

An Introduction to the Volume Conjecture and its generalizations, II

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Workshop on Volume Conjecture and Related Topics in Knot Theory
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
20th December, 2018

- 1 Link invariant from a Yang–Baxter operator
- 2 Example of calculation
- 3 ‘Proof’ of the VC

Braid presentation of a link

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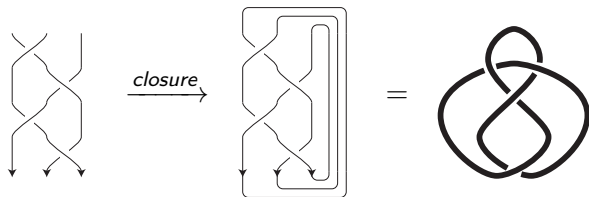
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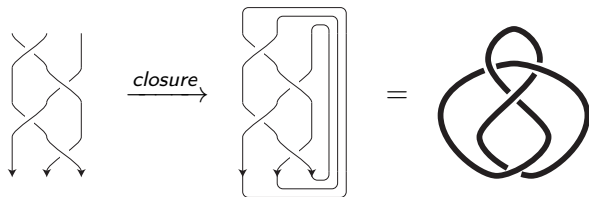
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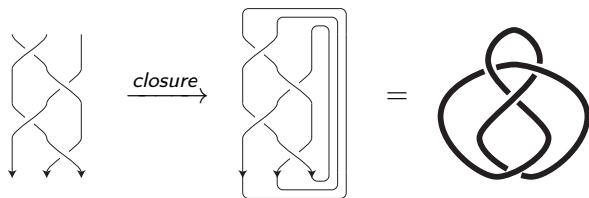


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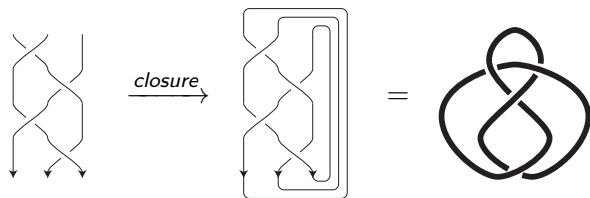
n -braid group has

- generators: σ_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$): $\begin{array}{ccccccc} | & | & \cdots & \times & \cdots & | & | \\ 1 & 2 & & i & i+1 & n-1 & n \end{array}$

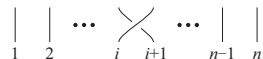
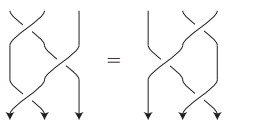
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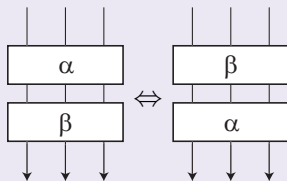
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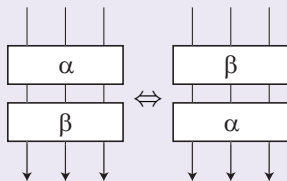


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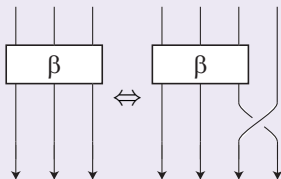
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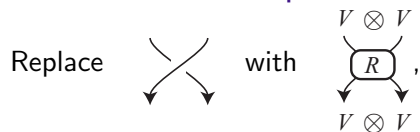
$\text{Tr}_2: V \otimes V \rightarrow V$ is the operator trace. (For $M \in \text{End}(V \otimes V)$ given by a matrix M_{kl}^{ij} , $\text{Tr}_2(M)$ is given by $\sum_m M_{km}^{im}$.)

