

Test on projector!

Improve PNG resolution!

consider doing topology before algebra, after all.

underline

**Trees and Wheels and Balloons and Hoops**  
Dror Bar-Natan, Toronto, March 2013  
[www.math.toronto.edu/~drorbn/Talks/Toronto-1303](http://www.math.toronto.edu/~drorbn/Talks/Toronto-1303)

15 Minutes on Algebra *wk up*

Let  $T$  be a finite set of "tail labels" and  $H$  a finite set of "head labels". Set

$$M_{1/2}(T; H) := FL(T)^H,$$

" $H$ -labeled lists of elements of the degree-completed free Lie algebra generated by  $T$ ".

$$FL(T) = \left\{ 2t_2 - \frac{1}{2}[t_1, [t_1, t_2]] + \dots \right\} / \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{anti-symmetry} \\ \text{Jacobi} \end{array} \right)$$

... with the obvious bracket.

$$M_{1/2}(u, v; x, y) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} u \quad v \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ x \end{array}, y \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} v \quad u \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ y \end{array} \end{array} \right\}$$

**Operations  $M_{1/2} \rightarrow M_{1/2}$ .** *newspeak!*

**Tail Multiply  $tm_w^{uv}$**  is  $\lambda \mapsto \lambda \parallel (u, v \rightarrow w)$ , satisfies "meta-associativity",  $tm_w^{uv} \parallel tm_w^{xy} = tm_w^{vxy} \parallel tm_w^{ux}$ .

**Head Multiply  $hm_z^{xy}$**  is  $\lambda \mapsto (\lambda \setminus \{x, y\}) \cup (z \rightarrow \text{bch}(\lambda_x, \lambda_y))$ , where

$$\text{bch}(\alpha, \beta) := \log(e^\alpha e^\beta) = \alpha + \beta + \frac{[\alpha, \beta]}{2} + \frac{[\alpha, [\alpha, \beta]] + [[\alpha, \beta], \beta]}{12} + \dots$$

satisfies  $\text{bch}(\text{bch}(\alpha, \beta), \gamma) = \log(e^{\text{bch}(\alpha, \beta)} e^\gamma) = \text{bch}(\alpha, \text{bch}(\beta, \gamma))$  and hence meta-associativity,  $hm_z^{xy} \parallel hm_z^{uv} = hm_z^{xyu} \parallel hm_z^{xv}$ .

**Tail by Head Action  $tha^{ux}$**  is  $\lambda \mapsto \lambda \parallel RC_u^{\lambda_x}$ , where  $C_u^{-\gamma}: FL \rightarrow FL$  is the substitution  $u \rightarrow e^{-\gamma} u e^\gamma$ , or more precisely,

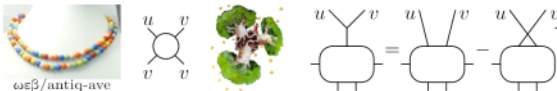
$$C_u^{-\gamma}: u \rightarrow e^{-\text{ad } \gamma}(u) = u - [\gamma, u] + \frac{1}{2}[\gamma, [\gamma, u]] - \dots,$$

and  $RC_u^\gamma$  is the inverse of that. Note that  $C_u^{\text{bch}(\alpha, \beta)} = C_u^\alpha \parallel RC_u^\beta \parallel C_u^\alpha$  and hence "meta  $u^{xy} = (u^x)^y$ ",

$$hm_z^{xy} \parallel tha^{uz} = tha^{ux} \parallel tha^{uy} \parallel hm_z^{xy},$$

and  $tm_w^{uv} \parallel C_u^\gamma \parallel tm_w^{uv} = C_u^\gamma \parallel RC_u^\gamma \parallel C_u^\gamma \parallel tm_w^{uv}$  and hence "meta  $(uv)^x = u^x v^x$ ",  $tm_w^{uv} \parallel tha^{wx} = tha^{ux} \parallel tha^{vx} \parallel tm_w^{uv}$ .

