



**The Abdus Salam  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



**2034-31**

**Advanced School and Conference on Knot Theory and its  
Applications to Physics and Biology**

*11 - 29 May 2009*

**Vassiliev invariants**

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Advanced School and Conference on Knot Theory and its Applications to Physics and  
Biology

## **Vassiliev invariants**

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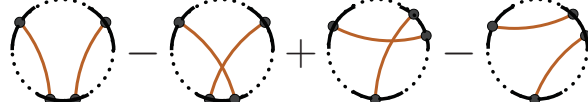
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Vassiliev skein relation:  $v(\text{crossing}) = v(\text{smooth}) - v(\text{smooth})$

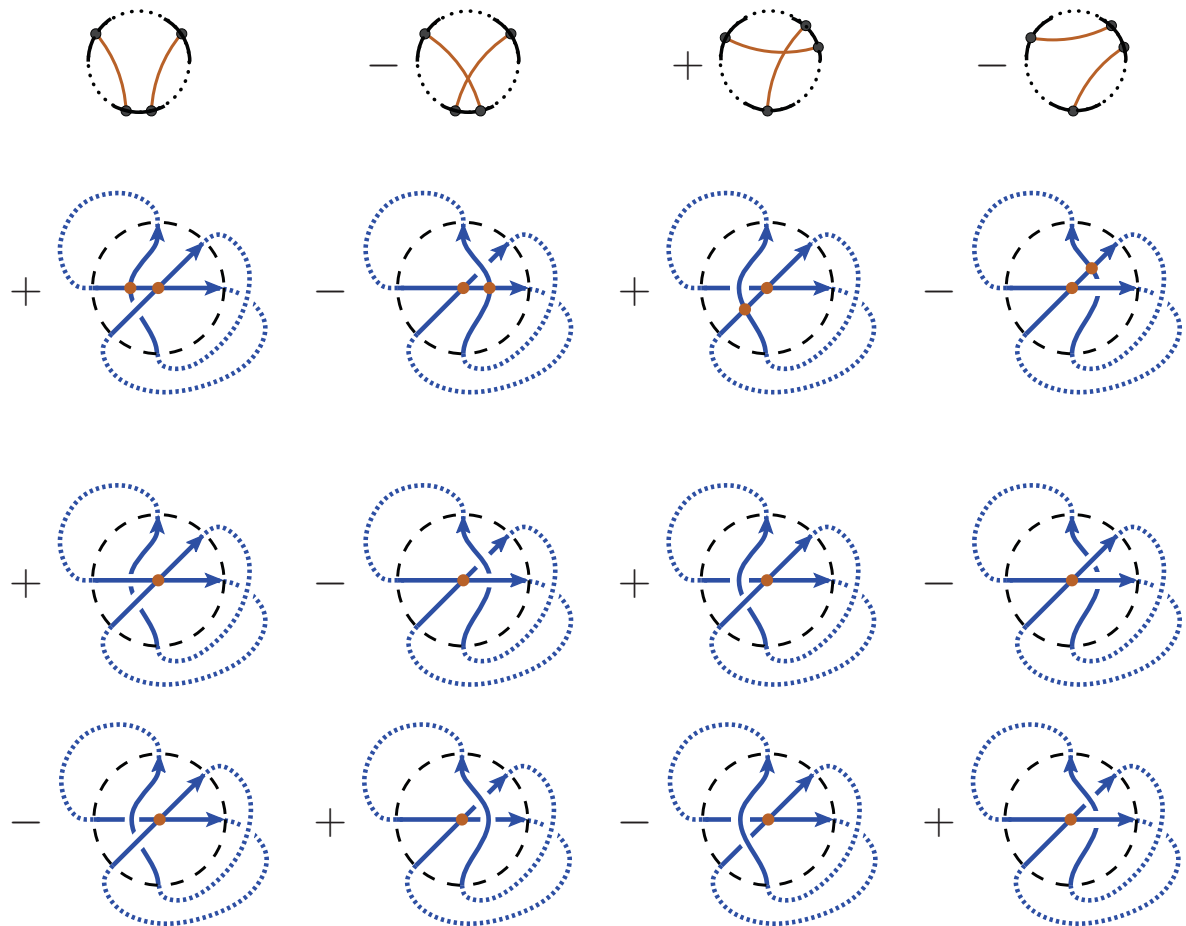
**Def.** Vassiliev invariant of order  $\leq n$ :  $v|_{\mathcal{K}_{n+1}} \equiv 0$ .

