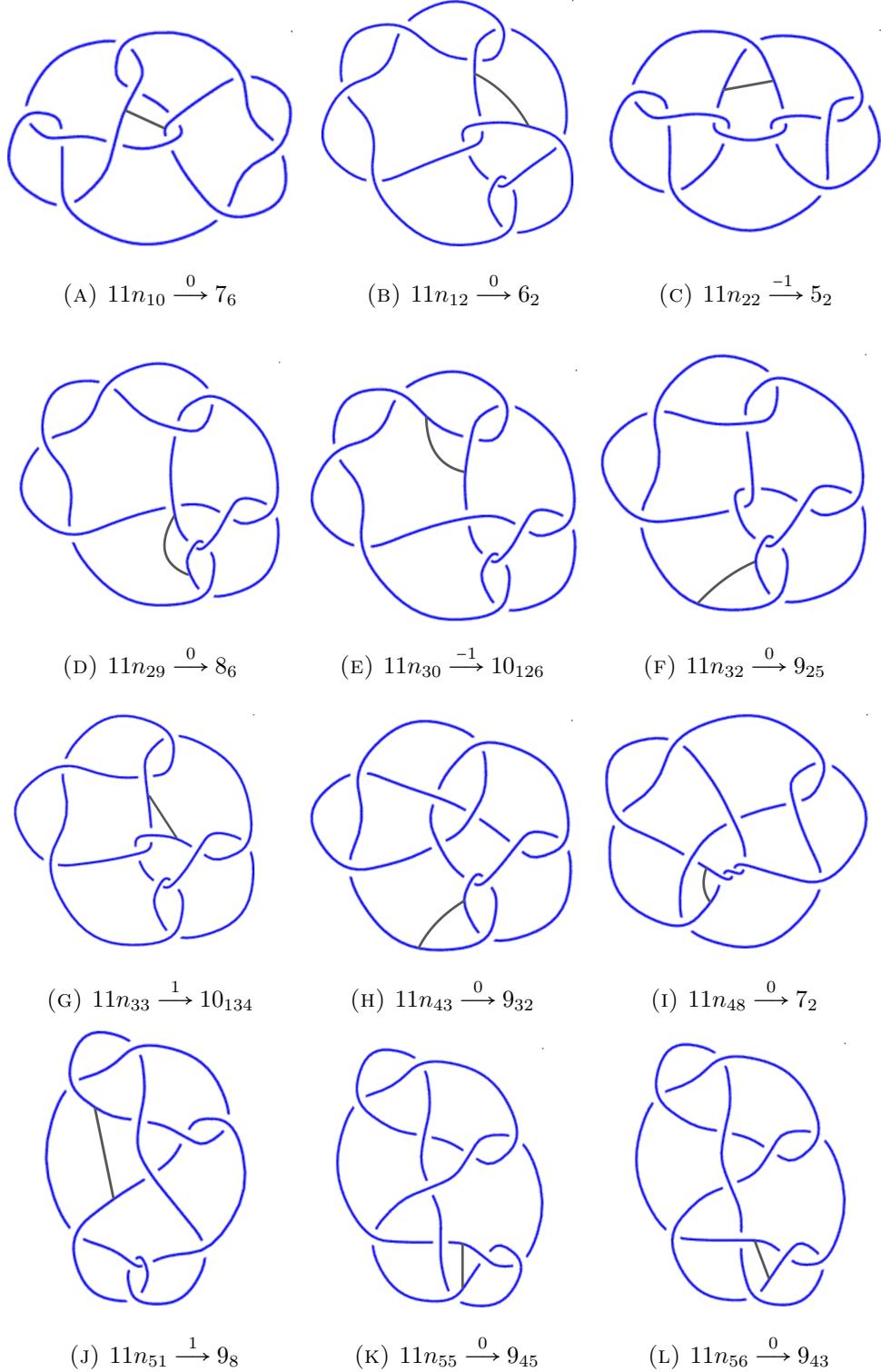


FIGURE 4.12. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{10}, 11n_{12}, 11n_{22}, 11n_{29}, 11n_{30}, 11n_{32}, 11n_{33}, 11n_{43}, 11n_{48}, 11n_{51}, 11n_{55}$ , and  $11n_{56}$  to knots with non-orientable genus 1.