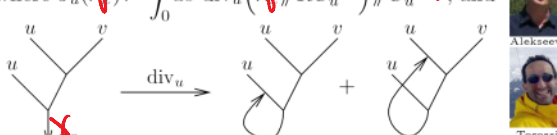
**Wheels.** Let  $M(T; H) := M_{1/2}(T; H) \times CW(T)$ , where  $CW(T)$  is the (completed graded) vector space of cyclic words on  $T$ , or equally well, on  $FL(T)$ :



**Operations.** On  $M(T; H)$ , define  $tm_w^{uv}$  and  $hm_z^{xy}$  as before, and  $tha^{ux}$  by adding some spice:

$$(\lambda; \omega) \mapsto (\lambda, \omega + J_u(\lambda_x)) \parallel RC_u^{\lambda_x},$$

where  $J_u(\lambda) := \int_0^1 ds \text{div}_u(\lambda) \parallel RC_u^{s\lambda}$  and

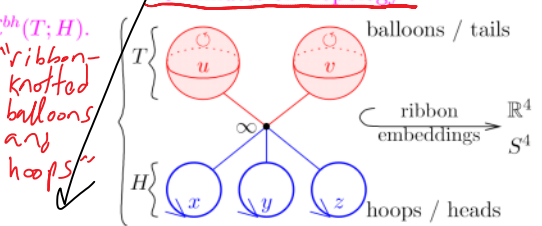


**Theorem Green.** All green identities still hold.

**Merge Operation.**  $(\lambda_1; \omega_1) * (\lambda_2; \omega_2) := (\lambda_1 \cup \lambda_2; \omega_1 + \omega_2)$ .

15 Minutes on Topology *wk up*

Let  $T$  be a finite set of balloon labels &  $H$  a finite set of hoop labels, set

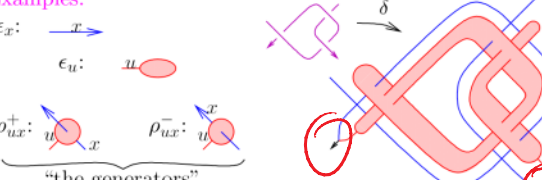


$\mathcal{K}^{bh}(T; H)$ : "ribbon-knotted balloons any hoops"

balloons / tails  $\xrightarrow{\text{ribbon embeddings}} \mathbb{R}^4 / S^1$

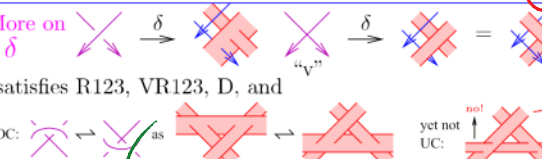
hoops / heads

**Examples.**



"the generators"

**More on  $\delta$**



satisfies R123, VR123, D, and

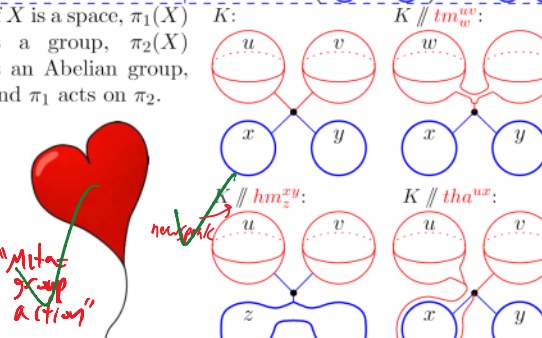
oc:  $\begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}$  as  $\begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}$  yet not UC:  $\begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}$

- $\delta$  injects v-knots into  $\mathcal{K}^{bh}$  (likely u-tangles too).
- $\delta$  maps v-tangles to  $\mathcal{K}^{bh}$ ; the kernel is as above, and conjecturally, that's all. Allowing punctures and cuts,  $\delta$  is onto.

