We introduce a quantum trace map for an ideally triangulated hyperbolic knot complement $S^3\setminus \mathcal{K}$. The map assigns a quantum operator to each element of Kauffman Skein module of the 3-manifold. The quantum operator lives in a module generated by products of quantized edge parameters of the ideal triangulation modulo some equivalence relations determined by gluing equations. Combining the quantum map with a state-integral model of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ Chern-Simons theory, one can define perturbative invariants of knot $K$ in the knot complement whose leading part is determined by its complex hyperbolic length. We then conjecture that the perturbative invariants determine an asymptotic expansion of the Jones polynomial for a link composed of $\mathcal{K}$ and $K$. We propose the explicit quantum trace map for figure-eight knot complement and confirm the length conjecture up to the second order in the asymptotic expansion both numerically and analytically.
Kauffman bracket skein modules (KBSMs) were independently introduced by J. H. Przytycki [27] and V. G. Turaev [32] based on the Kauffman bracket [21] in an attempt to generalize knot polynomials in $S^3$ to those in arbitrary 3-manifolds. The module becomes a non-commutative algebra when the 3-manifold is chosen to be a thickened surface $S \times I$ with marked points on $S$. For the case, F. Bonahon and H. Wong in [2] constructed an injective algebra homomorphism, called quantum trace map, from the Skein algebra to the Chechov-Fock algebra of $S$. The Chechov-Fock algebra is a quantization of Teichmüller space using Thurston’s shear coordinates [29, 26] associated to an ideal triangulation of $S$. In terms of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ Chern-Simons theory, the quantum operators correspond to Wilson loop operators whose trajectory is confined on the surface $S$. Classically the Wilson loops can be represented by a function on the phase space $P(S)$ associated with the surface $S$. The phase space is the moduli space of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ flat connections on $S$. Shear coordinates provides a natural coordinate of the phase space and the loop operators can be given as a Laurent polynomial of the coordinates. After quantization, the phase space becomes a Hilbert-space on which the quantized loop operators naturally act. Via the 2D quantum trace map, one can express the loop operators in terms of Laurent polynomial of the quantized shear coordinates.

Generalizing the idea of quantum trace map to a general 3-manifold $M$ seems to be pointless since the KBSM is just a module instead of forming an algebra. Contrary to the common belief, we suggest that there is a natural unique 3D quantum trace map. Wilson loop operators in the Chern-Simons theory can be defined along arbitrary links on a 3-manifold. Classically, the loop operator can be regarded as a function on $L(M)$, the moduli space of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ flat connections on $M$. Unlike $P(S)$, there is no natural symplectic structure on $L(M)$. Instead, the space $L(M)$ can be regarded as a Lagrangian subvariety of the phase space $P(T^2)$ when the 3-manifold has a torus ($T^2$) boundary. For an ideally triangulated 3-manifold $M$, the moduli space can be represented by an algebraic variety determined by gluing equations [30, 25]. Gluing equations are set of algebraic equations among edge parameters of ideal tetrahedra in the triangulation. The gluing equations have a symplectic structure and the quantization of the $L(M)$ has been well-studied [5, 9]. As a result of the quantization, state-integral models [18, 5] are developed which compute the partition function of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ Chern-Simons theory on $M$. To define a 3D quantum trace map, one needs to quantize functions on $L(M)$. The functions are given by a Laurent series of the edge parameters subjected to gluing equations. To deal with the ‘quantum functions’ on $L(M)$, we introduce a quantum gluing module in Section 2.2 which are the space of them. Our quantum trace map is an injective module homomorphism from the KBSM of $M$ to the quantum gluing module. Once the correct quantum trace map is given, one can generalize the state-integral models with insertion of the Wilson loop operators along arbitrary knots or links in $M$.

One big motivation for studying $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ Chern-Simons theory on a hyperbolic knot complement $S^3 \setminus K$ is its relation to the volume conjecture [19, 20, 24]. The conjecture relates a large $n$ limit of the colored Jones polynomial $J_n(K; q)$ to the hyperbolic volume of its knot complement, $S^3 \setminus K$. As its strongest version [16], it is conjectured that the asymptotic limit is fully determined by a perturbative expansion of the state-integral on $M = S^3 \setminus K$. Our 3D quantum trace map can...
be naturally blended with these developments. We propose that the large $n$ limit of the ratio $J_n, \tilde{J}_n = 2(K \cup K; q) / J_n(K; q)$ can be fully captured by the state-integral model for $S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}$ with an insertion of quantum trace operator associated with the knot $K$. We think of $\mathcal{K}$ as a heavy knot with large color $\tilde{n}$ while $K$ as a light knot with fixed color, $\tilde{n} = 2$. The leading order result is given by a simple function of the hyperbolic length of the light knot $K$ in the knot complement $S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}$, and we call it a length conjecture for an obvious reason.

2. Quantum trace map

After a brief review on the trace map of 3-manifold, we introduce a quantum version of the map which we call quantum trace map.

2.1. Kauffman Skein modules. We begin by recalling the definitions of Kauffman Skein modules from [28, 4]. Let $\mathcal{K}$ be a hyperbolic knot in $S^3$ and $M$ be the knot complement: $M = S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}$. We restrict our discussion to hyperbolic knot complements. Some of the statements below should be modified when $M$ is a general 3-manifold.