$\mathcal{V}_n := \{\text{Vassiliev invariants of order } \leq n\}$ .  $\text{symb}(v) := v|_{\mathcal{K}_n}$

$$\mathcal{V}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{V}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{V}_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq \mathcal{V}_n \subseteq \dots \subseteq \dots$$

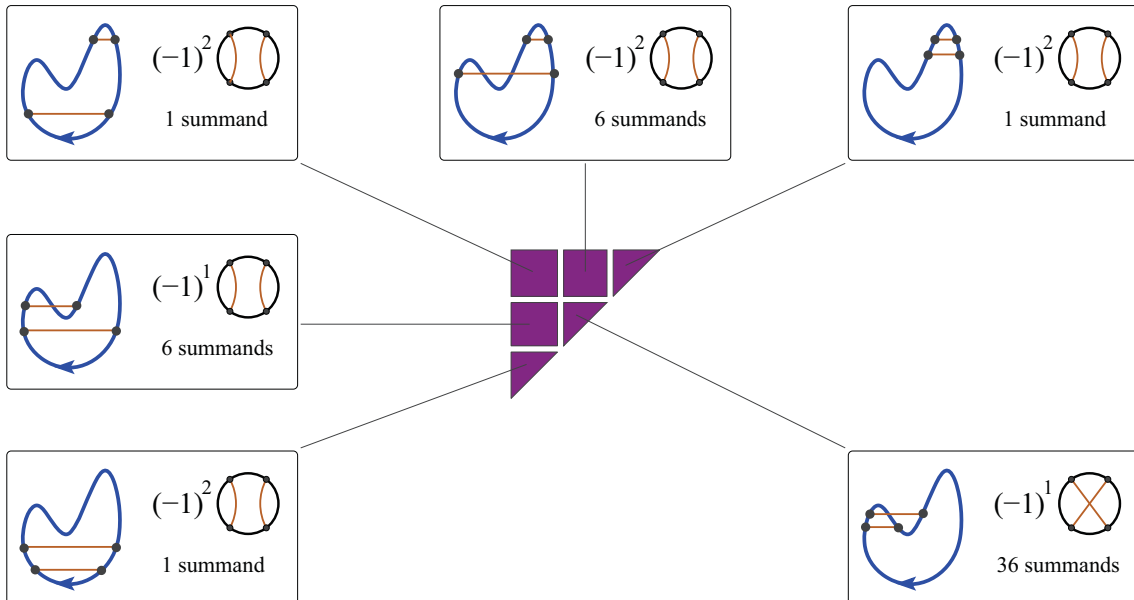
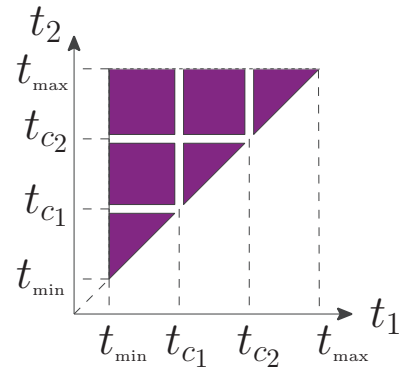
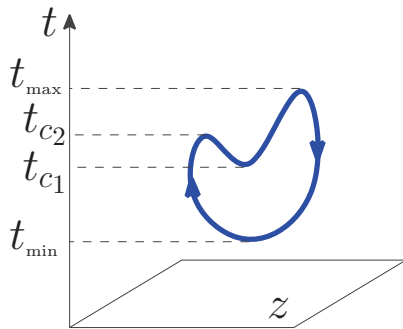
**1T:**  = 0;      **4T:**  = 0

$$\mathcal{A}_n := \text{span}(\text{chord diagrams with } n \text{ chords}) / (1\text{T}, 4\text{T})$$