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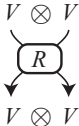

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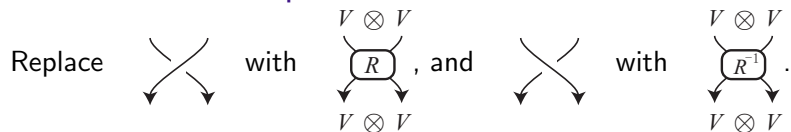
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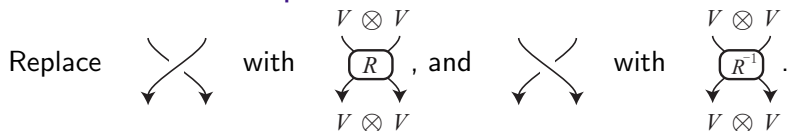
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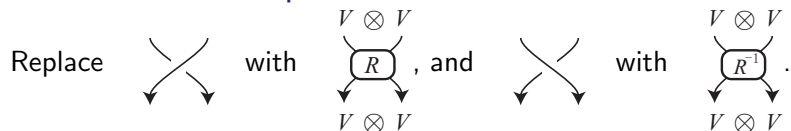
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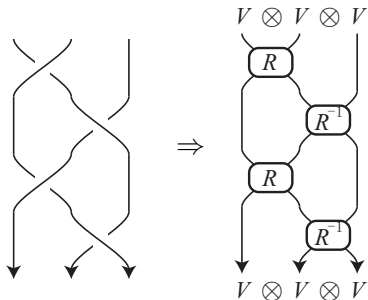
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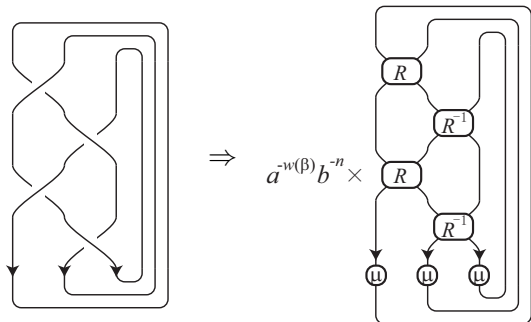
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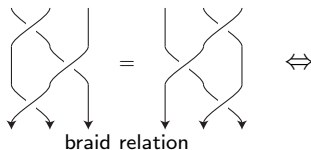
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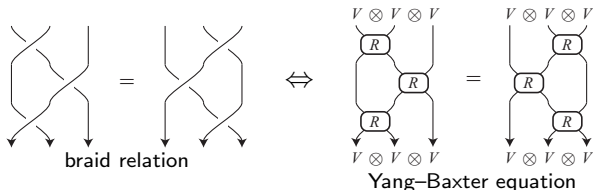
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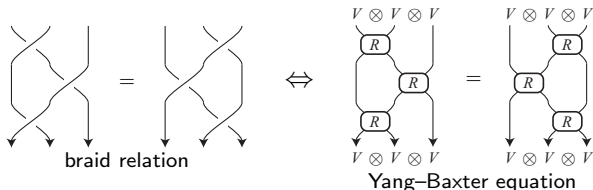
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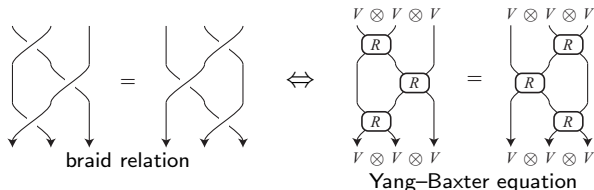
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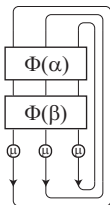
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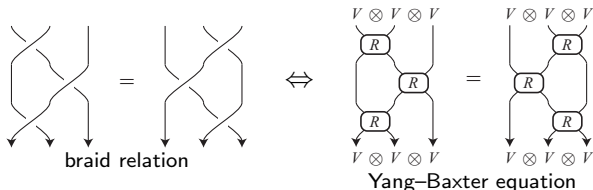