**Operations** Connected Sums.  $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{balloon} \\ \text{hoop} \end{array} \right) * \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{balloon} \\ \text{hoop} \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{connected sum} \\ \text{hoop} \end{array} \right)$

**Punctures & Cuts**  $K: \begin{array}{c} u \quad v \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ x \quad y \end{array} \rightarrow K \parallel tm_w^{uv}$

If  $X$  is a space,  $\pi_1(X)$  is a group,  $\pi_2(X)$  is an Abelian group, and  $\pi_1$  acts on  $\pi_2$ .

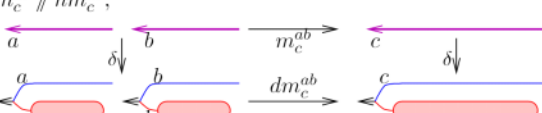


$\parallel hm_z^{xy}$ :  $\begin{array}{c} u \quad v \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ x \quad y \end{array} \rightarrow K \parallel tha^{ux}$

**Properties.**

- Associativities:  $m_a^{ab} \parallel m_a^{ac} = m_b^{bc} \parallel m_a^{ab}$ , for  $m = tm, hm$ .
- Action ~~isom~~:  $tm_w^{uv} \parallel tha^{wx} = tha^{ux} \parallel tha^{vx} \parallel tm_w^{uv}$ .
- Action ~~isom~~:  $hm_z^{xy} \parallel tha^{uz} = tha^{ux} \parallel tha^{uy} \parallel hm_z^{xy}$ .

**Tangle concatenations  $\rightarrow \pi_1 \times \pi_2$ .** With  $dm_c^{ab} := tha^{ab} \parallel tm_c^{ab} \parallel hm_c^{ab}$ ,



**Moral.** To construct an  $M$ -valued invariant  $\zeta$  of (v-)tangles, and nearly an invariant on  $\mathcal{K}^{bh}$ , it is enough to declare  $\zeta$  on the generators, and verify the relations that  $\delta$  satisfies.

underline

purple

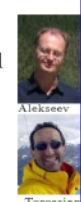
VC

underline

$(uv)^x = u^x v^x$   
 $u^{(xy)} = (u^x)^y$



"Mittas 3-cup a (fian)"



**Trees and Wheels and Balloons and Hoops: Why I Care**

**The Invariant  $\zeta$ .** Set  $\zeta(\epsilon_x) = (x \rightarrow 0; 0)$ ,  $\zeta(\epsilon_u) = (( ); 0)$ , and

$$\zeta: \begin{array}{c} \text{tree} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{wheel} \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c} u \\ \downarrow \\ x \end{array}; 0 \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{tree} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{hoop} \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c} u \\ \downarrow \\ x \end{array}; 0$$

**Theorem.**  $\zeta$  is (log of) the unique homomorphic universal finite type invariant on  $\mathcal{K}^{bh}$  (... and is the tip of an iceberg)

**The  $\beta$  quotient** is  $M$  divided by all relations that hold when  $\mathfrak{g}$  is the 2D non-Abelian Lie algebra. Let  $R = \mathbb{Q}[\{c_u\}_{u \in T}]$  and  $L_\beta := R \otimes T$  with central  $R$  and with  $[u, v] = c_u v - c_v u$  for  $u, v \in T$ . Then  $FL \rightarrow L_\beta$  and  $CW \rightarrow R$ . Under this,

$$\mu \rightarrow ((\lambda_x); \omega) \quad \text{with } \lambda_x = \sum_{u \in T} \lambda_{ux} u x, \quad \lambda_{ux}, \omega \in R,$$

$$\text{bch}(u, v) \rightarrow \frac{c_u + c_v}{e^{c_u + c_v} - 1} \left( \frac{e^{c_v} - 1}{c_v} u + e^{c_u} \frac{e^{c_v} - 1}{c_v} v \right),$$

if  $\chi = \sum \chi_v v$  then with  $\chi := \sum \chi_v c_v$ ,  
 $u // RC_u^\chi = \left( 1 + c_u \lambda_u \frac{e^\chi - 1}{\chi} \right)^{-1} \left( e^\chi u - c_u \frac{e^\chi - 1}{\chi} \sum_{v \neq u} \chi_v v \right)$   
 $\text{div}_u \chi = c_u \chi_u$ , and  $J_u(\chi) = \log \left( 1 + \frac{e^\chi - 1}{\chi} c_u \lambda_u \right)$ , so  $\zeta$  is formula-computable to all orders! **Can we simplify?**