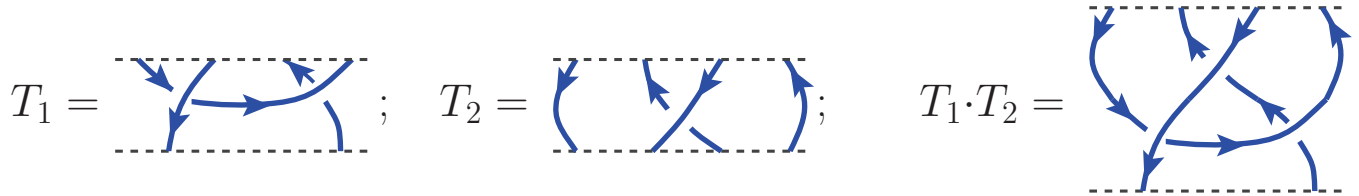
# The Kontsevich integral.

$$Z(K) := \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^m} \int_{\substack{t_{\min} < t_1 < \dots < t_m < t_{\max} \\ t_j \text{ are noncritical}}} \sum_{P=\{(z_j, z'_j)\}} (-1)^{\downarrow} D_P \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{dz_j - dz'_j}{z_j - z'_j}$$

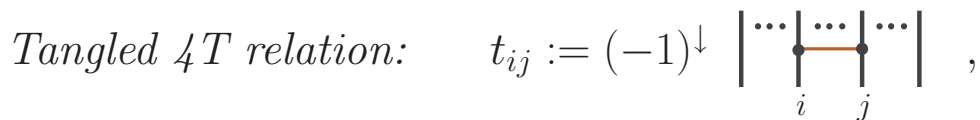


## Horizontal invariance

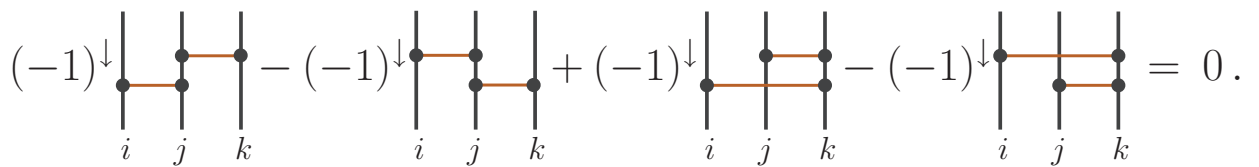
### Tangle multiplication



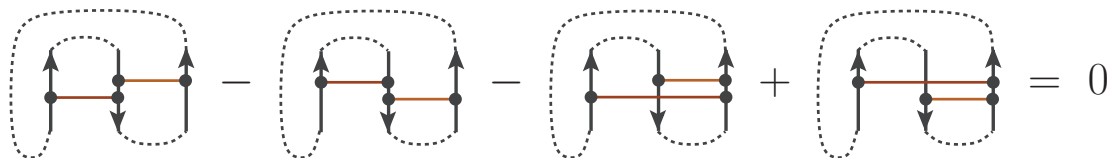
### Tangled chord diagrams.



$$[t_{ij} + t_{ik}, t_{jk}] = 0$$

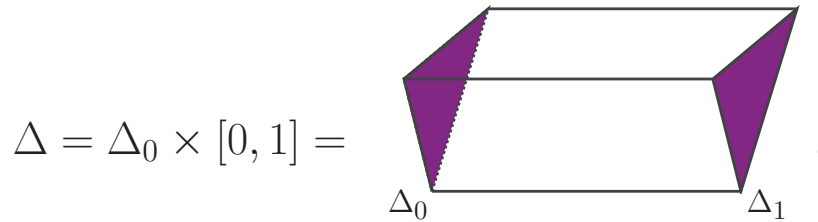


Example.



$$\omega_{ij} := \frac{dz_i - dz_j}{z_i - z_j}, \quad \Omega_{ij} := t_{ij} \frac{dz_i - dz_j}{z_i - z_j}.$$

Horizontal deformation:  $T_\lambda$ .



