

Using X_Y-pic

Here is an attempt to draw a rational tangle (p, q) . Amazingly enough, there is an extremely simple way to tell if two rational tangles are equivalent. Suppose the two tangles are given by the sequences of integers $-2\ 3\ 2$ and $3\ -2\ 3$. We compute the so-called **continued fractions** corresponding to these integers. The continued fraction corresponding to $-2\ 3\ 2$ is produced by,

$$2 + \frac{1}{3 + (1/ - 2)} = \frac{12}{5}$$

Figure 1: Continued Fraction

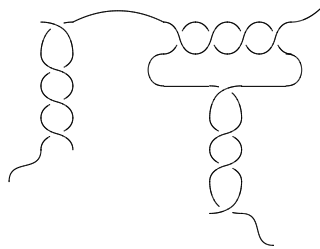
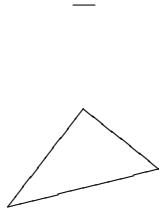


Figure 2: A Rational Tangle



Done in L^AT_EX.