

Extending Milnor's $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants to virtual knots and welded links

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Based on...

Milnor's concordance invariants for knots on surfaces
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.01505>

Virtual concordance and the generalized Alexander polynomial
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.08737> (w/ H. U. Boden)

Motivation

Milnor's $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

Lower central series

G is a group. $G_1 = G$, $G_2 = [G, G]$, $G_{q+1} = [G_q, G]$.

$$G \triangleright G_2 \triangleright G_3 \cdots$$

$L \subset S^3$, an m – component link

$$G = \pi_1(S^3 \setminus L)$$

$$F = \langle a_1, \dots, a_m \rangle$$

Theorem (Chen-Milnor)

$$G/G_q \cong \langle a_1, \dots, a_m | [a_1, \lambda_1^{(q)}], \dots, [a_m, \lambda_m^{(q)}], F_q \rangle$$

Milnor's $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

Magnus expansion

$f \in F$, Define $\epsilon(f) \in \mathbb{Z}[[a_1, \dots, a_m]]$ by:

$$a_i \rightarrow 1 + a_i, \quad a_i^{-1} \rightarrow 1 - a_i + a_i^2 - a_i^3 + \dots$$

Let $J = j_1 j_2 \dots j_r$ be a sequence in $\{1, 2, \dots, m\}$.

$$\epsilon(f) = 1 + \sum_{J=j_1 j_2 \dots j_r} \epsilon_J(f) a_{j_1} a_{j_2} \dots a_{j_r}$$

Applying this to $L \subset S^3$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{J|k}(L) &= \epsilon_J(\lambda_k^{(q)}) \\ \Delta_J &= \gcd\{\mu_{\hat{J}}(L)\}, \end{aligned}$$

$\hat{J} :=$ delete at least one term from J or any cyclic permutation thereof.

Milnor's $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

$\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

$$\bar{\mu}_J(L) \equiv \mu_J(L) \pmod{\Delta_J}$$

Properties

- $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants are invariants of link concordance (Casson, Stallings).
- $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants vanish on boundary links (Smythe).
- $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants are trivial on 1-component links i.e. knots.

Goals & Applications

GOAL: Construct extended $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

- Invariants of virtual knots and knots in $\Sigma \times I$.
- Defined from LCS of the extended group of a virtual knot.
- Invariants under virtual concordance.
- Vanish on homologically trivial knots in $\Sigma \times I$.

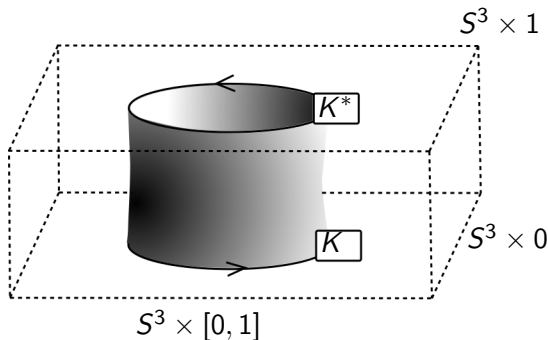
APPLICATIONS:

1. The virtual knot concordance group is not abelian.
2. Generalize $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants to welded links and welded string links.
3. Reduce to 4 (out of 92800) the $\#$ of virtual knots from Green's table having unknown slice status.

Virtual concordance

Concordance

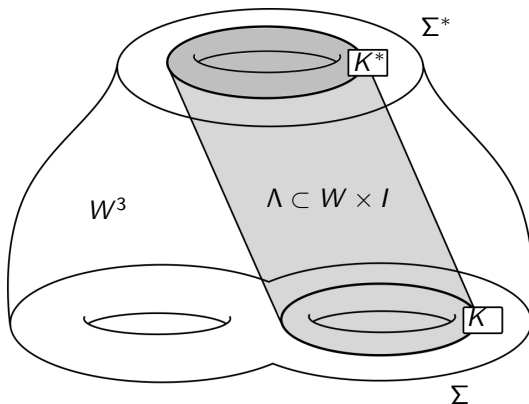
Knots K, K^* in S^3 are **concordant** if:



Slice knot/link: = Concordant to unknot/unlink

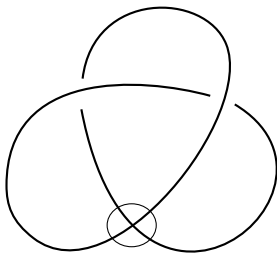
Virtual concordance (Turaev '08)

Knots $K \subset \Sigma \times I$, $K^* \subset \Sigma^* \times I$ are **virtually concordant** if:

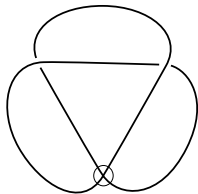


Virtually slice:= Concordant to the unknot in $S^2 \times I$

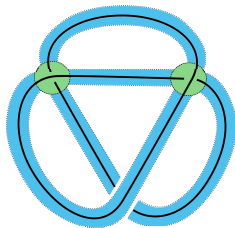
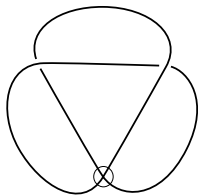
Virtual knot diagrams



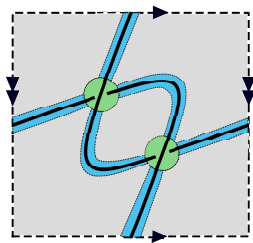
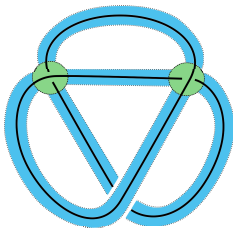
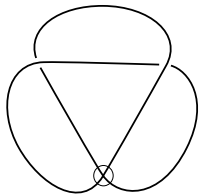
Virtual knots $\rightarrow$ knots in $\Sigma \times I$.



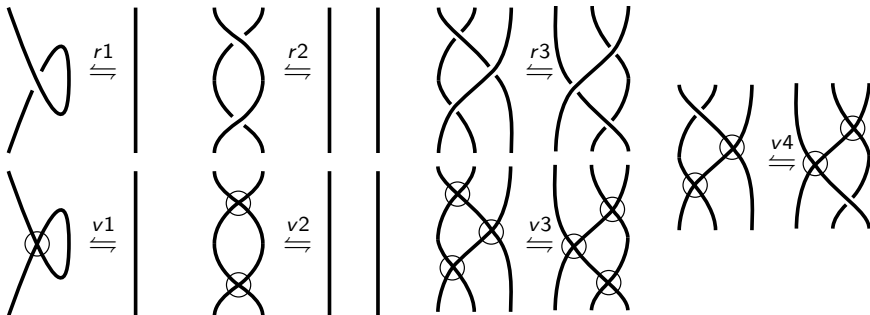
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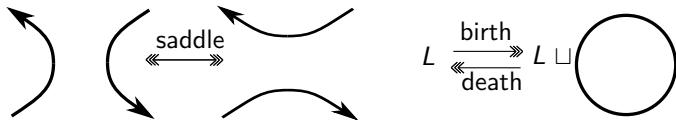
Virtual knots $\rightarrow$ knots in $\Sigma \times I$.



Extended Reidemeister moves



Virtual knot concordance (Kauffman '14)

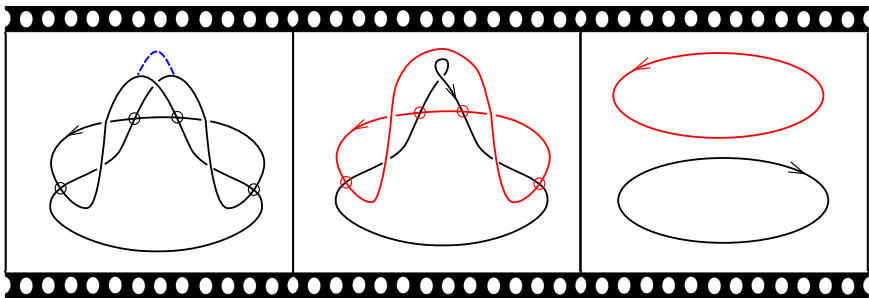


$$\text{Virtual knot concordance} := \frac{\text{virtual knot diagrams}}{\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{v-moves+births+deaths+saddles s.t.} \\ \# \text{births} - \# \text{saddles} + \# \text{deaths} = 0 \end{array} \right)}$$

Theorem (Carter-Kamada-Saito '00)

Two knots in thickened surfaces are virtually concordant if and only if they represent concordant virtual knots.