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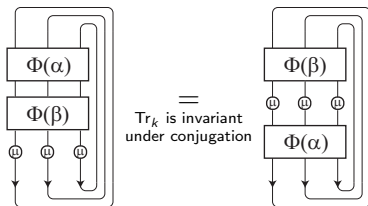


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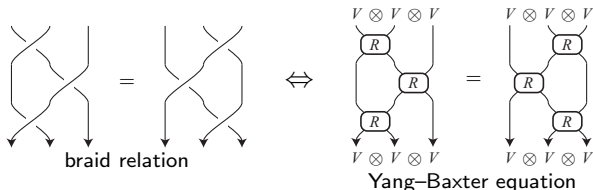


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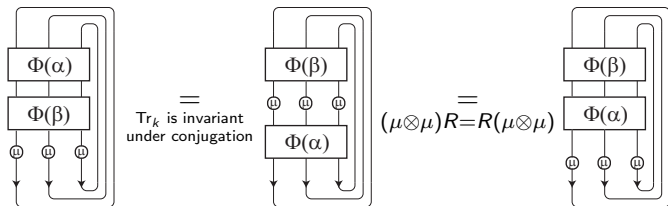


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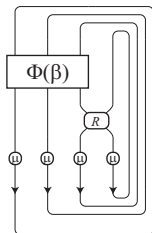
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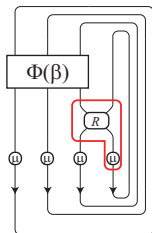
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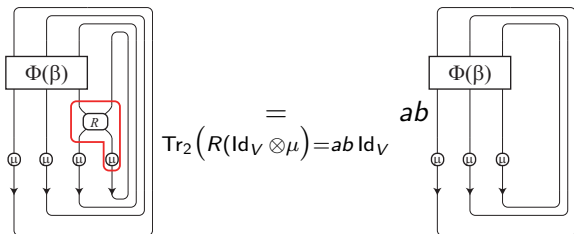
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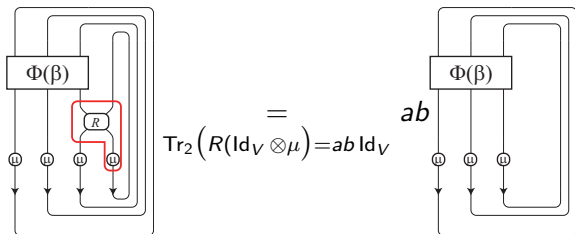
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- $\mu_j^i := \delta_{i,j} q^{(2i-N+1)/2}$.

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Definition

$J_N(L; q) := T_{(R, \mu, q^{(N^2-1)/4}, 1)}(K) \times \frac{\{1\}}{\{N\}}$: colored Jones polynomial.

Note: $T_{(R, \mu, q^{(N^2-1)/4}, 1)}(\bigcirc) = \text{Tr}_1(\mu) = q^{1-N} + q^{3-N} + \dots + q^{N-1} = \frac{\{N\}}{\{1\}}$.

An example of calculation

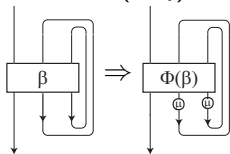
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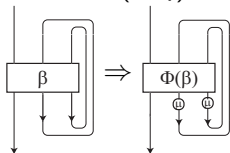


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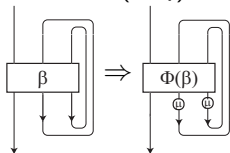
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We fix a basis $\{e_0, e_1, \dots, e_{N-1}\}$ of \mathbb{C}^N .

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To calculate $J_N(L; q)$ we leave the left-most strand without closing.



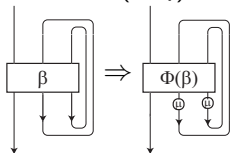
This gives a linear map $\varphi: \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$, which is a scalar multiple by Schur's lemma.