Stokes' theorem:  $\int_{\partial\Delta} \Omega = \int_{\Delta} d\Omega = 0$ , since  $d\Omega = 0$ .

$\partial\Delta = \Delta_0 - \Delta_1 + \sum \{faces\}$ . We prove that  $\Omega|_{\{face\}} = 0$ .

Restriction to the face  $\{t_k = t_{k+1}\}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \end{array} \omega_{12} \wedge \omega_{23} + (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \end{array} \omega_{12} \wedge \omega_{13} \\
 & + (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \end{array} \omega_{13} \wedge \omega_{12} + (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \end{array} \omega_{13} \wedge \omega_{23} \\
 & + (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \end{array} \omega_{23} \wedge \omega_{12} + (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \hline \hline \end{array} \omega_{23} \wedge \omega_{13}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left( (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} - (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \omega_{12} \wedge \omega_{23} \\
&+ \left( (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} - (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \omega_{23} \wedge \omega_{31} \\
&+ \left( (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} - (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \omega_{31} \wedge \omega_{12} \\
&= \left( (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} - (-1)^\downarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \right) (\omega_{12} \wedge \omega_{23} + \omega_{23} \wedge \omega_{31} + \omega_{31} \wedge \omega_{12}) = 0,
\end{aligned}$$

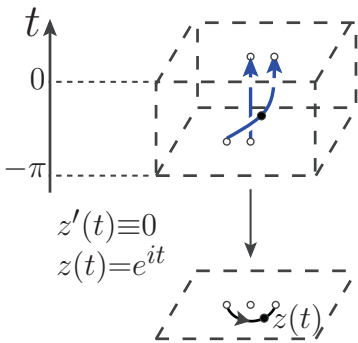
because of the *Arnold identity*:

$$f + g + h = 0 \implies \frac{df}{f} \wedge \frac{dg}{g} + \frac{dg}{g} \wedge \frac{dh}{h} + \frac{dh}{h} \wedge \frac{df}{f} = 0$$

(in our case  $f = z_1 - z_2$ ,  $g = z_2 - z_3$ ,  $h = z_3 - z_1$ )

□

**Example.**  $R := Z\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right) = \exp\left(\frac{\uparrow\text{---}\uparrow}{2}\right) \cdot \times$



Indeed, for one chord:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-\pi}^0 \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \cdot \frac{dz - dz'}{z - z'} &= \left( \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-\pi}^0 \frac{de^{it}}{e^{it}} \right) \cdot \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \left( \frac{\uparrow\text{---}\uparrow}{2} \right) \cdot \times \end{aligned}$$

For two chords:

$$\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^0 \int_{t_1}^0 \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \cdot dt_2 dt_1 = \left( \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^0 -t_1 dt_1 \right) \cdot \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\uparrow\text{---}\uparrow}{2} \right)^2 \cdot \times$$

For  $n$  chords we will have:  $\frac{1}{n!} \left( \frac{\uparrow\text{---}\uparrow}{2} \right)^n \cdot \times$