We denote the Kauffman bracket Skein module on $M$ by $\mathcal{S}_q[M]$ and its ‘even’ submodule by $\mathcal{S}_q^{\text{even}}[M]$. The two modules are defined as

\[
\mathcal{S}_q[M] := \mathbb{C}[q^{\pm 1/4}] \text{-module with basis } \{Y_K\}_{(K: \text{framed link in } M)} \\
\mathcal{S}_q^{\text{even}}[M] := \mathbb{C}[q^{\pm 1/4}] \text{-module with basis } \{Y_K\}_{(K: \text{framed } \text{even} \text{ link in } M)}
\]

The basis includes $Y_{\emptyset}$, where $\emptyset$ is the empty link. Here, $K_+$, $K_0$ and $K_\infty$, are three framed links which are identical except in a small 3-ball, as depicted in Figure 1. $K \cup \emptyset$ is the union of $K$ with an unlinked, 0-framed unknot in the trivial homotopy class. The $Y_K$ in $\mathcal{S}_q[M]$ is invariant under Reidemeister moves II, III

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
K & K_0 & K_\infty \\
\end{array}
\]

Figure 1. Kauffman triple

and modified Reidemeister move I on $K$ but not under Reidemeister move I. This

\[
-q^{3/4}Y_K = -q^{-3/4}Y_K
\]

\[
= Y_K
\]

Figure 2. $Y_K$ under Reidemeister move I on $K$. 
is why the $Y_K$ is labelled by framed link $K$. We call a link $K = \bigcup_{I=1}^{\sharp(K)} K_I$ consisting of $\sharp(K)$ knots an ‘even’ link if

$$\prod_{I=1}^{\sharp(K)} \text{sgn}(K_I) = +1,$$

and an ‘odd’ link otherwise. Here $\text{sgn}(K_I) \in \{+1, -1\}$ is defined as

$$\text{sgn}(K_I) := \begin{cases} 
+1, & \text{if } [K_I] = 1 \text{ as an element of } H_1(M, \mathbb{Z}_2) = \mathbb{Z}_2 = \{+1, -1\}, \\
-1, & \text{otherwise}.
\end{cases}$$

For later use, we consider a submodule $S_q^{\text{even}}[M]$ whose basis $Y_K$ are labelled by even links $K$ on $M$. Note that the Kauffman bracket Skein relation is well-defined in $S_q^{\text{even}}$, i.e. all three links in Kauffman triple share the same evenness/oddness and $K \cup \circ$ is even if $K$ is even.

2.1.1. Skein algebra and trace map. In the special case $q^{1/2} = 1$, the Skein module gives rise to the Skein algebra, $V[M] := S_q[M]|_{q^{1/2}=1}$.

$$Y_{K_1}=Y_{K_2}$$

**Figure 3.** Kauffman bracket Skein relation at $q^{1/2} = 1$.

At $q^{1/2} = 1$, the Skein relation equates the over-crossing and the under-crossing, as in Figure 3, so that the Skein algebra is a indeed a commutative $\mathbb{C}$-algebra equipped with the multiplication,

$$Y_{K_1} Y_{K_2} = Y_{K_2} Y_{K_1} := Y_{K_1 \cup K_2}.$$  

The $\mathbb{C}$-algebra is generated by elements in $\pi_1(M)$ modulo some relations:

$$V[M] = \mathbb{C}[Y_\gamma : \gamma \in \pi_1(M)] /
\langle Y_{\gamma_1 \gamma_2} - Y_{\gamma_2 \gamma_1}, Y_{\gamma_1} Y_{\gamma_2} + Y_{\gamma_2 \gamma_1} - 1, Y_{e + 2} \rangle,$$

$$V^{\text{even}}[M] = \{x \in V[M] : x \text{ is even}\}.$$  

Here $e \in \pi_1(M)$ is the identity element. The above relations imply that $Y_\gamma = Y_{\gamma^{-1}}$ and $Y_\gamma$ depends only on the conjugacy class of $\gamma$ in $\pi_1(M)$. General element $x \in V^{\text{even}}[M]$ is given as

$$\sum_I C_I \prod_{i=1}^{n_I} Y_{\gamma_l^I} \quad \text{with } \gamma_l^I \in \pi_1(M), C_I \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } \prod_{i=1}^{n_I} \text{sgn}[\gamma_l^I] = 1 \text{ for all } I.$$  

The relations in the denominator come from the relations in the Skein module $S_q[M]$ in eqn.(1) at $q^{1/4} = -1$. We choose $q^{1/4} = -1$ instead of $q^{1/4} = 1$ for a later convenience. There is an algebra isomorphism between $S_q[M]$ at $q^{1/4} = 1$ and $S_q[M]$ at $q^{1/4} = -1$.  

One interesting aspect of the Skein algebra is its relation to the coordinate ring of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ character variety $X[M]$, which is defined as

$$X[M] := \text{Hom}[\pi_1(M) \to SL(2, \mathbb{C})] / \sim$$

where $\rho_1 \sim \rho_2$ if $\text{Tr}(\rho_1(\gamma)) = \text{Tr}(\rho_2(\gamma))$ for all $\gamma \in \pi_1(M)$.

For our purposes, we consider the $\mathbb{Z}_2$-quotient of the variety, $X[M]/\mathbb{Z}_2$, where the $\mathbb{Z}_2$ is the action of $H^1(M, \mathbb{Z}_2) = \text{Hom}(\pi_1(M) \to \mathbb{Z}_2) = \{\pm 1\} = \{1, \eta\}$:

$$X[M]/\mathbb{Z}_2 = \{\rho \in X[M]\} / \sim$$

where $\rho_1 \sim \rho_2$ if $\rho_1(\gamma) = \eta(\gamma) \rho_2(\gamma)$ for all $\gamma \in \pi_1(M)$.

