

# The Colored Jones Polynomial

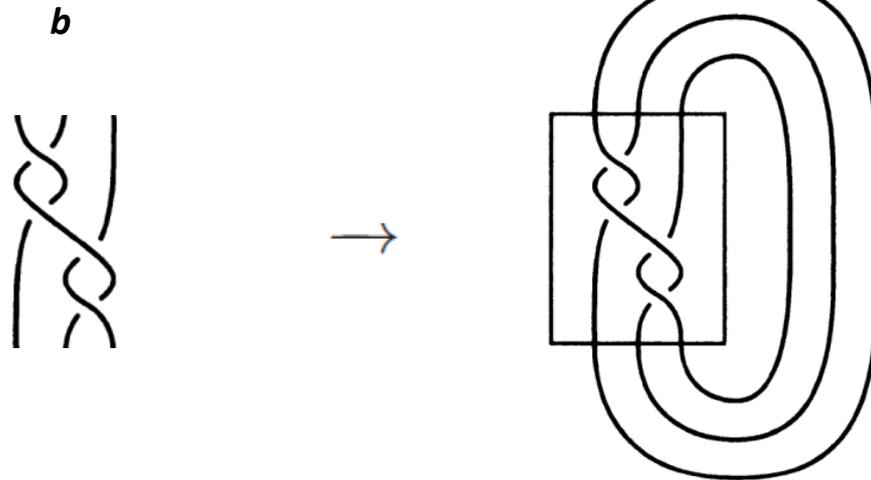
Junior Topology Seminar  
Mustafa Hajj

**Note: Some figures in this file have been taken from the paper : “An Introduction to the Volume Conjecture” by Hitoshi Murakami**

# Alexander's Theorem

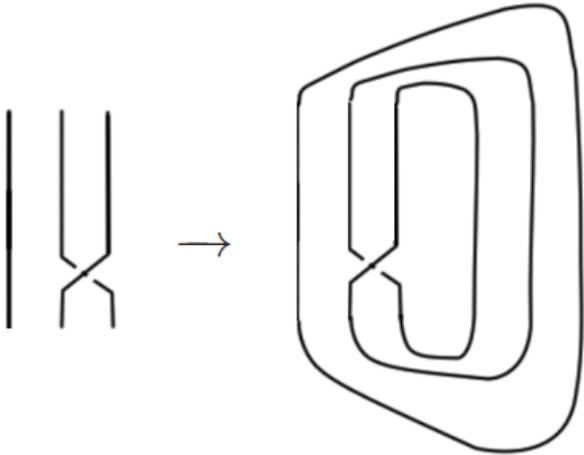
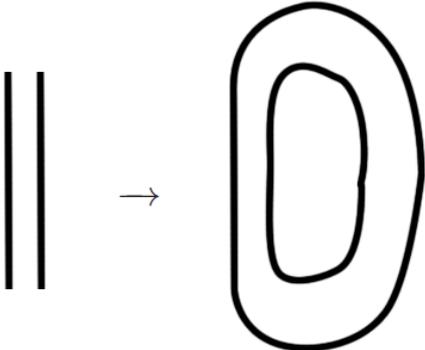
Any tame oriented link  $L$  in 3-space may be represented by a pair  $(b, n)$ , where  $b$  is an element of the  $n$ -string braid group  $B_n$ .

The link  $L$  is obtained by closing  $b$



# Alexander's Theorem

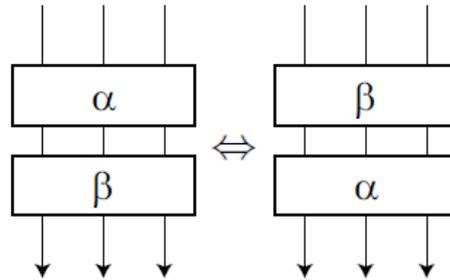
The problem with Alexander's theorem is that many different braids can give us the same knot.



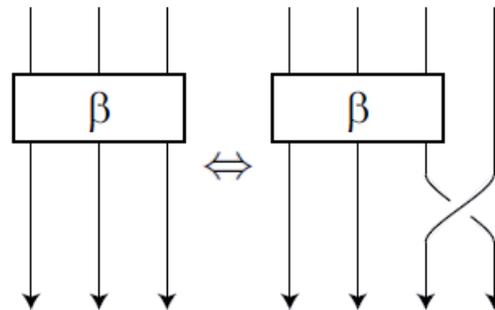
# Markov's theorem

$b$  and  $b'$  give equivalent links  $\iff b$  and  $b'$  are related by

conjugation



stabilization



# Link invariants

**Alexander's and Markov's theorems can be used to define link invariants.**

# The enhanced Yang-Baxter operator

$V$ : a  $N$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

$R: V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$  ( $R$ -matrix),  $\mu: V \rightarrow V$ : isomorphisms

$a, b$ : non-zero complex numbers.