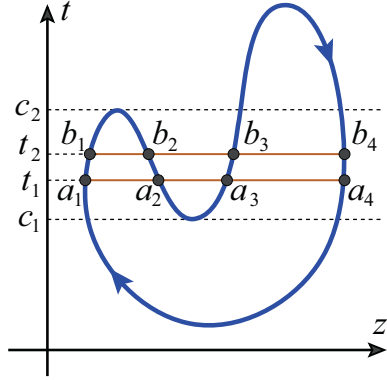
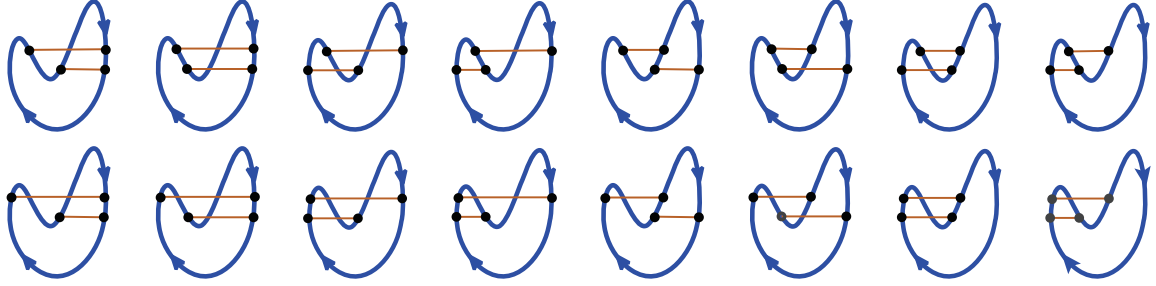
**Exercise.**  $R^{-1} := Z\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right) = \exp\left(-\frac{\uparrow\text{---}\uparrow}{2}\right) \cdot \times$



**Example.**

The coefficient of the chord diagram  in  $Z(\text{loop})$ .

Out of the total number of 51 pairings the following 16 contribute to the coefficient:



$$a_{jk} := a_k - a_j;$$

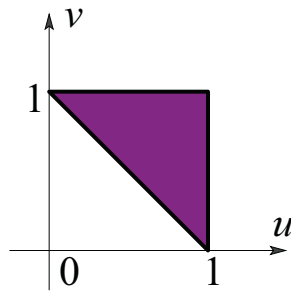
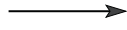
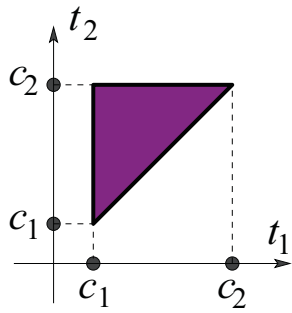
$$(jk) \in A := \{(12), (13), (24), (34)\};$$

$$b_{lm} := b_m - b_l;$$

$$(lm) \in B := \{(13), (23), (14), (24)\}.$$

The coefficient of  is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \int_{\Delta} \sum_{(jk) \in A} \sum_{(lm) \in B} (-1)^{j+k+l+m} d \ln a_{jk} \wedge d \ln b_{lm} \\ &= -\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{\Delta} \sum_{(jk) \in A} (-1)^{j+k+1} d \ln a_{jk} \wedge \sum_{(lm) \in B} (-1)^{l+m-1} d \ln b_{lm} \\ &= -\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{\Delta} d \ln \frac{a_{12}a_{34}}{a_{13}a_{24}} \wedge d \ln \frac{b_{14}b_{23}}{b_{13}b_{24}} = \end{aligned}$$



Change of variables  
(reversing orientation):

$$u = \frac{a_{12}a_{34}}{a_{13}a_{24}},$$

$$v = \frac{b_{14}b_{23}}{b_{13}b_{24}}.$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{\Delta'} d \ln u \wedge d \ln v = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_0^1 \left( \int_{1-u}^1 d \ln v \right) \frac{du}{u}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_0^1 \ln(1-u) \frac{du}{u} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \frac{u^k}{k} \frac{du}{u}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} = \frac{\zeta(2)}{4\pi^2} = \frac{1}{24}.$$

# Goussarov Theorem

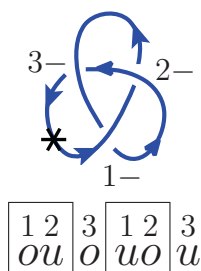
## The Conway polynomial

$$\nabla(\text{cross}) - \nabla(\text{cross}) = z \nabla(\text{two loops}); \quad \nabla(\text{circle}) = 1.$$