Example (5.1216)



Some facts about virtual concordance

Theorem (Boden-Nagel '17)

Two classical knots in S^3 are concordant if and only if they are virtually concordant.

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Theorem (C, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.05288>)

Every virtual knot v is concordant to:

- *a prime satellite virtual knot,*
- *a prime hyperbolic virtual knot, and*
- *if v is almost classical (AC) knot, a prime satellite AC knot and a prime hyperbolic AC knot having the same Alexander polynomial.*

2008-2019

- (Turaev) graded genus ϑ .
- (Dye-Kaestner-Kauffman) Rasmussen invariant.
- (C-Kaestner) Henrich-Turaev polynomial.
- (Rushworth) a 2nd Rasmussen invariant.
- (Boden-C-Gaudreau 1, Rushworth) odd writhe.
- (Boden-C-Gaudreau 1, Kauffman) writhe polynomial.
- (Boden-C-Gaudreau 2) directed Tristram-Levine signature fncs.
- (Boden-C) generalized Alexander polynomial Δ^0 .

Slice status of v-knots in Green's table

Crossing number	Virtual knots	$\vartheta = 0$ sieve	$\vartheta = 0$ & $\Delta^0 = 0$	slice knots	status unknown
2	1	0	0	0	0
3	7	1	0	0	0
4	108	15	14	13	0
5	2448	59	51	45	2
6	90235	1476	1294	1241	36

- (BCG1,BCG2,BC) Summary of calculations above.
- (White) Calculations of Δ^0 .
- (Rushworth, Karimi) Rasmussen invariant calculations.

Status unknown

5.1216	5.1963	6.5588	6.5958
6.6589	6.7070	6.7388	6.8451
6.14778	6.14781	6.15200	6.15952
6.31455	6.33334	6.37879	6.38158
6.38183	6.43763	6.46936	6.46937
6.47024	6.47172	6.47512	6.49338
6.52373	6.62002	6.69085	6.70767
6.71306	6.71848	6.72353	6.72431
6.76251	6.76488	6.77331	6.77735
6.86951	6.89218		

Status unknown

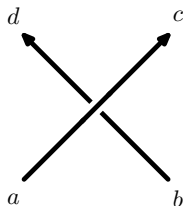
The v-knots in red are slice. (C '20)

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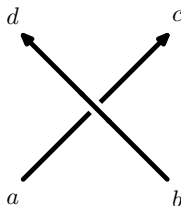
Extended $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

Extended group

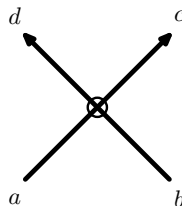
Many equivalent versions in the literature. We will use the following:
(Boden-Gaudreau-Harper-Nicas-White '17)



$$\begin{aligned} c &= vav^{-1} \\ d &= a^{-1}v^{-1}bva \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} c &= bvav^{-1}b^{-1} \\ d &= v^{-1}bv \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} c &= a \\ d &= b \end{aligned}$$

$$\widetilde{G}(L) := \langle a_1, \dots, a_{2n}, v \mid r_1, \dots, r_{2n} \rangle$$

This is an extension of the group of a virtual link L ; just set $v = 1$.

$$G(L) = \langle a_1, \dots, a_{2n}, v \mid r_1, \dots, r_{2n}, v = 1 \rangle$$

Extended Chen-Milnor Theorem

Theorem (C '20)

L an m -component virtual link. Let $F = F(m+1)$ be the free group on $a_1, \dots, a_m, v$. The nilpotent quotients of $\tilde{G} = \tilde{G}(L)$ are given by:

$$\tilde{G}/\tilde{G}_q \cong \langle a_1, \dots, a_m, v \mid [a_1, \tilde{\lambda}_1^{(q)}], \dots, [a_m, \tilde{\lambda}_m^{(q)}], F_q \rangle.$$

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Corollary (C '20)

If K is a virtual knot, $F = \langle a, v \rangle$, this gives:

$$\tilde{G}/\tilde{G}_q \cong \langle a, v | [a, \tilde{\lambda}^{(q)}], F_q \rangle.$$

Note: the nilpotent quotients of $G(K)$ are free, but the nilpotent quotients of $\tilde{G}(K)$ are generally not free.