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$a, b$ : non-zero complex numbers.

A quadruple  $(R, \mu, a, b)$  is called an enhanced Yang-Baxter operator if it satisfies the following:

- (1)  $(R \otimes \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_V \otimes R)(R \otimes \text{Id}_V) = (\text{Id}_V \otimes R)(R \otimes \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_V \otimes R)$ ,
- (2)  $R(\mu \otimes \mu) = (\mu \otimes \mu)R$ ,
- (3)  $\text{Tr}_2(R^{\pm 1}(\text{Id}_V \otimes \mu)) = a^{\pm 1}b \text{Id}_V$ .

# The enhanced Yang-Baxter operator

Here  $\text{Tr}_k: \text{End}(V^{\otimes k}) \rightarrow \text{End}(V^{\otimes(k-1)})$  is defined by

$$\text{Tr}_k(f)(e_{i_1} \otimes e_{i_2} \cdots \otimes e_{i_{k-1}}) := \sum_{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_{k-1}, j=0}^{N-1} f_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{k-1}, j}^{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_{k-1}, j} (e_{j_1} \otimes e_{j_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_{k-1}} \otimes e_j)$$

where  $f \in \text{End}(V^{\otimes k})$  is given by

$$f(e_{i_1} \otimes e_{i_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_k}) = \sum_{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_k=0}^{N-1} f_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k}^{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_k} (e_{j_1} \otimes e_{j_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_k})$$

and  $\{e_0, e_1, \dots, e_{N-1}\}$  is a basis of  $V$ .

# A representation for the braid group

**We will define a representation for the braid group.**

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$$B_n \rightarrow \text{Aut}(V^{\otimes n})$$

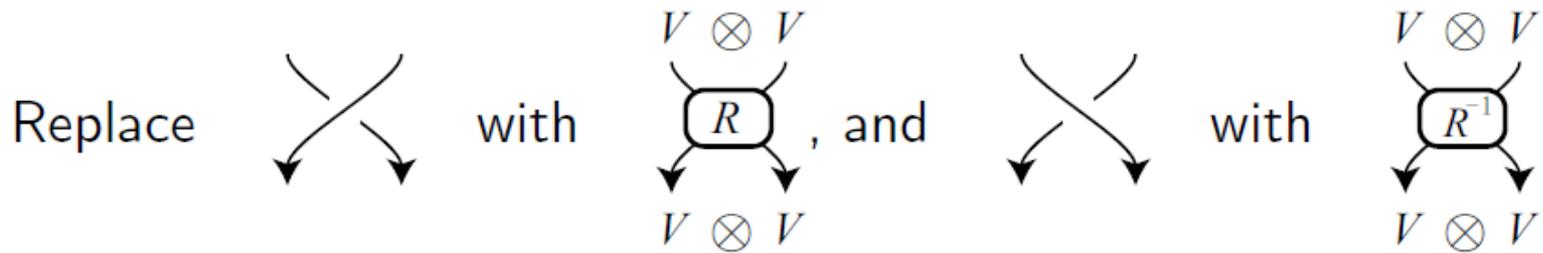
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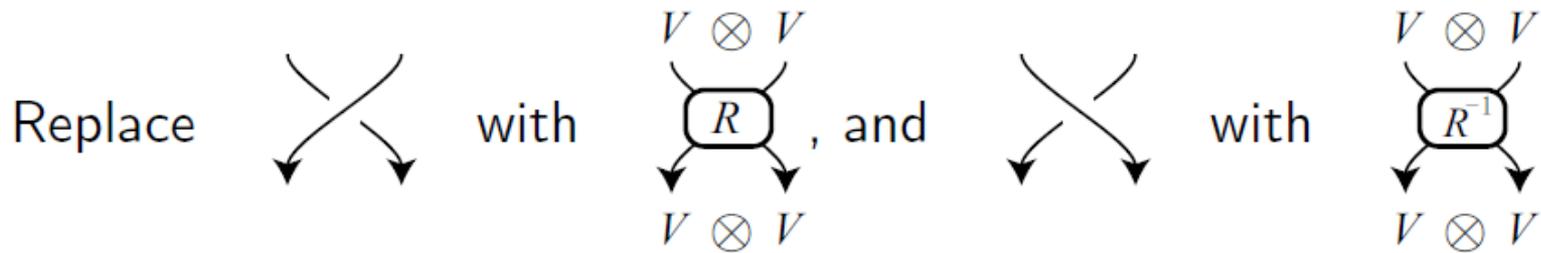