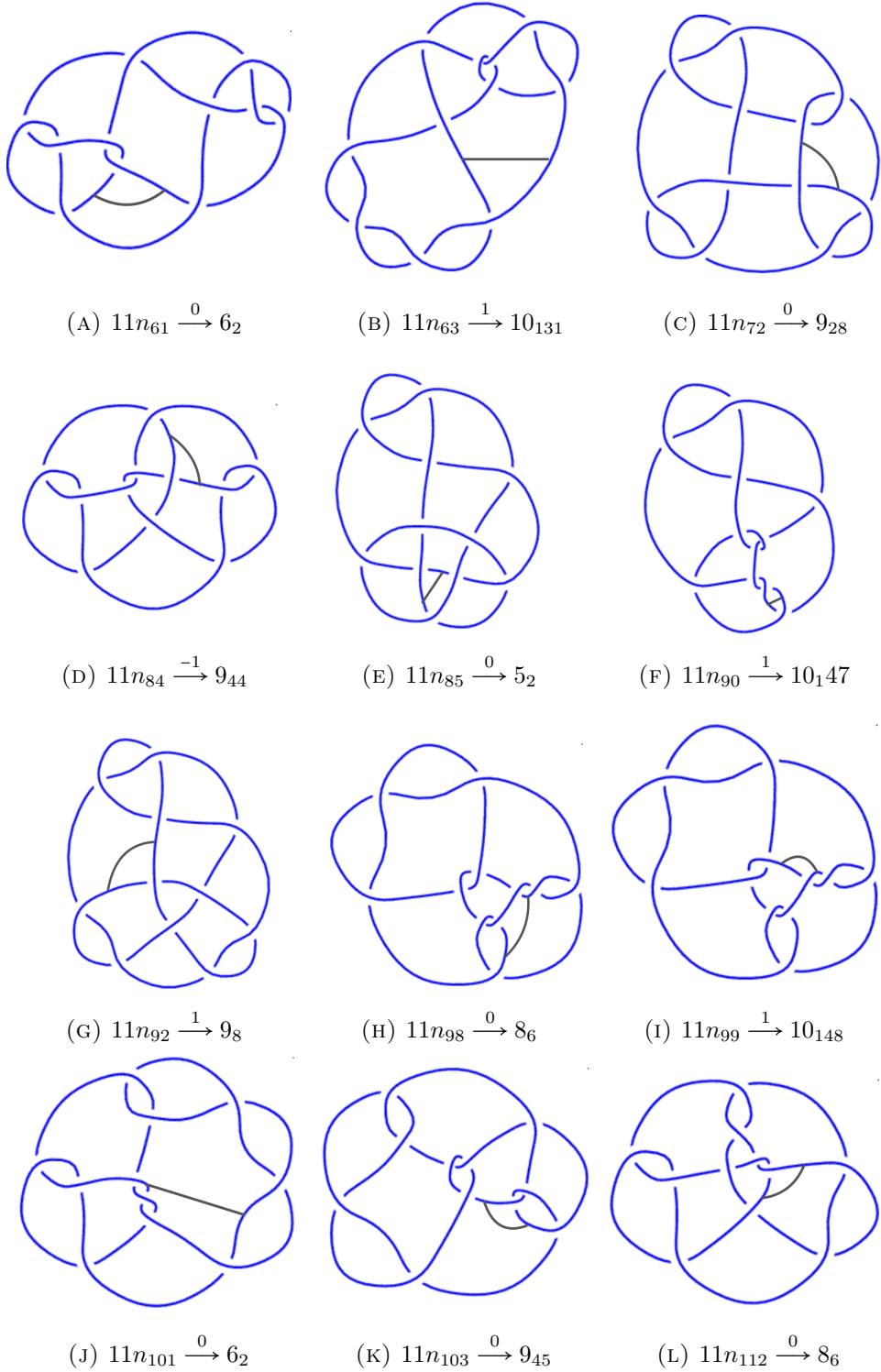


FIGURE 4.13. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{61}, 11n_{63}, 11n_{72}, 11n_{84}, 11n_{85}, 11n_{90}, 11n_{92}, 11n_{98}, 11n_{99}, 11n_{101}, 11n_{103}$ , and  $11n_{112}$  to knots with non-orientable genus 1.

