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Partial open book decompositions and the contact class in sutured floer homology

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
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Abstract: We demonstrate how to combinatorially calculate the EH-class of a compatible contact structure in the sutured Floer homology group of a balanced sutured three manifold which is associated to an abstract partial open book decomposition. As an application we show that every contact three manifold (closed or with convex boundary) can be obtained by gluing tight contact handlebodies whose EH-classes are nontrivial.

Key Words: Partial open book decomposition, contact three-manifold with convex boundary, sutured manifold, sutured Floer homology, EH-contact class.

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