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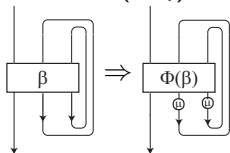
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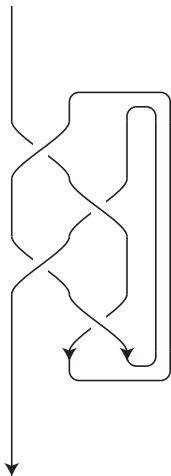
How to label arcs (due to T. Le)

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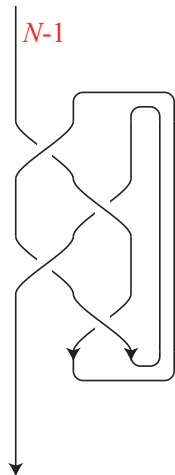
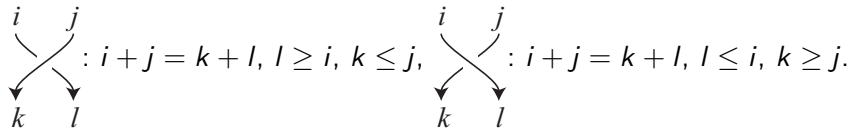
$$\begin{array}{c} i & j \\ \swarrow & \searrow \\ k & l \end{array} : i + j = k + l, l \geq i, k \leq j, \quad \begin{array}{c} i & j \\ \swarrow & \searrow \\ k & l \end{array} : i + j = k + l, l \leq i, k \geq j.$$

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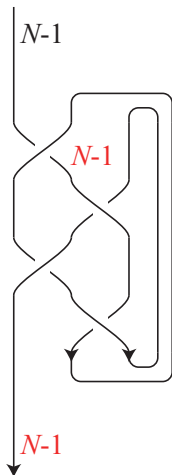
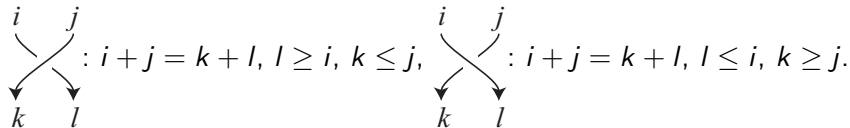


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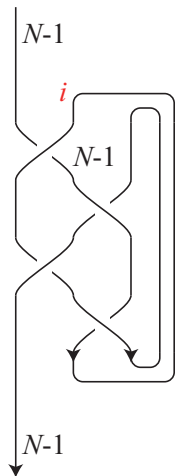
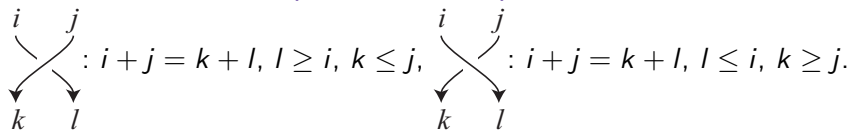
Label the incoming arc with $N - 1$.

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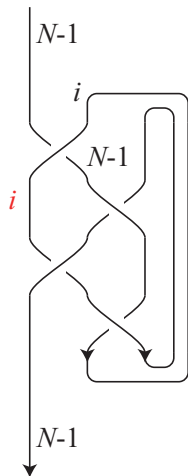
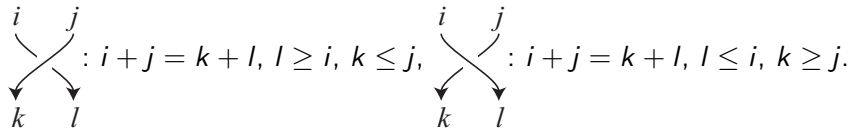


The last one should be $N - 1$ by Schur's lemma. The next one should also be $N - 1$, since it is $\geq N - 1$.