**Repackaging.** Given  $((x \rightarrow \lambda_{ux}); \omega)$ , set  $c_x := \sum_v c_v \lambda_{vx}$ , replace  $\lambda_{ux} \rightarrow \alpha_{ux} := c_u \lambda_{ux} \frac{e^{c_x} - 1}{c_x}$  and  $\omega \rightarrow e^\omega$ , use  $t_u = e^{c_u}$ , and write  $\alpha_{ux}$  as a matrix. Get " **$\beta$  calculus**".

**$\beta$  Calculus.** Let  $\beta(H, T)$  be

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c|ccc} \omega & x & y & \dots \\ u & \alpha_{ux} & \alpha_{uy} & \dots \\ v & \alpha_{vx} & \alpha_{vy} & \dots \\ \vdots & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} \omega \text{ and the } \alpha_{ux} \text{'s are} \\ \text{rational functions in} \\ \text{variables } t_u, \text{ one for} \\ \text{each } u \in T. \end{array} \right\}$$

$$tm_{uv}^{ux} : \begin{array}{c|c} \omega & \dots \\ u & \alpha \\ v & \beta \\ \vdots & \gamma \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c|c} \omega & \dots \\ w & \alpha + \beta \\ \vdots & \gamma \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c|cc} \omega_1 & H_1 & \omega_2 & H_2 \\ T_1 & \alpha_1 & T_2 & \alpha_2 \\ \omega_1 \omega_2 & H_1 & H_2 & \\ T_1 & \alpha_1 & 0 & \\ T_2 & 0 & \alpha_2 & \end{array}$$

$$hm_z^{xy} : \begin{array}{c|ccc} \omega & x & y & \dots \\ \vdots & \alpha & \beta & \gamma \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c|c} \omega & z & \dots \\ \vdots & \alpha + \beta + \langle \alpha \rangle \beta & \gamma \end{array}$$

$$tha_{ux}^{ux} : \begin{array}{c|ccc} \omega & x & \dots & \omega \epsilon \\ u & \alpha & \beta & \vdots \\ \vdots & \gamma & \delta & \vdots \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c|cc} \omega \epsilon & x & \dots \\ u & \alpha(1 + \langle \gamma \rangle / \epsilon) & \beta(1 + \langle \gamma \rangle / \epsilon) \\ \vdots & \gamma / \epsilon & \delta - \gamma \beta / \epsilon \end{array}$$

where  $\epsilon := 1 + \alpha$ ,  $\langle \alpha \rangle := \sum_v \alpha_v$ , and  $\langle \gamma \rangle := \sum_{v \neq u} \gamma_v$ , and let

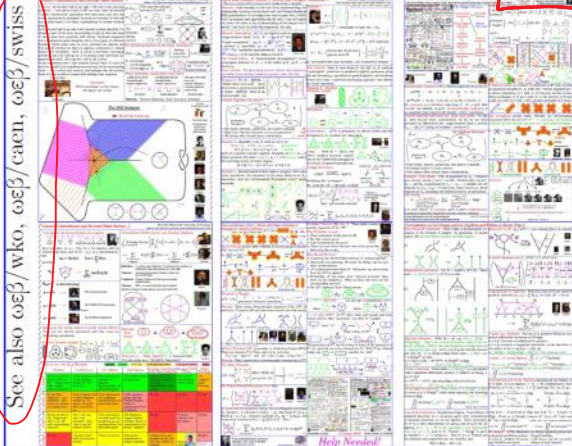
$$R_{ux}^+ := \frac{1}{u} \left| \begin{array}{c} x \\ t_u - 1 \end{array} \right. \quad R_{ux}^- := \frac{1}{u} \left| \begin{array}{c} x \\ t_u^{-1} - 1 \end{array} \right.$$

On long knots,  $\omega$  is the Alexander polynomial!

