

z1 = R_{θ,12,1}⁻ R_{θ,2,7}⁻ R_{θ,8,3}⁻ R_{θ,4,11}⁻ R_{θ,16,5}⁺ R_{θ,6,13}⁺ R_{θ,14,9}⁺ R_{θ,10,15}⁺;

Do [z1 = (z1 // m_{1,n→1}) /. b_ → b, {n, 2, 16}];

{CF@z1, KnotData[{8, 17}, "AlexanderPolynomial"][t]}

$$\left\{ -\frac{e^{3b} \mathbb{E}[\theta]}{1 - 4e^b + 8e^{2b} - 11e^{3b} + 8e^{4b} - 4e^{5b} + e^{6b}}, 11 - \frac{1}{t^3} + \frac{4}{t^2} - \frac{8}{t} - 8t + 4t^2 - t^3 \right\}$$