Extended $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

K a virtual knot diagram, J be a sequence $\{1, 2\}$, $q > |J|$.

$$\bar{\kappa}_J(K) \equiv \epsilon_J(\tilde{\lambda}^{(q)}) \pmod{\Delta_{J|1}}$$

The family of these residue classes are called the $\bar{\kappa}$ -invariants.

Extended $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

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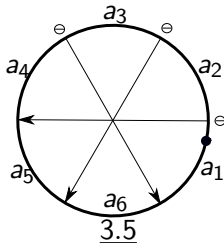
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The family of these residue classes are called the $\bar{\kappa}$ -invariants.

Theorem (C '20)

The $\bar{\kappa}$ -invariants are concordance invariants of virtual knots.

Example (3.5)



$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G} = \langle v, a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6 | & a_2 = \bar{v} a_1 v, \\ & a_3 = \bar{v} a_2 v, \\ & a_4 = \bar{v} a_3 v, \\ & a_5 = a_1 v a_4 \bar{v} \bar{a}_1, \\ & a_6 = a_2 v a_5 \bar{v} \bar{a}_2, \\ & a_1 = a_3 v a_6 \bar{v} \bar{a}_3 \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Example (3.5)

Calculating first non-vanishing $\overline{\mathfrak{K}}$ -invariants

- (1) Compute $\tilde{\lambda}^{(q)}$:

$$\tilde{\lambda}^{(4)} = v^2 \bar{a} \bar{v}^2 \bar{a} \bar{v}^2 \bar{a} v^2 a^3.$$

- (2) Write $\tilde{\lambda}^{(q)}$ as a product of commutators.

$$\tilde{\lambda}^{(4)} \equiv [[v, a], a]^4 [[v, a], v]^4 \mod F_4.$$

(e.g. via Hall's Basis Theorem)

- (3) Use properties of ϵ_J to calculate $\epsilon_J(\tilde{\lambda}^{(q)})$ recursively.

Example (3.5)

J	$\overline{\kappa}_J$
111	0
112	4
121	-8
211	4
122	-4
212	8
221	-4
222	0

Properties

Definition (Almost classical knot)

A virtual knot is said to be almost classical if it admits a homologically trivial representative in some $\Sigma \times I$ (i.e. bounds a Seifert surface).

Theorem (C '20)

If K is concordant to an almost classical knot, then all $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}$ -invariants of K are vanishing.

Theorem (C '20)

Let K be a virtual knot. If $\bar{\kappa}_J(K) = 0$ for all sequences J , then the generalized Alexander polynomial of K is trivial.

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Corollary (C '20)

Let K be a virtual knot. If $\bar{\kappa}_J(K) = 0$ for all sequences J , then the odd writhe, Henrich-Turaev polynomial, and affine index (or writhe) polynomial are all trivial.

