


Solve the PgUp/PgDn HandoutBrowser bug!

changes will change!

Dror Bar-Natan: Talks: Indiana-1611: (thanks for accepting my invitation!) <http://drorbn.net/Indiana-1611> 

### A Poly-Time Knot Polynomial Via Solvable Approximation

**Abstract.** Rozansky [Ro2] and Overbay [Ov] described a **spectacular** knot polynomial that failed to attract the attention it deserved as the first poly-time-computable knot polynomial since Alexander's [Al, 1928] and (in my opinion) as the second most likely knot polynomial (after Alexander's) to carry topological information. With Roland van der Veen, I will explain how to compute the Rozansky polynomial using some new commutator-calculus techniques and a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_1$  which is at the same time solvable and an approximation of the simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ .

**Theorem** ([BNG], conjectured [MM], elucidated [Ro1]). Let  $J_d(K)$  be the coloured Jones polynomial of  $K$ , in the  $d$ -dimensional representation of  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ . Writing

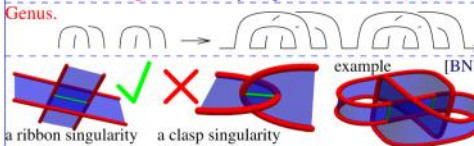
$$\left. \frac{(q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2}) J_d(K)}{q^{d/2} - q^{-d/2}} \right|_{q=e^h} = \sum_{j,m \geq 0} a_{jm}(K) d^j h^m,$$

"below diagonal" coefficients vanish,  $a_{jm}(K) = 0$  if  $j > m$ , and "on diagonal" coefficients give the inverse of the Alexander polynomial:  $(\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_{mm}(K) h^m) \cdot A(K)(e^h) = 1$ .

"Above diagonal" we have **Rozansky's Theorem** [Ro3, (1.2)]:

$$J_d(K)(q) = \frac{q^d - q^{-d}}{(q - q^{-1}) A(K)(q^d)} \left( 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(q-1)^k R_k(K)(q^d)}{A^{2k}(K)(q^d)} \right).$$

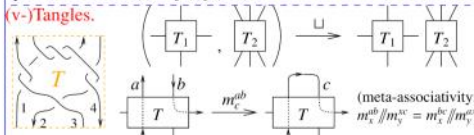
**Why "spectacular"?** Foremost reason: **OBVIOUSLY**. Cf. proving (incomputable  $A$ )=(incomputable  $B$ ), or categorifying (incomputable  $C$ ). Also, will bound **genus** and may disprove **(ribbon) = (slice)**.

**Genus.**  example [BN2]  
 a ribbon singularity    a clasp singularity

**A bit about ribbon knots.** A "ribbon knot" is a knot that can be presented as the boundary of a disk that has "ribbon singularities", but no "clasp singularities". A "slice knot" is a knot in  $S^3 = \partial B^4$  which is the boundary of a non-singular disk in  $B^4$ . Every ribbon knot is clearly slice, yet.

**Conjecture.** Some slice knots are not ribbon.

**Fox-Milnor.** The Alexander polynomial of a ribbon knot is always of the form  $A(t) = f(t)f(1/t)$ . (also for slice)

**(v-)Tangles.** 

**Algebras and Invariants.** Given any unital algebra  $A$  (even better if  $A$  is Hopf; typically,  $A \sim \hat{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ ), appropriate orange  $R \in A \otimes A$ , and appropriate cuaps  $\in A$ , get an  $A^{\otimes S}$ -valued invariant of pure  $S$ -component tangles:


**Good News.** In theory, enough to know  $R$ , the cuaps, and stitching/multiplication  $m_i^j: A_i \otimes A_j \rightarrow A_k$ .

**Problem.** Extract information out of  $Z$ .

**Textbook Solution.** Use representation theory ... works, slowly.

**Today's Solution** (with van der Veen). For some specific  $\mathfrak{g}$ 's, work in a space of "formulas of a specific type" for elements of  $\hat{U}(\mathfrak{g})^{\otimes S}$ :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ordered perturbed} \\ \text{Gaussian formulas} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \hat{U}(\mathfrak{g})^{\otimes S}$$

van der Veen 

Leopold Kronecker (modified) [www.katlas.org](http://www.katlas.org) 

bring to front?



$$z_2 = R_{1,14}^1 R_{5,2}^1 n_{r_3} u_{1,4} R_{19,6}^1 R_{7,10}^1 n_{1,8} u_{r_9} R_{11,20}^1$$

$$n_{r_{12}} u_{1,13} R_{15,18}^1 n_{1,16} u_{r_{17}};$$

(Do  $[z_2 = z_2 // m_{1,k-1}, \{k, 2, 20\}]$ ;  
 $z_2 = z_2 / . a_{-1} \rightarrow a$ )