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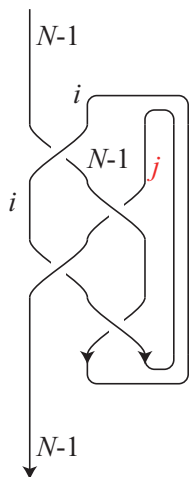
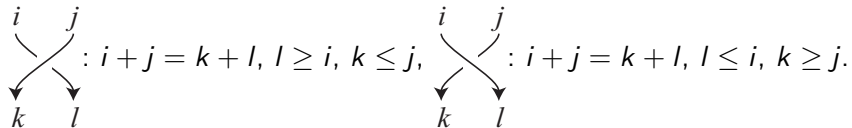
Choose i .

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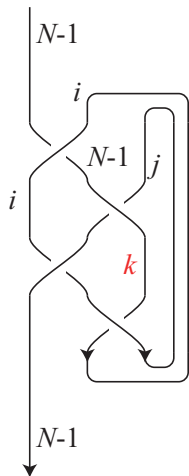
This is also i , since the sum of the labels of the incoming arcs equals the sum of the labels of the outgoing arcs.

How to label arcs (due to T. Le)

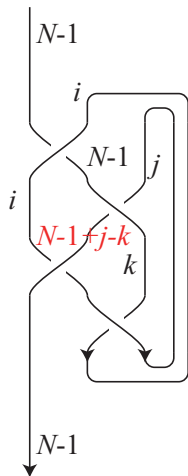
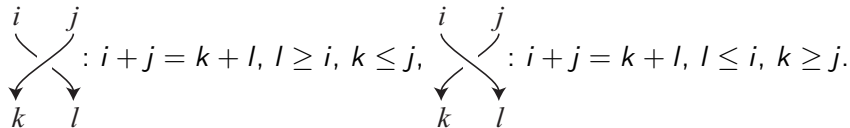
Choose j .

How to label arcs (due to T. Le)

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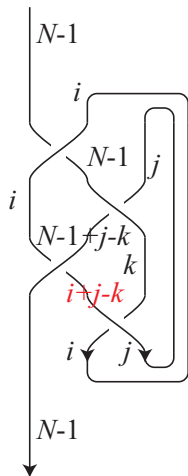
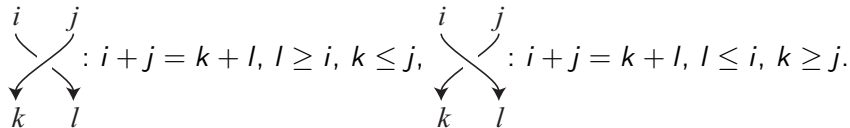
Choose k .

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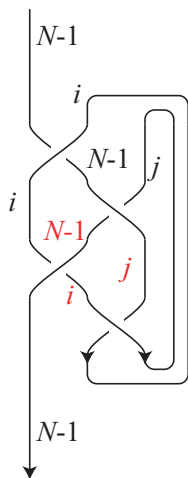
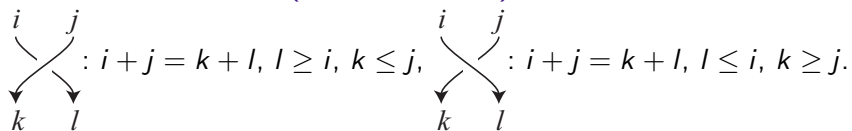
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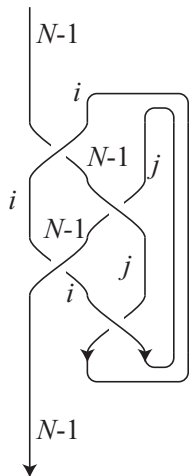
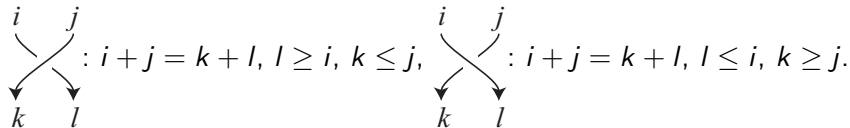