Revisiting the unknown

K	Gauss code	length of $\widetilde{\lambda}^{(6)}$	$\widetilde{\lambda}^{(6)} \bmod F_6$
6.6589	01-02-03-04+U3-05+U4+06+U2-U1-U5+U6+	22	$g_{10}\bar{g}_{11}g_{12}\bar{g}_{13}$
6.7070	01+02-03-U2-04-U3-U5+U4-06+U1+05+U6+	792	$\bar{g}_{10}g_{11}$
6.15200	01+02+03-04+U3-05-06-U5-U1+U6-U4+U2+	20	$\bar{g}_{10}g_{11}g_{12}\bar{g}_{13}$
6.15952	01-02-U1-03-04+U3-U5+06+05+U6+U2-U4+	1120	$g_{10}\bar{g}_{11}\bar{g}_{12}g_{13}$
6.43763	01+U2+03+04-02+U4-05-U6-U1+U5-06-U3+	586	$\bar{g}_{10}g_{11}$
6.47172	01+02-03-04-U3-05+U2-U6+U1+U4-06+U5+	634	$g_{10}^2\bar{g}_{11}^2$
6.47512	01+02+03-04+U3-05-U2+U6-U1+U5-06-U4+	934	$\bar{g}_{10}^2g_{11}^2$
6.71848	01-02+03-U1-04-U2+05+U6+U4-U5+06+U3-	586	$g_{10}\bar{g}_{11}$
6.72431	01-02+03-U1-04-U3-05+U2+06+U5+U4-U6+	14	$g_{10}\bar{g}_{11}$
6.76251	01-02+03-U1-04-U5+06+U2+05+U6+U4-U3-	498	$g_{10}\bar{g}_{11}$
6.89218	01-02+U3+04+U2+03+U5-06-U1-05-U6-U4+	2278	$\bar{g}_{10}g_{11}$

Revisiting the unknown

The commutator basis used by *ANU NQ* is:

$$g_1 = a$$

$$g_2 = v$$

$$g_3 = [v, a]$$

$$g_4 = [v, a, a]$$

$$g_5 = [v, a, v]$$

$$g_6 = [v, a, a, a]$$

$$g_7 = [v, a, v, a]$$

$$g_8 = [v, a, v, v]$$

$$g_9 = [v, a, a, a, a]$$

$$g_{10} = [v, a, a, a, v]$$

$$g_{11} = [v, a, v, a, a]$$

$$g_{12} = [v, a, v, a, v]$$

$$g_{13} = [v, a, v, v, a]$$

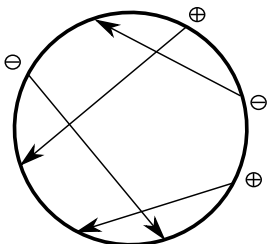
$$g_{14} = [v, a, v, v, v]$$

Revisiting the unknown

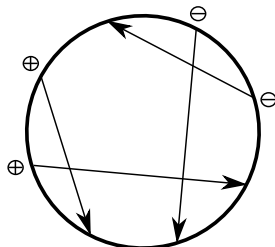
J	$\bar{\kappa}_J(K)$										
	6.6589	6.7070	6.15200	6.15952	6.43763	6.47172	6.47512	6.71848	6.72431	6.76251	6.89218
21111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21211	1	-1	-1	1	-1	2	-2	1	1	1	-1
22111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22121	1	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22211	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Beyond the first non-vanishing degree

These two knots have the same GAP, graded genus, slice genus, and $\bar{\mathcal{K}}$ -invariants up to degree 3.



4.19

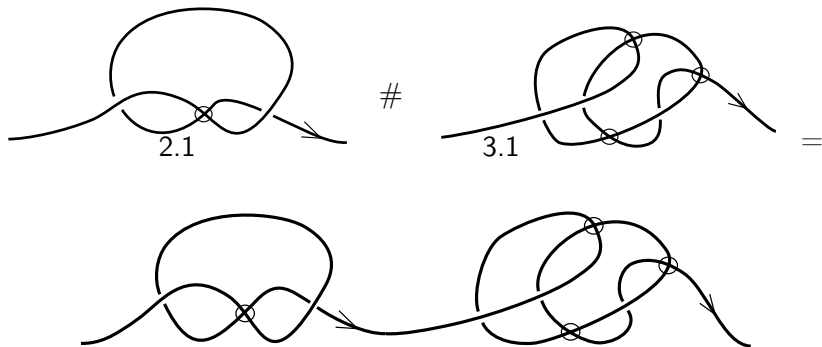


4.32

$$\begin{array}{llll} \bar{\mathcal{K}}_{2221}(K) \equiv 1 \pmod{2} & \bar{\mathcal{K}}_{2211}(K) \equiv 0 \pmod{2} & \bar{\mathcal{K}}_{2111}(K) \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \\ \bar{\mathcal{K}}_{2221}(K^*) \equiv 1 \pmod{2} & \bar{\mathcal{K}}_{2211}(K^*) \equiv 1 \pmod{2} & \bar{\mathcal{K}}_{2111}(K^*) \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \end{array}$$