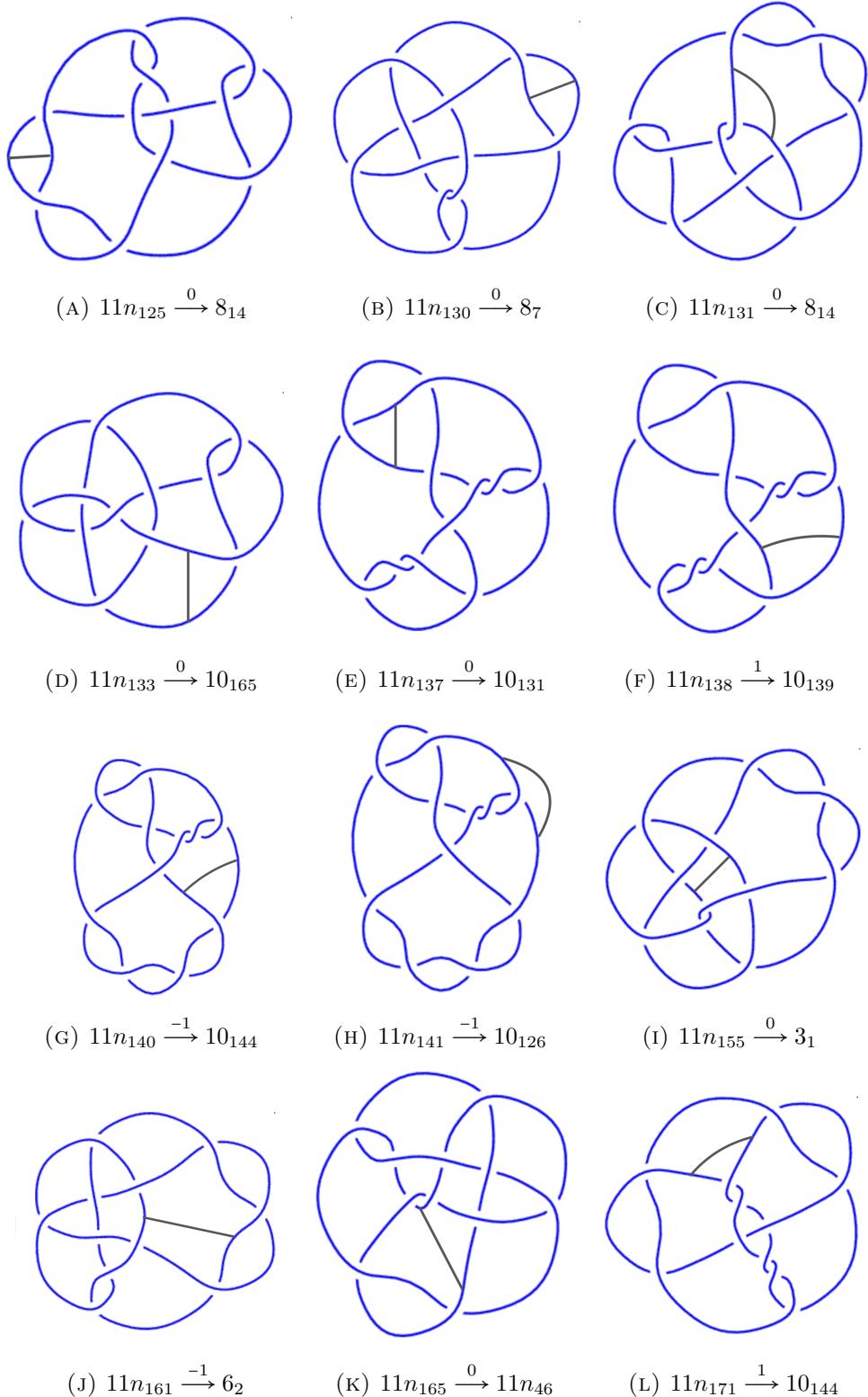


FIGURE 4.14. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{125}, 11n_{130}, 11n_{131}, 11n_{133}, 11n_{137}, 11n_{138}, 11n_{140}, 11n_{141}, 11n_{155}, 11n_{161}, 11n_{165}$ , and  $11n_{171}$  to knots with non-orientable genus 1.

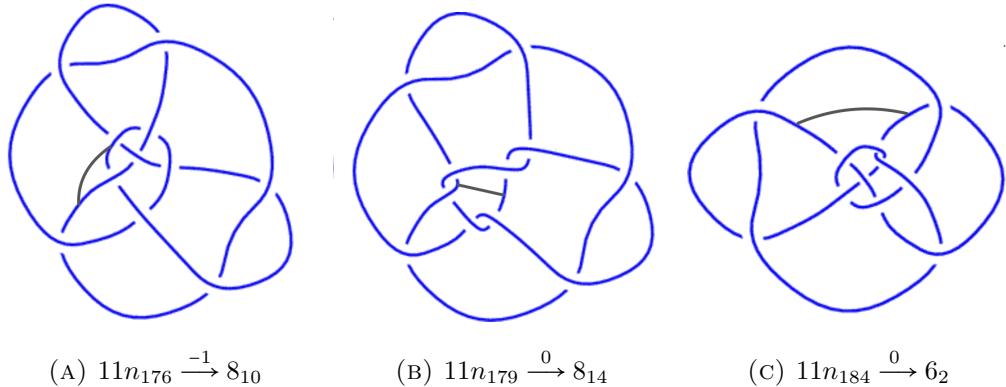


FIGURE 4.15. Non-oriented band moves from the knots  $11n_{176}$ ,  $11n_{179}$ , and  $11n_{184}$  to knots with non-orientable genus 1.

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