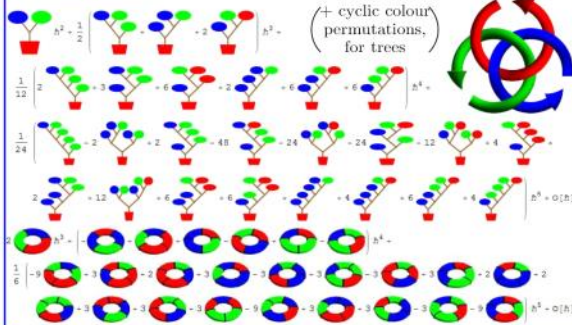
**Why happy?** An ultimate Alexander invariant: Manifestly polynomial (time and size) extension of the (multivariable) Alexander polynomial to tangles. Every step of the computation is the computation of the invariant of some topological thing (no fishy Gaussian elimination!). *If there should be an Alexander invariant with an algebraic categorification, it is this one!* See also  $\omega\epsilon\beta$ /regina,  $\omega\epsilon\beta$ /gwu.

"God created the knots, all else in topology is the work of mortals."  
 Leopold Kronecker (modified) [www.katlas.org](http://www.katlas.org) The *tree-foam* invariant

Paper in progress:  $\omega\epsilon\beta$ /kbh Class next year:  $\omega\epsilon\beta$ /1350



$\zeta$  is computable!  $\zeta$  of the Borromean tangle, to degree 5:



**Tensorial Interpretation.** Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a finite dimensional Lie algebra (any!). Then there's  $\tau : FL(T) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\oplus_T \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g})$  and  $\tau : CW(T) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\oplus_T \mathfrak{g})$ . Together,  $\tau : M(T; H) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\oplus_T \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \oplus_H \mathfrak{g})$ , and hence  $e^\tau : M(T; H) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\oplus_T \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}^{\otimes H}(\mathfrak{g}))$ .

**$\zeta$  and BF Theory.** (See Cattaneo-Rossi, arXiv:math-ph/0210037) Let  $A$  denote a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -connection on  $S^4$  with curvature  $F_A$ , and  $B$  a  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ -valued 2-form on  $S^4$ . For a hoop  $\gamma_x$ , let  $\text{hol}_{\gamma_x}(A) \in \mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})$  be the holonomy of  $A$  along  $\gamma_x$ . For a ball  $\gamma_u$ , let  $\mathcal{O}_{\gamma_u}(B) \in \mathfrak{g}^*$  be (roughly) the integral of  $B$  (transported via  $A$  to  $\infty$ ) on  $\gamma_u$ .

**Loose Conjecture.** For  $\gamma \in \mathcal{K}(T; H)$ ,

$$\int \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{D}B e^{\int B \wedge F_A} \prod_u e^{\mathcal{O}_{\gamma_u}(B)} \otimes_x \text{hol}_{\gamma_x}(A) = e^\tau(\zeta(\gamma)).$$

That is,  $\zeta$  is a complete evaluation of the BF TQFT.  
~~Issues: How does the ribbon condition arise? Or if it doesn't, could it be that  $\zeta$  can be generalized??~~



Cattaneo



Leopold Kronecker (modified)

update

See also  $\omega\epsilon\beta$ /wko,  $\omega\epsilon\beta$ /caen,  $\omega\epsilon\beta$ /swiss

$\omega\epsilon\beta$ /kbh

Story time wake up!

universally

update

May class:  $\omega\epsilon\beta$ /karhus

Say something explicit about AT-KV?

Insert  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  ✓