Virtual knot concordance group

Concatenation



Definition & background

Virtual concordance group

$\mathcal{VC} := (\text{concordance classes of long virtual knots}, \#, 1 = \text{long unknot})$

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Theorem (Boden-Nagel '17)

The classical knot concordance group $\mathcal{C}$ embeds into $\mathcal{VC}$.

Definition & background

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Turaev '08

Question: “Is it abelian?”

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Virtual concordance group

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Turaev '08

Question: “Is it abelian?”

Theorem (Manturov '08)

Equivalence classes of long virtual knots are a non-commutative monoid.

Extended Artin representation

Theorem (C)

Let $\vec{K}$ be a long virtual knot, $\tilde{G} = \tilde{G}(\vec{K})$, and F the free group on a, v . For all $q \geq 2$, there is an isomorphism on nilpotent quotients:

$$\tilde{G}/\tilde{G}_q \xrightarrow{\cong} F/F_q.$$

Extended Artin representation

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Let $\vec{K}$ be a long virtual knot, $\tilde{G} = \tilde{G}(\vec{K})$, and F the free group on a, v . For all $q \geq 2$, there is an isomorphism on nilpotent quotients:

$$\tilde{G}/\tilde{G}_q \xrightarrow{\cong} F/F_q.$$

Following Habegger-Lin '98, we define:

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\mathbf{K}}^{(q)} : \mathcal{VC} &\rightarrow \text{Aut}(F/F_{q+1}) \\ A_{\mathbf{K}}^{(q)}(\vec{K})(v) &= v \\ A_{\mathbf{K}}^{(q)}(\vec{K})(a) &= \tilde{\lambda}^{(q)} a (\tilde{\lambda}^{(q)})^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (C '20)

$A_{\mathcal{K}}^{(q)}$ is a concordance invariant of long virtual knots.

Results on $\mathcal{VC}$

Theorem (C '20)

$A_{\mathcal{K}}^{(q)}$ is a concordance invariant of long virtual knots.

Theorem (C '20)

$\mathcal{VC}$ is not abelian.

Proof.

$$A_{\mathcal{K}}^{(8)}(2.1\#3.1) \neq A_{\mathcal{K}}^{(8)}(3.1\#2.1)$$



Results on $\mathcal{VC}$

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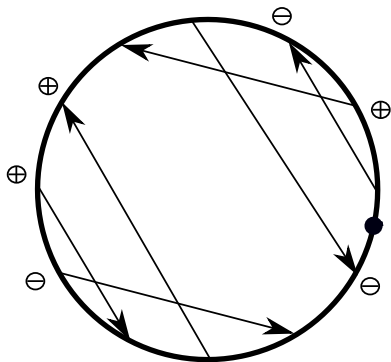


Corollary (C '20)

There exist non-concordant long virtual knots with concordant closure.

Twelfth knot

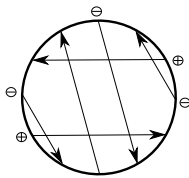
The extended Artin representation obstructs this v-knot from being slice.



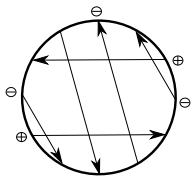
6.8451

Current unknown list

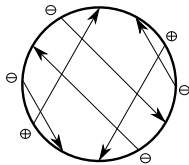
This leaves the following:



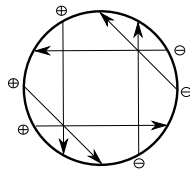
6.31445



6.52373



6.62002



6.86951

Why is it true?

Extended $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants

$\mathcal{K}$ = Bar-Natan's $\mathcal{K}$ map, Tube = Satoh's map.