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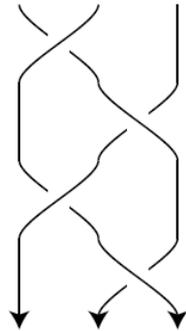
$\sigma_i$  into  $R_i$  for  $i=1, \dots, n-1$



$n$ -braid  $\beta \Rightarrow$  homomorphism  $\Phi(\beta): V^{\otimes n} \rightarrow V^{\otimes n}$

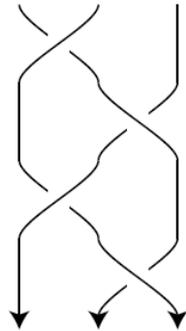
# Example

$$\sigma_1 \sigma_2^{-1} \sigma_1 \sigma_2^{-1}$$

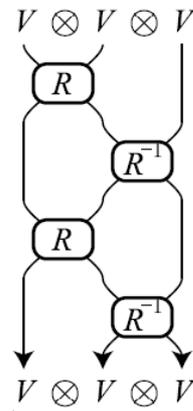


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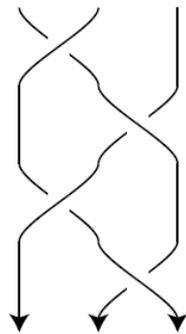
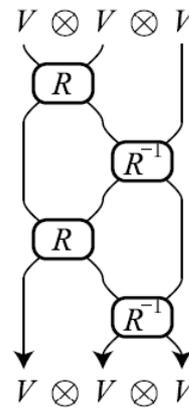


$\Phi \rightarrow$



# Example

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 $\Phi \rightarrow$ 


$$\Phi(\sigma_1 \sigma_2^{-1} \sigma_1 \sigma_2^{-1}) = (R \otimes \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_V \otimes R^{-1})(R \otimes \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_V \otimes R^{-1})$$

# Trace invariant

$n$ -braid  $\beta \Rightarrow$  a link  $L$ .

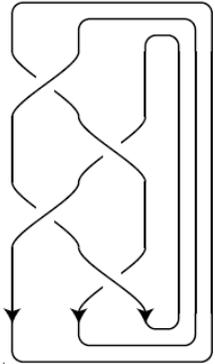
$$T_{(R,\mu,a,b)}(L) := a^{-w(\beta)} b^{-n} \text{Tr}_1 \left( \text{Tr}_2 (\cdots (\text{Tr}_n (\Phi(\beta) \mu^{\otimes n})) \cdots) \right)$$

# Example

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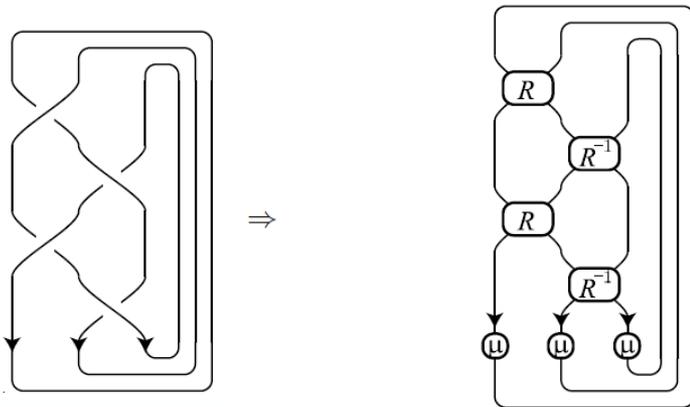
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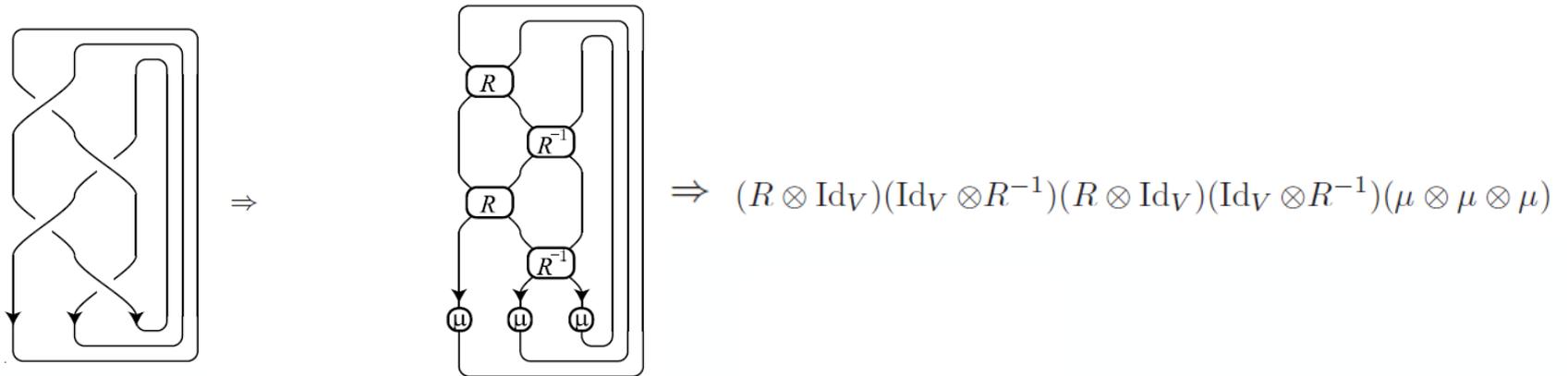
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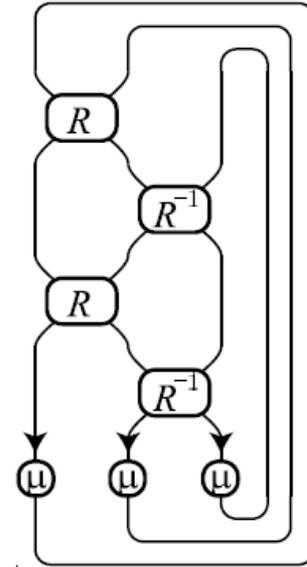


