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POLY-TIME KNOT POLYNOMIALS VIA SOLVABLE APPROXIMATIONS

DROR BAR-NATAN AND ROLAND VAN DER VEEN

ABSTRACT. Following Rozansky [Ro1, Ro2, Ro3] and Overbay [Ov], we construct the first poly-time-computable knot polynomials since Alexander's [Al, 1928]. We use some new commutator-calculus techniques and a family of Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}_k which are solvable yet at the same time progressively better approximations of the simple Lie algebra sl_2 . The resulting invariants are the strongest genuinely-computable knot invariants. Presently available, and they seem to contain information about some classical topologically-defined knot invariants.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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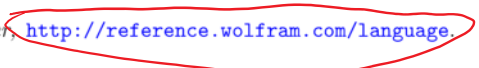

Key words and phrases. knots, tangles, knot polynomials, Lie algebras, Lie bialgebras.


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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, TORONTO ONTARIO M5S 2E4, CANADA
 E-mail address: drorbn@math.toronto.edu
 URL: <http://www.math.toronto.edu/~drorbn> 

MATHEMATISCH INSTITUUT, UNIVERSITEIT LEIDEN, NIELS BOHRWEG 1, 2333 CA LEIDEN, THE NETHERLANDS
 E-mail address: roland.mathematics@gmail.com
 URL: <http://www.rolandvdv.nl/>

Plan.

Introduction. The "algebras to invariants" story (minus cuaps) and its deficiencies. "Spaces of formulas" and meta-algebras. Solvable approximations and realization within thus. Section by section summary. Acknowledgement.

The First Example: Algorithm Only. Elves/yaks following Talks/GWU-1612.

The Zeroth Example in Detail. g_0 and the Alexander polynomial, with full derivations.

The Lie Algebra \mathfrak{g}_β and its Quantization. Following Doubling.nb. (Also comment on 2-parameter quantum groups).

The General \mathfrak{g}_k Invariant. Following Double.nb and more.

Tables and Experimental Results.

Odds and Ends.