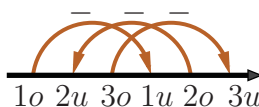
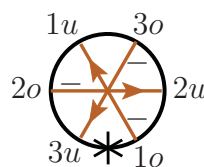
$$\nabla(K) = 1 + c_2(K)z^2 + c_4(K)z^4 + \dots$$

$$c_2(\text{cross}) - c_2(\text{cross}) = lk(\text{two loops}); \quad c_2(\text{circle}) = 0.$$

**Polyak–Viro formula:** 
$$c_2(K) = \sum_{\substack{ijij \\ ouuo}} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j .$$

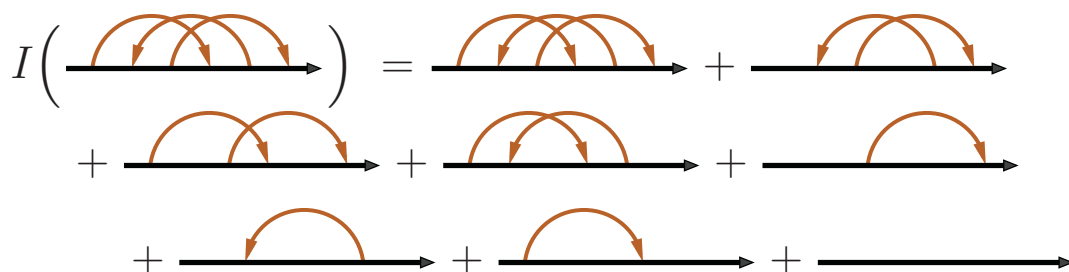


Gauss diagrams of  $3_1$ :



$$c_2(K) = \langle \text{cross with star}, G_K \rangle := \langle \text{cross}_{+*+} - \text{cross}_{-*+} - \text{cross}_{+*-} + \text{cross}_{-* -}, G_K \rangle .$$

Map  $I : \mathbb{Z}[\text{GD}] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\text{GD}]$ , 
$$I(D) := \sum_{D' \subseteq D} D'$$



**Theorem** (Goussarov). *For any  $v \in \mathcal{V}_n$  there is a function  $c : \mathbb{Z}[GD] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $v = c \circ I$  and  $c(D) = 0$  for  $|D| > n$ .*

$$\text{Inverse map: } I^{-1}(D) := \sum_{D' \subseteq D} (-1)^{|D-D'|} D'$$

$$\boxed{c = v \circ I^{-1}}$$

However one should extend  $v$  to non-realizable Gauss diagrams.

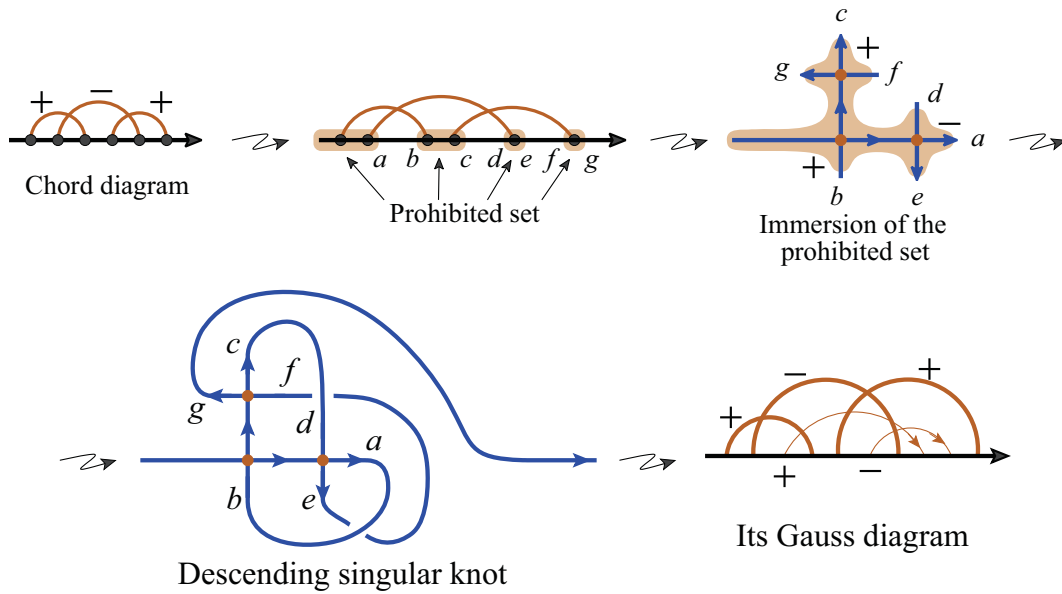
**Mixed Gauss diagrams with chords** representing singular knots.

