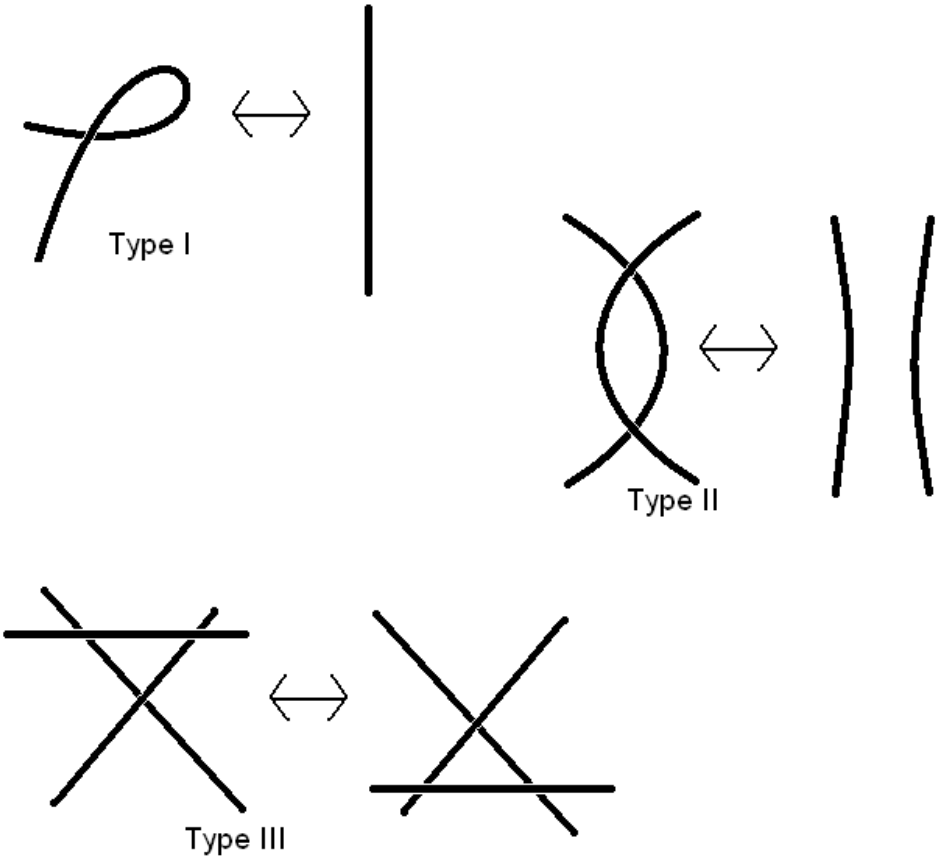
Basic Knot Theory Terminology

Chirality – the "handedness" of a knot. A knot and its mirror image may or may not be equivalent.
Knot – a closed loop containing some number of crossings. Mathematical knots are closed to prevent them from becoming undone. "an embedding of a circle in 3-dimensional Euclidean space, $\mathbf{R}^3$"
Knot Equivalence – two knots are equivalent if they can be transformed into each other without cutting the string or passing it through itself
Knot Theory – an area of topology studying knots
Recognition Problem – the basic problem in knot theory is determining whether any two knots are equivalent
Reidemeister Moves – set of three operations that can be used to transform any two knot diagrams belonging to the same knot



Unknot – knot that contains no crossings