Outline of proof

- First, a geometric realization:

$$\text{v-knots} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{K}} \text{w-links} \xrightarrow{\text{Tube}} \text{Ribbon torus links in } S^4$$

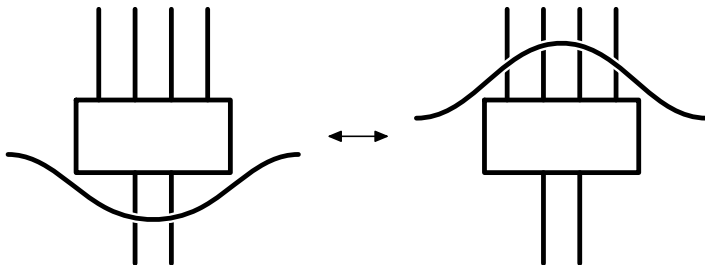
- These induce isomorphisms:

$$\tilde{G}(K) \cong G(\mathcal{K}(K)) \cong \pi_1(S^4 \setminus \text{Tube}(\mathcal{K}(K)), *)$$

- (Boden-C, '19) $\mathcal{K}$ is functorial under concordance.
- (Boden-C, '19) Tube is functorial under concordance.
- (C, '20) Generalize $\bar{\mu}$ -concordance invariants to welded links.
- The $\bar{\mu}$ -invariants are: Milnor+Tube+ $\mathcal{K}$.

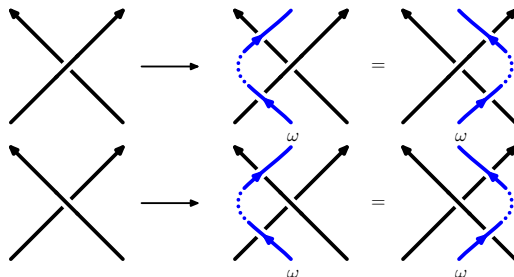
Welded knots and “overcrossings commute”

Welded knots $:= \frac{\text{virtual knots}}{\text{“overcrossings commute”}}.$



The Bar-Natan $\bowtie$ (“Zh”) map

Add a new component ω to make a semi-welded link.

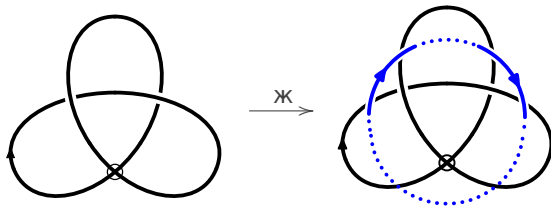


How to form the extra component ω

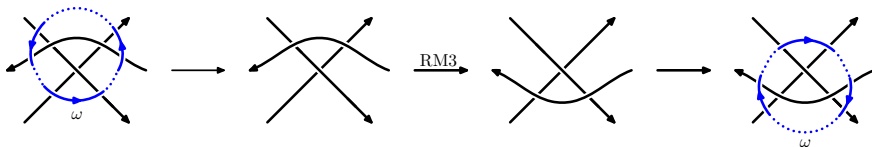
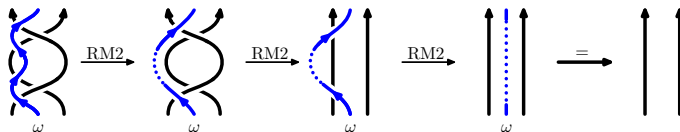
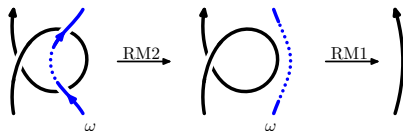
Glue together the arcs ends arbitrarily, new crossings are virtual.

This is well-defined since “overcrossings commute” in ω .

Example



Invariance under Reidemeister moves



Lemmas for $\mathbb{X}$

Lemma (Boden-C '19)

$\mathbb{X}$ maps concordant v -knots to concordant semi-welded links.

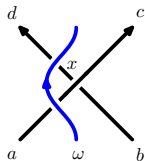
Lemmas for $\mathbb{K}$

Lemma (Boden-C '19)

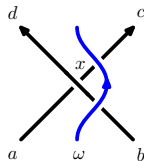
$\mathbb{K}$ maps concordant v -knots to concordant semi-welded links.