A Gauss diagram is *descending* if

- (1) *all the arrows are directed to the right, and*
- (2) *no endpoint of an arrow can be followed by the left endpoint of a chord.*

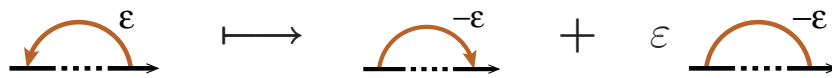
Forbidden situations: 

**Lemma.** *Each long chord diagram with signed chords underlies a unique (up to isotopy) singular classical long knot that has a descending Gauss diagram.*



A map  $P$  making a diagram “more descending”:

- (1) Replace all the left-pointing arrows of  $D$  by the right-pointing according to the Vassiliev skein relation:



- (2) Remove “prohibited pairs”:



For a (non-realizable) Gauss diagram  $D$  there is a number  $m$  such that  $P^m(D)$  is a linear combination of descending diagrams, modulo the diagrams with more than  $n$  chords.

### Extend of $v$ to non-realizable Gauss diagrams.

If  $D$  is a descending Gauss diagram with signed chords, there exists precisely one singular classical knot  $K$  which has a descending diagram with the same signed chords. We set

$v(D) := v(K)$ . Now, if  $D$  is an arbitrary diagram, then we apply the previous algorithm to obtain a linear combination  $\sum a_i D_i$  of descending diagrams. Set  $v(D) := \sum a_i v(D_i)$ .

□

## Vassiliev invariants coming from the HOMFLYPT polynomial

$$aP(\text{cross}) - a^{-1}P(\text{cross}) = zP(\text{cup})P(\text{cap}) ; \quad P(\text{circle}) = 1.$$

Make a substitution  $a = e^h$  and take the Taylor expansion  $P(K) = \sum_{k,l} p_{k,l}(K) h^k z^l$ .

### Goussarov's Lemma.

*The coefficient  $p_{k,l}$  is a Vassiliev invariant of order  $\leq k + l$ .*

$$p_{k,l}(K) =: \langle A_{k,l}, G_K \rangle$$

## Combinations $A_{k,l}$ for small $k$ and $l$ .

$$A_{0,2} = \text{Diagram}; \quad A_{2,0} = 0;$$

$$A_{0,3} = 0; \quad A_{3,0} = -4A_{1,2};$$

$$A_{1,2} = -2 \left( \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} + \text{Diagram 3} + \text{Diagram 4} + \text{Diagram 5} - \text{Diagram 6} + \text{Diagram 7} + \text{Diagram 8} + \text{Diagram 9} - \text{Diagram 10} \right);$$

$$A_{0,4} = \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} + \text{Diagram 3} + \text{Diagram 4} + \text{Diagram 5} + \text{Diagram 6} + \text{Diagram 7} + \text{Diagram 8} + \text{Diagram 9} + \text{Diagram 10} + \text{Diagram 11} + \text{Diagram 12} + \text{Diagram 13} + \text{Diagram 14} + \text{Diagram 15} + \text{Diagram 16} + \text{Diagram 17} + \text{Diagram 18} + \text{Diagram 19} + \text{Diagram 20};$$

$$A_{2,2} = 78 \text{ terms.}$$