It should be $i + j - k$ by the same reason.
 $i + j - k \geq i$ and $N - 1 \leq N - 1 + j - k$
 $\Rightarrow j = k.$

How to label arcs (due to T. Le)



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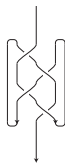


$$\begin{aligned}
 & J_N(\text{link}; q) \\
 &= \sum_{i \geq j} R_{i, N-1}^{N-1, i} (R^{-1})_{N-1, j}^{N-1, j} R_{N-1, i}^{i, N-1} (R^{-1})_{i, j}^{i, j} \mu_j^j \mu_i^i \\
 &= \sum_{i \geq j} (-1)^{N-1+i} \frac{\{N-1\}! \{i\}! \{N-1-j\}!}{(\{j\}!)^2 \{i-j\}! \{N-1-i\}!} \\
 &\quad \times q^{(-i-i^2-2ij-2j^2+3N+6Ni+2Nj-3N^2)/4}
 \end{aligned}$$

A better way of labeling

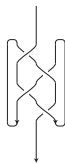
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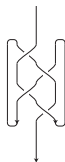
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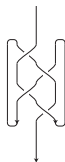


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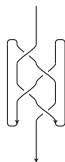


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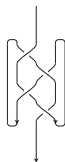
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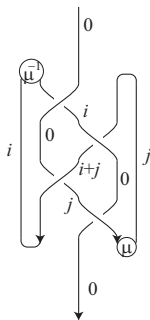
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$$\begin{aligned}
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 &= \sum_{\substack{0 \leq i \leq N-1, 0 \leq j \leq N-1 \\ 0 \leq i+j \leq N-1}} (-1)^i \frac{\{i+j\}! \{N-1\}!}{\{i\}! \{j\}! \{N-1-i-j\}!} q^{-(N-1)i/2 + (N-1)j/2 - i^2/4 + j^2/4 - 3i/4 + 3j/4}
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 &= \sum_{k:=i+j}^{N-1} \frac{\{N-1\}!}{\{N-1-k\}!} q^{k^2/4 + Nk/2 + k/4} \left(\sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \frac{\{k\}!}{\{i\}! \{k-i\}!} q^{-Ni - ik/2 - i/2} \right).
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Using the formula $\sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i q^{li/2} \frac{\{k\}!}{\{i\}! \{k-i\}!} = \prod_{g=1}^k (1 - q^{(l+k+1)/2 - g})$, we have the following formula (K. Habiro and T. Lê).

$$J_N(\text{trefoil}; q) = \frac{1}{\{N\}} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{\{N+k\}!}{\{N-1-k\}!}.$$

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- $(\zeta_N)_{k+}(\zeta_N)_{k-} = \pm (\text{a power of } \zeta_N) \times N$.

Quantum factorial at the N -th root of unity

$$q = \zeta_N := \exp(2\pi\sqrt{-1}/N)$$

$$\Rightarrow \{k\}!\{N-k-1\}!$$

$$= \pm (\text{a power of } \zeta_N) \times (1 - \zeta_N)(1 - \zeta_N^2) \cdots (1 - \zeta_N^k) \\ \times (1 - \zeta_N)(1 - \zeta_N^2) \cdots (1 - \zeta_N^{N-1-k})$$

$$= \pm (\text{a power of } \zeta_N) \times (1 - \zeta_N)(1 - \zeta_N^2) \cdots (1 - \zeta_N^k) \\ \times (1 - \zeta_N^{N-1})(1 - \zeta_N^{N-2}) \cdots (1 - \zeta_N^{k+1})$$

$$= \pm (\text{a power of } \zeta_N) \times 2^{N-1} \sin(\pi/N) \sin(2\pi/N) \cdots \sin((N-1)\pi/N)$$

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R -matrix as a product of quantum factorial