The 0-Framed Trefoil



$$E[-1 + \frac{1}{t} + t, \theta, \theta,$$

$$-16 - \frac{9c}{2} - \frac{2c}{t^4} + \frac{1}{t^3} + \frac{11c}{2t^2} - \frac{4}{t^2} - \frac{8c}{t^2} + \frac{10}{t} + \frac{4c}{t} + 18t -$$

$$10ct - 14t^2 + 8ct^2 + 7t^3 - \frac{3ct^3}{2} - 2t^4 - 2ct^4 +$$

$$2ct^5 - \frac{ct^6}{2} - 4uw + \frac{2uw}{t^4} - \frac{7uw}{2t^3} + \frac{9uw}{2t^2} + \frac{uw}{2t} +$$

$$6t^2uw - 2t^2uw - \frac{1}{2}t^3uw + \frac{3}{2}t^4uw - \frac{1}{2}t^5uw]$$

**Questions and To Do List.** • Clean up and write up. • Implement well, compute for everything in sight. • Why are our quantities polynomials rather than just rational functions? • Bounds on their degrees? • Their integrality ( $\mathbb{Z}$ ) properties? • Can everything be re-stated using integrals ( $\int$ )? • Find the 2-variable version (for knots). How complex is it? • What about links / closed components? • Fully digest the “expansion” theorem; include cuaps. • Explore the (non-)dependence on  $R$ . • Is there a canonical  $R$ ? • What does “group like” mean? • Strand removal? Strand doubling? Strand reversal? • Say something about knot genus. • Find the EK/AT/KV “vertex”. • Use as a playground to study associators/braidors. • Restate in topological language. • Study the associated ( $v$ -)braid representations. • Study mirror images and the  $b^* \leftrightarrow b$  involution. • Study ribbon knots. • Make precise the relationship with  $\Gamma$ -calculus and Alexander. • Relate to the coloured Jones polynomial. • Relate with “ordinary”  $q$ -algebra. •  $k$ -smidgen  $sl_n$ , etc. • Are there “solvable” CYBE algebras not arising from semi-simple algebras? • Categorify and appease the Gods.

Help Needed!

~~Disclaimer: This is all quite new. The overall picture is correct, but many pieces are certainly not in their final form yet.~~

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diagram	$n_i^c$ Alexander’s A, Today’s / Rozansky’s $\rho_i^c$	genus / ribbon unknotting number / amphicheiral	diagram	$n_i^c$ Alexander’s A, Today’s / Rozansky’s $\rho_i^c$	genus / ribbon unknotting number / amphicheiral
	$0_i^c$ 1 0	0 / ✓ 0 / ✓		$3_i^c$ $t - 1$ $t$	1 / ✗ 1 / ✗
	$4_i^c$ $3 - t$ 0	1 / ✗ 1 / ✓		$5_i^c$ $t^2 - t + 1$ $2t^3 + 3t$	2 / ✗ 2 / ✗
	$5_i^c$ $2t - 3$ $5t - 4$	1 / ✗ 1 / ✗		$6_i^c$ $5 - 2t$ $t - 4$	1 / ✓ 1 / ✗
	$6_i^c$ $-t^2 + 3t - 3$ $t^3 - 4t^2 + 4t - 4$	2 / ✗ 1 / ✗		$6_i^c$ $t^2 - 3t + 5$ 0	2 / ✗ 1 / ✓
	$7_i^c$ $t^3 - t^2 + t - 1$ $3t^3 + 5t^2 + 6t$	3 / ✗ 3 / ✗		$7_i^c$ $3t - 5$ $14t - 16$	1 / ✗ 1 / ✗
	$7_i^c$ $2t^2 - 3t + 3$ $-9t^3 + 8t^2 - 16t + 12$	2 / ✗ 2 / ✗		$7_i^c$ $4t - 7$ $32 - 24t$	1 / ✗ 2 / ✗
	$7_i^c$ $2t^2 - 4t + 5$ $9t^3 - 16t^2 + 29t - 28$	2 / ✗ 2 / ✗		$7_i^c$ $-t^2 + 5t - 7$ $t^3 - 8t^2 + 19t - 20$	2 / ✗ 1 / ✗
	$7_i^c$ $t^2 - 5t + 9$ $8 - 3t$	2 / ✗ 1 / ✗		$8_i^c$ $7 - 3t$ $5t - 16$	1 / ✗ 1 / ✗
	$8_i^c$ $-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 3$ $2t^3 - 8t^2 + 10t^3 - 12t^2 + 13t - 12$	3 / ✗ 2 / ✗		$8_i^c$ $9 - 4t$ 0	1 / ✗ 2 / ✓
	$8_i^c$ $-2t^2 + 5t - 5$ $3t^3 - 8t^2 + 6t - 4$	2 / ✗ 2 / ✗		$8_i^c$ $-t^3 + 3t^2 - 4t + 5$ $-2t^3 + 8t^2 - 13t^3 + 20t^2 - 22t + 24$	3 / ✗ 2 / ✗
	$8_i^c$ $-2t^2 + 6t - 7$ $5t^3 - 20t^2 + 28t - 32$	2 / ✗ 2 / ✗		$8_i^c$ $t^3 - 3t^2 + 5t - 5$ $-t^3 + 4t^2 - 10t^3 + 12t^2 - 13t + 12$	3 / ✗ 1 / ✗