

Note: Khovanov extended his link invariant to tangles, producing a tangle invariant valued in chain complexes of H_n -bimodules. This POV will be very useful for the calculation of S^2 .

(Def) $\mathcal{C}_n :=$ the set of crossingless matchings on $2n$ points.

Ex. $\mathcal{C}_3$:

and so on.

(Def) $\bar{a}$: For $a \in \mathcal{C}_n$, $\bar{a}$ denotes a reflection across the line containing the $2n$ pts:

$b =$ $\bar{b} =$

$\Rightarrow$ We can stack matchings to produce circles:

$e =$ $b =$

$\Rightarrow \bar{b}c =$

... let $\mathcal{F}(\bar{b}c) = Kh_2(\bar{b}a) = A^{\oplus k}$, $k = \#$ of circles.

(Def) $a(H^n)b := \mathcal{C}^n \mathcal{F}(\bar{b}a)$.

(Def) H^n (Arc algebra): $H^n := \bigoplus_{a,b \in \mathcal{C}_n} a(H^n)b$

... the multiplication on H^n is defined as follows:

$$a(H^n)b \otimes d(H^n)c = \begin{cases} a(H^n)d & \text{if } b=d \\ 0 & \text{if } b \neq d \end{cases}$$

$\Rightarrow$ So multiplication is the zero map if $b \neq c$, but if $b=c$, then for $a,b,c \in \mathcal{C}_n$, there are saddle cobordisms $\bar{c}b \sqcup \bar{b}a \rightarrow \bar{c}a$, multiplication is defined as the map induced by these.

Ex. Let $c =$ $b =$ $d =$ $a =$

$\Rightarrow \bar{b}a =$ $\bar{c}b =$

... since ' $b=d$ ' our multiplication is non-trivial:

$\bar{c}b$ $\bar{b}a$ $\bar{c}a$

... So we have the following merges:

$\rightarrow$ $\rightarrow$ $\rightarrow$

$\Rightarrow$ On Kh_2 , we have:

$$A_1 \otimes A_2 \otimes A_3 \otimes A_4 \xrightarrow{m_{1,3}} A_{1,3} \otimes A_2 \otimes A_4 \xrightarrow{m_{1,3,4}} A_{1,3,4} \otimes A_2 \xrightarrow{m_{2,1,3,4}} A_{2,1,3,4}$$

$A^{\otimes 2} \otimes A^{\otimes 2} \xrightarrow{m} A$

(Def) $a(\mathcal{F}(T))b$: ... let T be a $(2n, 2m)$ -tangle, then for $a \in \mathcal{C}_m$, $b \in \mathcal{C}_n$, then we define $a(\mathcal{F}(T))b = Kh(\bar{b}Ta)$, the Khovanov complex associated to the knot/link $\bar{b}Ta$.

(Def) $\mathcal{F}(T) := \bigoplus_{a \in \mathcal{C}_m, b \in \mathcal{C}_n} a(\mathcal{F}(T))b$

$\Rightarrow$ So for $\begin{smallmatrix} | & | & | \\ \hline T \\ \hline | & | & | \end{smallmatrix}$, $\mathcal{F}(T)$ is the chain complex obtained by summing over all possible 'crossingless matching' closures:

$$\mathcal{F}\left(\begin{smallmatrix} | & | & | \\ \hline T \\ \hline | & | & | \end{smallmatrix}\right) = \mathcal{F}\left(\begin{smallmatrix} | & | & | \\ \hline T \\ \hline | & | & | \end{smallmatrix}\right) \oplus \mathcal{F}\left(\begin{smallmatrix} | & | & | \\ \hline T \\ \hline | & | & | \end{smallmatrix}\right) \oplus \mathcal{F}\left(\begin{smallmatrix} | & | & | \\ \hline T \\ \hline | & | & | \end{smallmatrix}\right) \oplus \mathcal{F}\left(\begin{smallmatrix} | & | & | \\ \hline T \\ \hline | & | & | \end{smallmatrix}\right)$$

Note: $\mathcal{F}(T)$ is an (H^n, H^m) -bimodule, with H^n and H^m acting on the top and bottom resp. The action can be understood visually on the crossingless matching level:

Given $\begin{smallmatrix} | & | & | \\ \hline T \\ \hline | & | & | \end{smallmatrix}$, let $a =$ $b =$ then:

$\bar{b}Ta =$ T , for some composition of matchings

$\bar{c}d$, if $d=b$, we once again have saddles:

(let $\bar{c} = \bar{a}$ for example...)

$\bar{a}Ta$

More to come...