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$$R_{kl}^{ij} = \sum_m \pm (\text{a power of } \zeta_N) \times \delta_{l,i+m} \delta_{k,j-m} \frac{\{l\}! \{N-1-k\}!}{\{i\}! \{m\}! \{N-1-j\}!}$$

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 &= \sum_m \delta_{l,i+m} \delta_{k,j-m} \frac{\pm(\text{a power of } \zeta_N) \times N^2}{(\zeta_N)_{m+} (\zeta_N)_{i+} (\zeta_N)_{k+} (\zeta_N)_{j-} (\zeta_N)_{l-}}
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⇒

$$J_N(K; \zeta_N) = \sum_{\substack{\text{labellings} \\ i, j, k, l \\ \text{on arcs}}} \left(\prod_{\pm\text{-crossings}} \frac{\pm(\text{a power of } \zeta_N) \times N^{\pm 2}}{(\zeta_N)_{m+} (\zeta_N)_{i\pm} (\zeta_N)_{k\pm} (\zeta_N)_{j\mp} (\zeta_N)_{l\mp}} \right)$$

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 &= \frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \int_1^{\exp(2\pi\sqrt{-1}k/N)} \frac{\log(1 - y)}{y} dy.
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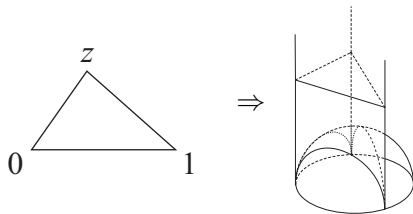
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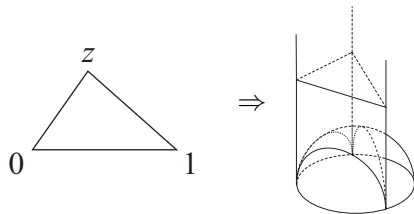


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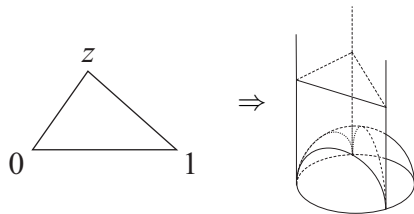
- $\log(\zeta_N)_{k^+} \underset{N \rightarrow \infty}{\approx} \frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} [\text{Li}_2(1) - \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^k)]$.

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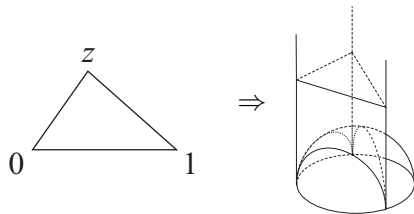
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- $(\zeta_N)_{k^-} \underset{N \rightarrow \infty}{\approx} \exp \left[-\frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{-k-1}) \right] \underset{N \rightarrow \infty}{\approx} \exp \left[-\frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{-k}) \right]$.

Approximation of the colored Jones polynomial by Li_2

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$$\begin{aligned}
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 & \exp \left[\frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \right. \\
 & \left. \sum_{\text{crossings}} \left\{ \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^m) + \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{\pm i}) + \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{\mp j}) + \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{\pm k}) + \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{\mp l}) + \log \text{ terms} \right\} \right],
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where a log term comes from a power of ζ_N .

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$$J_N(K; \zeta_N) \underset{N \rightarrow \infty}{\approx} \sum_{\text{labellings}} (\text{polynomial of } N) \exp \left[\frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \sum_{\text{crossings}} \left\{ \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^m) + \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{\pm i}) + \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{\mp j}) + \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{\pm k}) + \text{Li}_2(\zeta_N^{\mp l}) + \log \text{ terms} \right\} \right],$$

where a log term comes from a power of ζ_N . For example

$$\zeta_N^{k^2} = \exp \left(\frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \left(\frac{2\pi\sqrt{-1}k}{N} \right)^2 \right) = \exp \left[\frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} (\log \zeta_N^k)^2 \right].$$

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(ignore polynomials since exp grows much bigger)

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where J_1, \dots, J_c are some contours.

