There ought to be a "Conway" (single variable) quotient of Zw!

Is there an "on surface" version of the w-theory.

It is curious that in w-theory, tail scattering is Aleksuv—Torossian while head scattering is Burau. — Perhaps I should study head scattering a bit further.

There is material about the Burau/Gassner representation for pure tangles at

**The Gassner representation for string links**

Authors: P. Kirk, C. Livingston, Z. Wang

Pasted from <http://arxiv.org/abs/math/9806035>

Challenge - use the interpretation of the Burau/Gassner representation as head scattering to develop an interpretation of the Alexander polynomial as an "element" rather than as an "order".