One can naturally define an algebra homomorphism $\Phi_{tr}$ called trace map from the Skein algebra $V[M]$ to the coordinate ring $\mathbb{C}[X(M)]$ (or from $V^{even}[M]$ to $\mathbb{C}[X(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2]$), the algebra of functions on $X(M)$, as follows

$$\Phi_{tr} : V(M) \ (\text{or } V^{even}(M)) \to \mathbb{C}[X(M)] \ (\text{or } \mathbb{C}[X(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2]), \ \text{where}$$

$$[\Phi_{tr}(Y_\gamma)](\rho) = -\text{Tr}(\rho(\gamma)).$$

To see that the map is an algebra homomorphism, one needs to use the following property of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ matrices

$$\text{Tr}(A)\text{Tr}(B) = \text{Tr}(AB) + \text{Tr}(AB^{-1}) \quad \text{Tr}(I) = 2,$$

where $I$ is the $2 \times 2$ identity matrix. The trace map is well-defined as a homomorphism from $V^{even}(M)$ to $\mathbb{C}[X(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2]$ since $\prod_{I=1}^n \eta(\gamma_I) = 1$ for $\prod_{I=1}^n Y_{\gamma_I} \in V^{even}(M)$. This section can be summarized by the diagram in Figure 4.

\[ \begin{array}{ccc}
S^{even}_q[M] & \xrightarrow{q^{1/2}=1} & \mathbb{C}[X(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2] \\
\Phi_{tr} : V^{even}[M] & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}[X(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2] \\
\end{array} \]

**Figure 4.** Relations among $S^{even}_q[M]$ (even Kauffman bracket Skein module), $V^{even}[M]$ (even Skein algebra) and $\mathbb{C}[X(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2]$ (coordinate ring of character variety). The relations suggest that $S^{even}_q[M]$ can be considered as a quantization of $\mathbb{C}[X(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2]$.

For later use, we define the canonical component $X_0[M] \subset X[M]$ for a hyperbolic knot complement $M = S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}$ as

$$X_0[M] := \text{a connected component of } X[M] \text{ which contain } \rho_{hyp},$$

$$\rho_{hyp} := \text{an } SL(2, \mathbb{C})\text{-representation corresponding to the complete hyperbolic structure}.$$

In the same way, one can define $X_0(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2$. 
2.2. Quantum gluing module. Following [5, 12], we define the quantum gluing module \( \hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}] \) associated to an ideal triangulation \( \mathcal{T} \) of \( M \) as

\[
\hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}] = \frac{\left\langle \mathcal{C}[q^{\pm 1/4}]\left[\hat{z}_i, \hat{z}'_{i}, \hat{z}''_{i}, \hat{z}'''_{i}, \hat{z}_i^{-1}, \hat{z}'_{i}, \hat{z}''_{i}, \hat{z}'''_{i}^{-1}\right]/\langle \hat{z}_i \hat{z}'_{i} - q^{-\delta_{ij}} \hat{z}'_{i} \hat{z}_i \rangle \right\rangle}{\text{equivalence relations } \sim}
\]

where \( \hat{O} \sim e^{C_1} \cdot \hat{O} \) and \( \hat{O} \sim \hat{O} \cdot (\hat{z}_i^{-1} + \hat{z}'_{i}). \)

Here \( i \) runs from 1 to \( |\mathcal{T}| \), the number of tetrahedra in the ideal triangulation. The precise definition of the exponentiated internal edge operators \( e^{C_1} \) can be found in (130) in appendix A. Before taking the quotient by the equivalence relations, it is a non-commutative algebra. After the quotient, it becomes just a \( \mathbb{C}[q^{\pm 1/4}] \)-module since the non-commutative multiplication is not compatible with the equivalence relation and thus can not be well-defined in \( \hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}] \).

At \( q^{1/2} = 1 \), \( \hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}] \) becomes the algebra of functions on the gluing equation variety \( \chi[\mathcal{T}] \)

\[
\hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}]|_{q^{1/2} = 1} \simeq \mathbb{C}[\chi[\mathcal{T}]],
\]

\[
\chi[\mathcal{T}] := \{ z_i, z''_i : z_i^{-1} + z''_i - 1 = 0, \ e^{C_1} = 1 \}_{i=1}^{\mathcal{T}}.
\]

For each element \( (z_i, z''_i) \in \chi[\mathcal{T}] \), there is an associated representation [30]

\[
\rho^\mathbb{T}_{(z, z''_i)} \in \text{Hom}[\pi_1(S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}) \to PSL(2, \mathbb{C})]
\]

We choose an ideal triangulation \( \mathcal{T} \) which is a \( \rho_{\text{hyp}} \)-regular:

\[
\mathcal{T} \text{ is called } \rho_{\text{hyp}} \text{-regular if } \exists (z, z''_i)_{\text{hyp}} \in \chi[\mathcal{T}] \text{ such that } \rho^\mathbb{T}_{(z, z''_i)_{\text{hyp}}} = \rho_{\text{hyp}}.
\]

\( \rho_{\text{hyp}} \) is an \( SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \)-representation in (9) but also can be regarded as an \( PSL(2, \mathbb{C}) = SL(2, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{Z}_2 \)-representation. Let us denote by \( \chi_0[\mathcal{T}] \) the connected component of \( \chi[\mathcal{T}] \) which contains \( (z, z''_i)_{\text{hyp}} \). In general, the gluing equation variety \( \chi[\mathcal{T}] \) depends on the choice of \( \rho_{\text{hyp}} \)-regular triangulation \( \mathcal{T} \) while the \( \chi_0[\mathcal{T}] \) does not [31]. The component can be identified with

\[
\chi_0[\mathcal{T}] \simeq X_0(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2.
\]

Another nice reason for restricting to the component \( \chi_0[\mathcal{T}] \) is that any \( PSL(2, \mathbb{C}) = SL(2, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{Z}_2 \) representation \( \rho^\mathbb{T}_{(z, z''_i)} \) with \( (z, z''_i) \in \chi_0[\mathcal{T}] \) can be lifted to a \( SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \) representation. Thus, one can define the classical trace map \( \Phi_{\mathbb{T}} : V_{\text{even}}[M] \to \mathbb{C}[\chi_0[\mathcal{T}]] \) as follows

\[
[\Phi(Y_{\gamma})](z, z''_i) = -\text{Tr}(\rho^\mathbb{T}_{(z, z''_i)}(\gamma)) ,
\]

