

Equivalence between classical Kauffman bracket and Khovanov's modification:

Classical Kauffman bracket: Polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}[A, A^{-1}]$ determined by the rules

- (1) $\langle \diagup \diagdown \rangle = A \langle \diagdown \diagdown \rangle + A^{-1} \langle \diagup \diagup \rangle$
- (2) $\langle L \amalg \bigcirc \rangle = (-A^2 - A^{-2}) \langle L \rangle$
- (3) $\langle \emptyset \rangle = 1$

The (unnormalised) Jones polynomial of a link L with diagram D is

$$J(L) := (-A)^{-3w(D)} \langle D \rangle.$$

Khovanov's modification: Polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$ determined by the rules

- (1') $\langle \diagup \diagdown \rangle' = \langle \diagdown \diagdown \rangle' - q \langle \diagup \diagup \rangle'$
- (2') $\langle L \amalg \bigcirc \rangle' = (q + q^{-1}) \langle L \rangle'$
- (3') $\langle \emptyset \rangle' = 1$

Let $x(D)$ (resp. $y(D)$) be the number of negative (resp. positive) crossings of D . The (unnormalised) Jones polynomial of a link L with diagram D is

$$J(L) := (-1)^{x(D)} q^{y(D) - 2x(D)} \langle D \rangle'.$$

Proposition 1. *Both notions are equivalent and yield the same Jones polynomial.*

Proof. The two notions are related by the following changes:

$$\langle D \rangle = A^{c(D)} \langle D \rangle' \quad , \quad A^2 = -q^{-1}$$

where $c(D)$ is the number of crossings of D . The equivalence follows by a computation: let $c = c(\diagup \diagdown)$. Then $c(\diagdown \diagdown) = c(\diagup \diagdown) = c - 1$ and (1) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} A^c (\diagup \diagdown) \langle \diagup \diagdown \rangle' &= A^{1+c} (\diagdown \diagdown) \langle \diagdown \diagdown \rangle' + A^{-1+c} (\diagup \diagup) \langle \diagup \diagup \rangle' \\ A^c \langle \diagup \diagdown \rangle' &= A^c \langle \diagdown \diagdown \rangle' + A^{c-2} \langle \diagup \diagup \rangle' \\ \langle \diagup \diagdown \rangle' &= \langle \diagdown \diagdown \rangle' - q \langle \diagup \diagup \rangle' \end{aligned}$$

The Jones polynomial gets modified as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} J(L) &= (-A)^{-3w(D)} \langle D \rangle = (-A)^{-3(y(D) - x(D))} A^{y(D) + x(D)} \langle D \rangle' \\ &= (-1)^{-3(y(D) - x(D))} A^{-2y(D) + 4x(D)} \langle D \rangle' = (-1)^{-3(y(D) - x(D))} (-q)^{y(D) - 2x(D)} \langle D \rangle' \\ &= (-1)^{x(D)} q^{y(D) - 2x(D)} \langle D \rangle'. \end{aligned}$$

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