Lemma (Boden-C '19)

For all virtual knots K , $\widetilde{G}(K) \cong G(\mathbb{K}(K))$.

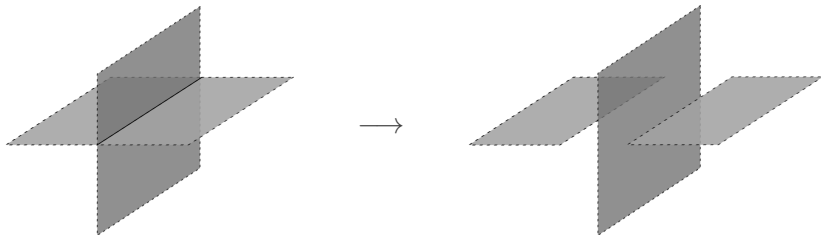


$$\begin{aligned} c &= \omega a \omega^{-1} \\ x &= c^{-1} b c \\ d &= \omega^{-1} x \omega = a^{-1} \omega^{-1} b \omega a \end{aligned}$$

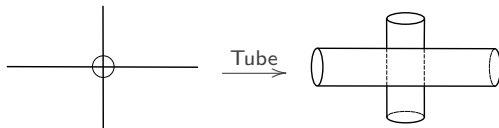
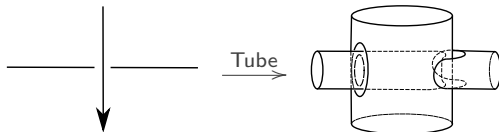


$$\begin{aligned} d &= \omega^{-1} b \omega \\ x &= d a d^{-1} \\ c &= \omega x \omega^{-1} = b \omega a \omega^{-1} b^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Satoh's Tube map I: Broken surface diagrams



Satoh's Tube map II: Definition



Properties of Tube

Theorem (Satoh '00)

L, L^ equivalent w -links $\implies \text{Tube}(L), \text{Tube}(L^*) \subset S^4$ are isotopic.*

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Theorem (Satoh '00)

For any welded link L ,

$$G(L) \cong \pi_1(S^4 \setminus \text{Tube}(L), *).$$

Concordance invariance of Tube

Definition (Torus Link Concordance)

A *concordance* of ribbon torus links $T_0, T_1 \subset S^4$ is a smooth proper embedding W in $S^4 \times I$ with finitely many components, each diffeomorphic to $(S^1 \times S^1) \times I$, and $W \cap (S^4 \times \{i\}) = T_i$ for $i = 0, 1$.

Theorem (Boden-C '19)

L, L^* concordant w -links $\implies \text{Tube}(L), \text{Tube}(L^*)$ concordant.

$\bar{\mu}$ -invariants for welded links

Lemma (C '20)

If L, L^ welded-concordant virtual links, Λ a concordance between $\text{Tube}(L), \text{Tube}(L^*)$, then:*

$$Q_q(\pi_1(S^4 \setminus T)) \cong Q_q(\pi_1(S^4 \times I \setminus \Lambda)) \cong Q_q(\pi_1(S^4 \setminus T^*))$$

$$Q_q(G(L)) \cong Q_q(\pi_1(S^4 \times I \setminus \Lambda)) \cong Q_q(G(L^*))$$

and the isomorphisms preserve longitude words. Here $Q_q(A)$ denotes the q -th nilpotent quotient of A .

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Proof.

Apply Stallings's theorem.



$\bar{\mu}$ -invariants for welded links

Theorem (C '20)

If L, L^ are welded-concordant virtual links (or concordant ribbon torus links in S^4), then for all sequences J with $|J| \geq 2$:*

$$\bar{\mu}_J(L) \equiv \bar{\mu}_J(L^*) \pmod{\Delta_J}.$$

All together now

Recall that each map is functorial under concordance

$$\text{v-knots} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{K}} \text{w-links} \xrightarrow{\text{Tube}} \text{Ribbon torus links in } S^4$$

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All together now

Recall that each map is functorial under concordance

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$\therefore \bar{\mathbb{K}}$ -invariants are concordance invariants of v-knots.

Thank you!