The trace map is identical to the map in (7) under the identification \( \chi_0(\mathcal{T}) \simeq X_0(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2 \). The lifting from \( PSL(2, \mathbb{C}) \)-representation to \( SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \)-representation is not unique and the two different upliftings, \( \rho \) and \( \tilde{\rho} \), are related by the action of \( H^1(S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}, \mathbb{Z}_2) = \text{Hom}[\pi_1(S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}) \to \mathbb{Z}_2] = \{1, \eta\} \), i.e.

\[
\tilde{\rho}(\gamma) = \eta(\gamma) \rho(\gamma),
\]

For even \( Y_{\gamma} \in V_{\text{even}}[M] \), the trace map is well-defined, i.e. independent of the choice of liftings, since \( \eta(\gamma) = 1 \).
2.3. Quantum trace map and Length conjecture. The quantum trace map for 2D surfaces with $SL(2)$ was introduced in [2], and was generalized to groups of higher rank in [11]. Here we introduce a 3D version of the quantum trace map.

Conjecture 2.1 (main conjecture). There exists a unique injective module homomorphism $\text{tr}^T_q : \mathcal{S}^{\text{even}}_q[M] \to \hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[T]$ which satisfies the following properties:

I. At $q^{1/4} = -1$, the quantum trace map is identical to the trace map $\Phi_{\text{tr}}$ as a map $V^{\text{even}}(M) \to \mathbb{C}[X_0(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2]$.

The relation between $\text{tr}^T_q$ and $\Phi_{\text{tr}}$ is summarized in Figure 5.

II. (All-order length conjecture) For an even link $K = \bigcup_{I=1}^{\#(K)} K_I \subset M = S^3 \setminus K$, $J_{n, \tilde{n}_I = 2}(K \cup K; q) / J_n(K; q)$

$(\text{tr}^T_q)_{|q^{1/4} = -1} = \Phi_{\text{tr}}$ as a map $V^{\text{even}}(M) \to \mathbb{C}[X_0(M)/\mathbb{Z}_2]$.

The relation between $\text{tr}^T_q$ and $\Phi_{\text{tr}}$ is summarized in Figure 5.

Here $J$ denotes a variation of the colored Jones polynomial for framed links. While the conventional colored Jones polynomial is an invariant of oriented links, our $J$ is an invariant of unoriented framed links. See Appendix B for the definition. In the above, $I = 1, \ldots, \#(K)$ and $\tilde{n}_I$ denotes the ‘color’ of the $I$-th component.

The perturbative invariant $W^{\text{hyp}}_s(\hat{O}_K; M)$ is determined by the quantum trace operator

$\hat{O}_K := \text{tr}^T_q(Y_K)$.

More generally, for an element $Y = \sum_a C_a Y_{K_a} \in \mathcal{S}^{\text{even}}_q[M]$,

$\hat{O}_Y := \text{tr}^T_q(Y) = \sum_a C_a \hat{O}_{K_a}$.

The operator $\hat{O}_K$ is a $\hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[T]$-valued invariant of unoriented framed links.

By incorporating the $\hat{O}$ with the state-integral model [5], the perturbative invariants $\{W^{\text{hyp}}_s(\hat{O}_K; M), Z^{\text{hyp}}_s(\hat{O}_K; M)\}_{s=0}^\infty$ can be obtained from the perturbative expansion of the state-integral model. The explicit form of the state-integral model and its perturbative expansion using Feynman diagram will be given in section 3.
Two perturbative expansions are related to each other by exponential or logarithm, i.e.
\begin{equation}
\exp\left(\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} W_s^{(\text{hyp})} h^s \right) = \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} Z_s^{(\text{hyp})} h^s \text{ as a formal power series in } h.
\end{equation}

The leading “classical” coefficient \( Z_{s=0}^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_K; M) \) is simply given by
\begin{equation}
Z_{s=0}^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}; M) = \left( \hat{O}_{q^{1/4} \to -1} \right)_{(s,s')=(s',s')}^{\gamma}.
\end{equation}

Here \( \hat{O}_{q^{1/4} \to -1} \) is regarded as an element in \( \mathbb{C}[\chi_0(T)] \). The classical value is
\begin{equation}
Z_{s=0}^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_K; M) = \text{Tr} \left( [\Phi_{\text{tr}}(Y_{\gamma})](\rho_{\text{hyp}}) \right),
\end{equation}
or equivalently, \( W_s^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_K; M) = \log \left( [\Phi_{\text{tr}}(Y_{\gamma})](\rho_{\text{hyp}}) \right) \).

Here \( Y_{\gamma_K} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} Y_{\gamma_i} \) is an element of the Skein algebra obtained from \( Y_K \) at \( q^{-1/4} = -1 \) and \( \rho_{\text{hyp}} \in \text{Hom}[\pi_1(M) \to SL(2, \mathbb{C})] \) is an \( SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \) flat connection corresponding to the complete hyperbolic structure on \( M \). The classical part is related to the complex length of the geodesic (hence the name “length conjecture”) by
\begin{equation}
[\Phi_{\text{tr}}(Y_{\gamma_K})](\rho_{\text{hyp}}) := \prod_{I} (-\text{Tr}(\rho_{\text{hyp}}(\gamma_I))) = \prod_{I} (-e^{\frac{1}{2} \ell_C(\gamma_I)} - e^{-\frac{1}{2} \ell_C(\gamma_I)}) .
\end{equation}

\( \ell_C(\gamma_I) \) denotes the complexified length of a geodesic in the same homotopy class as \( \gamma_I \) of \( K_I \).