# Example

$$(R \otimes \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_V \otimes R^{-1})(R \otimes \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_V \otimes R^{-1})(\mu \otimes \mu \otimes \mu)$$

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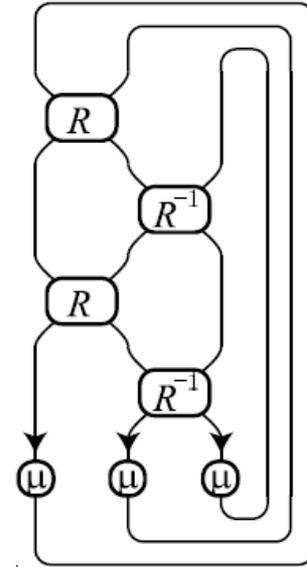
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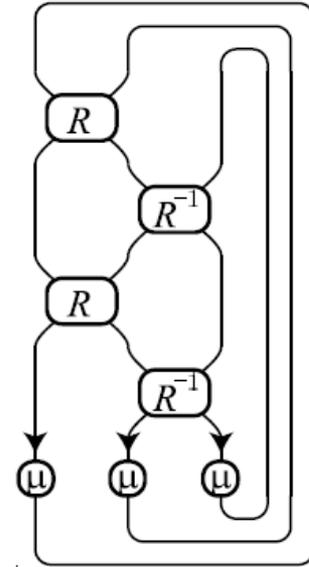
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$$w(\sigma_1 \sigma_2^{-1} \sigma_1 \sigma_2^{-1}) = +1 - 1 + 1 - 1 = 0$$



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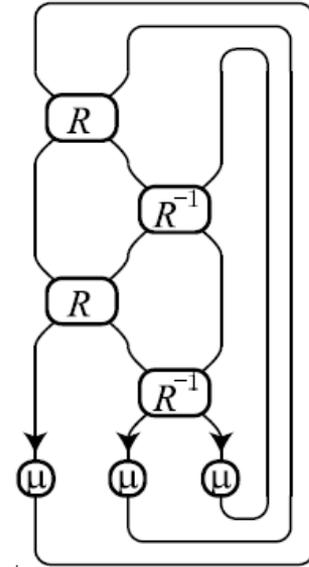
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$$\Rightarrow b^{-2} \text{Tr}_1(\text{Tr}_2(\text{Tr}_3((R \otimes \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_V \otimes R^{-1})(R \otimes \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_V \otimes R^{-1})(\mu \otimes \mu \otimes \mu))))$$

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**And this expression is**  $T_{(R,\mu,a,b)}(\sigma_1 \sigma_2^{-1} \sigma_1 \sigma_2^{-1})$

# Link invariant

**Theorem** (Turaev) *If  $\beta$  and  $\beta'$  present the same link, then  $T_{R,\mu,a,b}(\beta) = T_{R,\mu,a,b}(\beta')$*

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$$\mu: V \rightarrow V$$

$$\mu(e_j) := \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \mu_j^i e_i,$$

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

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

# Example: Figure-eight knot (C. Armond)

$$J_K(N) = q^{(1-N)} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}_q q^{n+k(k+1)} \left[ \prod_{j=1}^n (1 - q^{j-N}) \right] \left[ \prod_{i=1}^{n-k} (1 - q^{k+i-N}) \right]$$

where  $\binom{n}{k}_q$  is the q-binomial coefficient

$$\binom{n}{k}_q = \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} \frac{1 - q^{n-i}}{1 - q^{i+1}}$$

refs

**An Introduction to the Volume Conjecture, by Hitoshi Murakami,  
2010**

**Thank You**