Saddle Point Method

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Theorem (Saddle Point Method)

Assume that

- ① $d h(z_0)/dz = 0$ and $d^2 h(z_0)/dz^2 \neq 0$.
- ② $\text{Im } h(z)$ is constant for z in some neighborhood of z_0 .
- ③ $\text{Re } h(z)$ takes its strict maximum along Γ at z_0 .

Then

$$\int_{\Gamma} \exp(Nh(z)) dz \underset{N \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \frac{\sqrt{2\pi} \exp(Nh(z_0))}{\sqrt{N} \sqrt{-d^2 h(z_0)/dz^2}}.$$

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$$\because \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{\sqrt{a}} \Rightarrow$$

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To apply the saddle point method we usually change the contour so that it passes through the saddle point z_0 where $h'(z_0) = 0$.

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$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z_k}(x_1, \dots, x_c) = 0 \quad (k = 1, \dots, c)$$

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\Rightarrow

$$2\pi\sqrt{-1} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log J_N(K; \zeta_N)}{N} = V(x_1, \dots, x_c)$$

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- How to apply the saddle point method. In particular, which saddle point to choose. In general, we have many solutions to the system of equations.

$$\int_{J_1} \cdots \int_{J_c} \exp \left[\frac{N}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} V(z_1, \dots, z_c) dz_1 \cdots dz_c \right]$$

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Decomposition into octahedra (by D. Thurston)

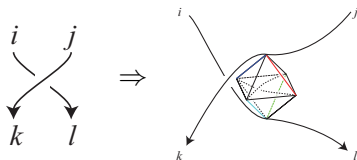
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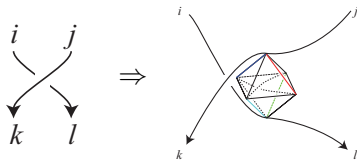
- Around each crossing, put an octahedron:



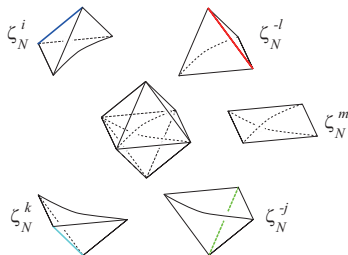
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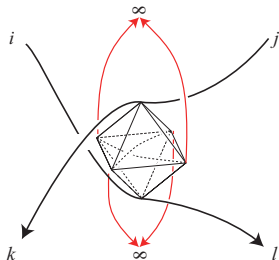
- Decompose the octahedron into five tetrahedra:



Decomposition into **topological** tetrahedra

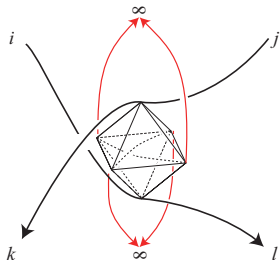
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- $S^3 \setminus K$ is now decomposed into topological, truncated tetrahedra, decorated with complex numbers $\zeta_N^{i_k}$.

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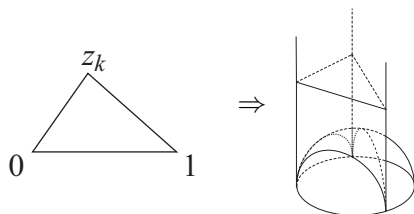
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- Regard the tetrahedron decorated with z_k as an hyperbolic, ideal tetrahedron parametrized by z_k .



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- $\Rightarrow (x_1, \dots, x_c)$ gives the complete hyperbolic structure.
- Then, what does $V(x_1, \dots, x_c) (= 2\pi\sqrt{-1} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log J_N(K, \zeta_N)}{N})$ mean?

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$$2\pi \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log |J_N(K, \zeta_N)|}{N} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K),$$

which is the Volume Conjecture.