To prove the length conjecture in (18) and (23), we only need to prove them for basis \( \{ Y_{K_a} \} \) of \( \mathcal{Z}_q^{\text{even}}[M] \). It is obvious for (18) since for \( Y_K = \sum_a C_a(q^{1/4})Y_{K_a} \),
\begin{equation}
J_{n,n_s=2(K\cup K;q)} = \sum_a C_a(q^{1/4})J_{n,n_s=2(K\cup K_a;q)} ,
\end{equation}
and the perturbative invariants \( Z_s^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_{Y_K}) \) satisfy
\begin{equation}
\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} Z_s^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_K; M) h^s = \sum_a C_a(q^{1/4} = -e^4) \left( \sum_{s} Z_s^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_{K_a}; M) h^s \right) .
\end{equation}

The relation in (23) is valid for arbitrary \( \hat{O}_K \) if it holds for every basis since
\begin{equation}
\Phi_{\text{tr}}(Y_{\gamma_K})(\rho) = \sum_a C_a(q^{1/4} = -1)\Phi_{\text{tr}}(Y_{\gamma_K})(\rho) ,
\end{equation}
for arbitrary \( \rho \in \text{Hom}[\pi_1 M \to SL(2, \mathbb{C})] \),
which follows from the fact that the quantum trace map \( \text{tr}_q^F \) is a module homomorphism and it becomes the classical trace map \( \Phi_{\text{tr}} \) in (7) at \( q^{1/4} = -1 \).

III. For an even link \( K \) and a meridian knot \( \partial_m \), a knot linking the heavy knot \( K \),
\begin{equation}
\hat{O}_{K \cup \partial_m} = \hat{O}_{\partial_m} \cdot \hat{O}_K ,
\end{equation}
where \( \hat{O}_{\partial_m} := 2 + e^{\ell_C} + e^{-\ell_C} \).
See (131) for the definition of \( e^{\pm \ell_C} \) and Figure 8 for the knot \( \partial_m \). The operator \( \hat{O}_{\partial_m} \) always commutes with \( e^{\ell_C} \) and thus the left multiplication is well-defined in
QUANTUM TRACE IN 3-MANIFOLD AND VOLUME CONJECTURE

In section 3, we will see that

$$\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} Z_s^{(hyp)}(\hat{O}_{\mathcal{K}\cup\mathcal{O}_m^2}) = 4 \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} Z_s^{(hyp)}(\hat{O}_{\mathcal{K}})$$

for an arbitrary knot $K$ in $M = S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}$. It is compatible with the all-order length conjecture (18) since

$$J_{n,\tilde{n},I} = (q^{n/2} + q^{-n/2})^2 \times J_{n,\tilde{n},I} = 4.$$ 

Here we use the property of our Jones polynomial depicted in Figure 8.

3. Perturbative knot invariants

We recall and extend state-integral models from [5, 9, 12] to define the perturbative knot invariants $\{Z_s^{(hyp)}(\hat{O}_K; M)\}_{s=0}^{\infty}$.

3.1. State-integral model with quantum trace map. The state-integral model is based on an ideal triangulation $\mathcal{T}$ of $M = S^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}$ and can be written as in the following form using Dirac brackets ($k := |\mathcal{T}|$)

$$Z_\mathcal{K} = \langle X_{m}, C_1, \ldots, C_{k-1}; \Pi_{M,C} | \hat{O}(q^{\frac{3}{2}}) | \Delta^{\otimes k} \rangle |_{C_1 = \ldots = C_{k-1} = 0}.$$ 

The state-integral is a function on a meridian variable $X_m$. Here $|X_{m}, C_1, \ldots, C_{k-1}; \Pi_{X}\rangle$ denotes the position basis of $(\mathcal{H}(\partial \Delta))^{\otimes k}$, the Hilbert-space associated with the $k$-tetrahedra [5], with respect to a polarization choice $\Pi_{X} = (X_1, \ldots, X_k, P_1, \ldots, P_k)^T$:

$$\langle X_1, \ldots, X_k; \Pi_X | e^{\delta X} | \psi \rangle = e^{\delta X} \langle X_1, \ldots, X_k; \Pi_X | \psi \rangle$$ 

and

$$\langle X_1, \ldots, X_k; \Pi_X | e^{\delta P} | \psi \rangle = \langle X_1, \ldots, X_k; \Pi_X | \psi \rangle |_{X_i \to X_i + \delta}, \forall |\psi\rangle \in (\mathcal{H}(\partial \Delta))^{\otimes k}.$$ 

Here two polarizations $\Pi_{M,C}$ and $\Pi_{Z}$ are

$$\Pi_{M,C} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{M} \\ C_1 \\ \vdots \\ C_{k-1} \\ \frac{1}{2} \mathfrak{L} \\ \Gamma_1 \\ \vdots \\ \Gamma_{k-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Pi_{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_1 \\ Z_2 \\ \vdots \\ Z_k \\ Z'_1 \\ \vdots \\ Z'_k \end{pmatrix},$$

and they are related to each other by a linear canonical transformation

$$\Pi_{M,C} = g \cdot \Pi_{Z} - (i\pi + \frac{h}{2}) \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\nu} \\ \tilde{\nu}_p \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{where } g \in Sp(2k, \mathbb{Z}) \text{ and } \tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\nu}_p \in \mathbb{Z}^k.$$
The two position bases are related to each other by following unitary transformation

\[ Q(\vec{X}, \vec{Z}) = \mathcal{Z}B^{-1}A\mathcal{Z} + \mathcal{X}DB^{-1}\mathcal{X} + (2\pi i + \hbar)\mathcal{Z}B^{-1}\mathcal{Z} + (i\pi + \frac{\hbar}{2})^2\mathcal{Z}B^{-1}\mathcal{Z} \]

with

\[ Q(\vec{X}, \vec{Z}) = \mathcal{Z}B^{-1}A\mathcal{Z} + \mathcal{X}DB^{-1}\mathcal{X} + (2\pi i + \hbar)\mathcal{Z}B^{-1}\mathcal{Z} + (i\pi + \frac{\hbar}{2})^2\mathcal{Z}B^{-1}\mathcal{Z} \]

Here \( A, B, C \) and \( D \) are the four \((k \times k)\) block matrices of \( g \):

\[ g = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \]

The vectors \( (\mathcal{f}, \mathcal{f}''') = (f_i, f_i^\prime)_{i=1}^k \) are known as combinatorial flattening, and chosen to satisfy the following relation

\[ \langle \Delta^{\otimes k} \rangle \in (\mathcal{H}(\partial \Delta))^{\otimes k} \]

\[ (e^{\mathcal{Z}'''} + e^{-\mathcal{Z}'} - 1)|\Delta^{\otimes k}\rangle = 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, k. \]

In the polarization \( \Pi_Z \), the wave-function is given by a product of quantum dilogarithms (see Appendix C for our convention for the quantum dilogarithm)

\[ \langle Z_1, \ldots, Z_k; \Pi_Z | \Delta^{\otimes k} \rangle = \prod_{i=1}^k \psi_\hbar(Z_i). \]

Gathering all the expressions above, one has

\[ Z_h[M + \hat{O}; X_m] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\text{det} B}} \sum_{\alpha} C_\alpha(q^\frac{1}{4})_{q^\frac{1}{2}} \int \prod_{i=1}^k dZ_i \sqrt{2\pi \hbar} \exp \left( \frac{1}{2\hbar} \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{dZ_i}{\sqrt{2\pi \hbar}} \exp \left( \frac{1}{2\hbar} Q(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Z}) \right) \right) \]

\[ \times \langle Z_1, \ldots, Z_k; \Pi_Z | \sum_{i=1}^k \psi_\hbar(Z_i + h_i^{(\alpha)} Z_i) \rangle \]

when \( \hat{O} = \sum_\alpha C_\alpha(q^\frac{1}{4}) \prod_z z_i^{(\alpha)} (z_i^\prime)^{(\alpha)} \in \hat{C}_q[\mathcal{T}] \). From the expression in (31), it is not difficult to see that the \( Z_h[M + \hat{O}; X_m] \) with \( \hat{O} \in \hat{C}_q[\mathcal{T}] \) is well-defined (recall...
Using the gluing data given in Appendix A, we have
\[
Z_h[M + \hat{\mathcal{O}}] = Z_h[M + e^{\hat{C}_i} \cdot \hat{O}] = Z_h[M + \hat{O} \cdot (\hat{z}_i^{-1} + \hat{z}_i'')] \]
It is also straightforward to see that
\[
Z_h[M + F(e^{3\hbar}) \cdot \hat{O}] = F(e^{X_m})Z_h[M + \hat{O}] ,
\]
for arbitrary Laurent polynomial \( F(z) \) and \( \hat{O} \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}] \).

3.2. Perturbative invariants. We are ready to define and explain the perturbative invariants \( \{ \mathcal{Z}^{(\text{hyp})}_s \} \) associated to complete hyperbolic structure of \( M \), one have
\[
Z_h[M + \hat{O}, X_m = 0] \xrightarrow{\hbar \to 0} \exp \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{S}^{(\text{hyp})}_n(\hat{O}; M)\hbar^{n-1} \right) .
\]
In the expansion, one can use the asymptotic expansion of the quantum dilogarithm function in (155). Then, we define the perturbative invariants \( \{ \mathcal{Z}^{(\text{hyp})}_s, \mathcal{W}^{(\text{hyp})}_s \} \) as
\[
\frac{\exp \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{S}^{(\text{hyp})}_n(\hat{O}; M)\hbar^{n-1} \right)}{\exp \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{S}^{(\text{hyp})}_n(M)\hbar^{n-1} \right)} = \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{Z}^{(\text{hyp})}_s(\hat{O}; M)\hbar^s
\]
\[
= \exp \left( \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}^{(\text{hyp})}_s(\hat{O}; M)\hbar^s \right) .
\]
Here \( \mathcal{S}^{(\text{hyp})}_n(M) := \mathcal{S}^{(\text{hyp})}_n(\hat{O}_{\text{hyp}}; M) \) is the perturbative invariant of state-integral model without any insertion of loop operator. From the definition, one can see that the relation in (29) simply follows from (42) with \( F(x) = 2 + x + \frac{1}{2} \) and \( X_m = 0 \). In the classical limit \( \hbar \to 0 \), saddle points \( \{ \hat{Z} = \hat{Z}^{(\alpha)} \} \) of the state-integral at \( X_m = 0 \) satisfy following equations
\[
\prod_{j=1}^{k} z_j^{A_{ij}}(1 - z_j^{-1})^{B_{ij}}|_{z_j = \exp (\hat{Z}_i^{(\alpha)})} = (-1)^{\nu_i} .
\]
For \( \rho_{\text{hyp}} \)-regular ideal triangulation \( \mathcal{T} \), the saddle point \( \hat{Z}^{(\text{hyp})} \) is uniquely characterized by following conditions \( (z_i^{(\text{hyp})}) := \exp (\hat{Z}_i^{(\text{hyp})}) ) \)
\[
\text{Im}[z_i^{(\text{hyp})}] < 0 \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \ldots, k .
\]
Example 3.1. As an example, consider the case with \( M = S^3 \setminus \{ 4 \} \). Its simplest ideal triangulation consists of two tetrahedra, say \( \Delta_Y \) and \( \Delta_Z \), with edge parameters
\[
(y,y',y'') = (e^Y, e^{Y'}, e^{Y''}) \quad \text{and} \quad (z,z',z'') = (e^Z, e^{Z'}, e^{Z''}).
\]
Using the gluing data given in Appendix A, we have
\[
\left( \begin{array}{c} gY \\ C_1 \\ gZ \\ \bar{G}_1 \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \cdot \left( \begin{array}{c} Y \\ Z \\ Y'' \\ Z'' \end{array} \right) .
\]
The corresponding state-integral model is [5, 9]

\[ Z_h(S^3 \setminus A_1; X_m) = \langle X_m, C_1 = 0 | \Delta \rangle, \]

(48)

\[ = \int \frac{dYdZ}{2\pi \hbar} \exp \left( \frac{1}{2\hbar} (X_m - 2X_mY + 2X_mZ - 2YZ) \right) \psi_h(Y)\psi_h(Z). \]

The saddle points of the integral are the solutions of the following equations:

(49)

\[ \partial_{Y,Z} \left( \text{Li}_2(e^{-Y}) + \text{Li}_2(e^{-Z}) + \frac{1}{2}X_m^2 + X_mZ - X_mY - YZ \right) = 0, \]

\[ \implies -Z + \log(1 - e^{-Y}) = X_m, \quad -Y + \log(1 - e^{-Z}) = -X_m. \]

The saddle point equations coincide with the (logarithmic) gluing equations of the ideal triangulation. At \( X_m = 0 \), there are two saddle points,

(50)

\[ (\alpha) = (\text{hyp}) : Y = Z = \frac{i\pi}{3}, \]

\[ (\alpha) = (\text{hyp}) : Y = Z = -\frac{i\pi}{3}. \]

We now extend the state-integral model for \( S^3 \setminus A_1 \) to include a quantum trace map \( \hat{O}_{K_b} \), where \( K_b \) is the geodesic knot in the homotopy class \( b \in \pi_1(S^3 \setminus A_1) \), see Figure 6. The classical trace map is

(51)

\[ \Phi_{tr}(Y_{K_b}) = -(y^{-1} + z^{-1} - y^{-1}z^{-1}) \in \mathbb{C}[\chi[T]]. \]

The expression is obtained using the holonomy matrices in (140) and the gluing equation variety \( \chi[T] \) is given in (139). After quantization, we assume that the quantum loop operator is given as

(52)

\[ \hat{O}_{K_b} = \text{tr}_q(Y_{K_b}) = -C_1 \hat{y}^{-1} - C_2 \hat{z}^{-1} + C_3 \hat{y}^{-1} \hat{z}^{-1} \in \hat{C}_q[T] \]

where \( \{C_\alpha = 1, 2, 3\} \) are Laurent polynomials in \( q^{1/4} \) which all become 1 in the limit \( q^{1/4} \to -1 \). Later in section 4, we will propose that \( C_1 = C_2 = C_3 = q^{1/2} = e^\frac{\pi}{4} \)

and check it against the all-order length conjecture. Under the quantization, the state-integral is

(53)

\[ Z_h \left[ S^3 \setminus A_1 + \hat{O}_{K_b}; X_m = 0 \right] \]

\[ = \int \frac{dYdZ}{2\pi \hbar} \exp \left( -\frac{YZ}{\hbar} \right) \psi_h(Y)\psi_h(Z) \times e^{\hbar/2} \left( -e^{-Y} - e^{-Z} + e^{-Y-Z} \right). \]

For \( K_b^2 \) (2-cabling of \( K_b \)), the classical trace map is

(54)

\[ \Phi_{tr}(Y_{K_b^2}) = (\Phi_{tr}(Y_{K_b}))^2 = (y^{-1} + z^{-1} - y^{-1}z^{-1})^2 \in \mathbb{C}[\chi_0[T]]. \]

After quantization, as will be proposed in section 4, the quantum loop operator is

(55)

\[ \hat{O}_{K_b^2} = q(\hat{y}^{-1} + \hat{z}^{-1} - \hat{y}^{-1} \hat{z}^{-1})^2 + 1 - q^2 \in \hat{C}_q[T]. \]

The state-integral with the loop operator is

(56)

\[ Z_h \left[ S^3 \setminus A_1 + \hat{O}_{K_b^2}; X_m = 0 \right] \]

\[ = \int \frac{dYdZ}{2\pi \hbar} \exp \left( -\frac{YZ}{\hbar} \right) \psi_h(Y)\psi_h(Z) \times \left( e^{\hbar} \left( -e^{-Y} - e^{-Z} + e^{-Y-Z} \right)^2 + 1 - e^{2\hbar} \right). \]
3.3. **Feynman perturbation theory for the invariants.** In this section we will give an expression for the invariants \( \{ \mathcal{W}^{\text{hyp}}_n(\hat{O}_K; M) \}_{n=0}^{\infty} \) using Feynman diagrams following [9].

The quantum loop operator \( \hat{O} \) can be generally given in the following form

\[
\hat{O} = \sum_{\alpha} C_\alpha(q^{1/4}) \hat{O}_\alpha = \sum_{\alpha} C_\alpha(q^{1/4}) \prod_i z_i^{\alpha_i} (z_i^*)^{\beta_i(\alpha)}. 
\]

Giving an explicit formula for each of the terms \( \mathcal{W}^{\text{hyp}}_n(\hat{O}_K; M) \) is quite involved. We will instead give an implicit expression in terms of the perturbative expansion of each term \( Z_h(M + \hat{O}_\alpha; X_m) \) in the expression

\[
Z_h(M + \hat{O}; X_m) = \sum_{\alpha} C_\alpha(q^{1/4}) Z_h(M + \hat{O}_\alpha; X_m) \bigg|_{q^{1/4} = -e^{\frac{k}{\hbar}}},
\]

which we denote them as \( S_{n/\alpha}^{(c)} \):

\[
Z_h(M + \hat{O}_\alpha; X_m) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\text{det} B}} \int \prod_{i=1}^k dZ_i \frac{dZ_i}{\sqrt{2\pi \hbar}} \exp \left( \frac{1}{2\hbar} Q(Z, X_m) \right) e^{a(\alpha)} \alpha \prod_{i=1}^k \psi_h(Z_i + b_i(\alpha) \hbar) \text{ around a saddle point } Z^{(c)} \text{ in } \hbar \to 0 \exp \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hbar^n S_{n/\alpha}^{(c)} \right).
\]

The expansion can be obtained by considering the expansion \( Z_i = Z_i^{(c)} + Y_i \). So, the integral expression becomes

\[
Z_h(M + \hat{O}_\alpha; X_m) = \frac{e^{F(0)}}{\sqrt{\text{det} B}} \int \prod_{i=1}^k dY_i \frac{dY_i}{\sqrt{2\pi \hbar}} e^{\frac{1}{2\hbar} Y_i^* H Y_i} \prod_{i=1}^k e^{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Gamma_i^{(c)} Y_i^n / n!},
\]

where we defined

\[
H^{ij} := (B^{-1} A)_{ij} + (z_j z_j^*)^{-1} \delta_{ij},
\]

the ‘vacuum energy’:

\[
\Gamma^{(0)} = F(X_m, Z^{(c)}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{B_n(1 + b_i(\alpha)) \hbar^{n-1}}{n!} \text{Li}_{2-n} \left( e^{-Z_i^{(c)}} \right),
\]

where \( B_n(1 + b_i(\alpha)) \) denotes the Bernoulli polynomials evaluated at \( 1 + b_i(\alpha) \) and

\[
F(X_m, Z^{(c)}) := \frac{1}{2\hbar} Q(Z^{(c)}, X_A) + a \cdot Z^{(c)} + \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_i \text{Li}_2(e^{-Z_i^{(c)}}),
\]

the linear vertex

\[
\Gamma_i^{(1)} = \alpha_i^{(\alpha)} + \frac{1}{2} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{B_n(1 + b_i(\alpha)) \hbar^{n-1}}{n!} \text{Li}_{1-n} \left( e^{-Z_i^{(c)}} \right),
\]

and higher valence vertices \( k \geq 2 \):

\[
\Gamma_i^{(k)} = (-1)^k \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{B_n(1 + b_i(\alpha)) \hbar^{n-1}}{n!} \text{Li}_{2-n-k} \left( e^{-Z_i^{(c)}} \right).
\]
Then, the coefficients $S^{(c)}_{n,a}$ can be computed as sums over Feynman diagrams corresponding to non-directed graphs, without open edges, which we denote as $\mathcal{G}_\Gamma$. The situation is completely analogous to [9], with a slight modification on the valence of the vertices. We associate a weight to each graph $\mathcal{G}_\Gamma$:

$$W(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma) := \frac{1}{|\text{Aut}(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma)|} \prod_{v \in \text{vertices}} \Gamma_{l_v}^{(k_v)} \prod_{e \in \text{edges}} \Pi_e$$

here $l_v$ is the set of labels corresponding to the legs of the vertex $v$ in the graph and $k_v$ its valence. Given a graph $\mathcal{G}_\Gamma$ we denote $\mathcal{L}$ the number of loops, $V_a$ the number of vertices of valence $a$. We define

$$\mathcal{G}_n := \{\mathcal{G}_\Gamma : \mathcal{L} + V_1 + V_2 \leq n\}$$

then, the $S^{(c)}_{n,a}$ coefficients are given by

$$S^{(c)}_0 = \text{coeff}[\Gamma^{(0)}, \hbar^{-1}],$$

the 1-loop term:

$$e^{S^{(c)}_1,a} = e^{\text{coeff}[\Gamma^{(0)}, \hbar]} \frac{i^k}{\sqrt{\det B} \sqrt{\det H}},$$

and for $n \geq 2$:

$$S^{\alpha}_{n,k} = \text{coeff} \left\{ \Gamma^{(0)} + \sum_{\mathcal{G}_\Gamma \in \mathcal{G}_n} W(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma), \hbar^{n-1} \right\} \quad n \geq 2.$$

Now we can use these results to compute the invariants $\{W^{\text{hyp}}(\hat{O}; M)\}_{s=0}^\infty$. First denote

$$\frac{Z_h(M + \hat{O}; X_m)}{Z_h(M; X_m)} = \frac{1}{Z_h(M; X_m)} \sum_{\alpha} C_{\alpha}(q^{1/2}) Z_h(M + \hat{O}_\alpha; X_m)$$

around a saddle point $Z^{(c)}$ in $\hbar \to 0$:

$$\sum_{\alpha} C_{\alpha}(q^{1/2} = -e^{1/2}) \exp \left( \sum_{n=1}^\infty \hbar^{n-1} \tilde{S}^{(c)}_{n,\alpha} \right)$$

where

$$\tilde{S}^{(c)}_{n,\alpha} := S^{(c)}_{n,\alpha} - S^{(c)}_{n}(M) \quad n \geq 1$$

and we have used the fact that

$$\tilde{S}^{(c)}_{0,\alpha}(M) = S^{(c)}_{0,\alpha} \quad \text{for all } \alpha.$$

Therefore, the expression of $\tilde{S}^{(c)}_{n,\alpha}$, $n \geq 1$ in terms of Feynman diagrams reduce exactly to the same computation than $S^{(c)}(M)$, presented in [9] with two modifications in the vertices:

1. The vertices of valence 0 and 1 becomes

$$\Gamma^{(0)} = a^{(\alpha)} \cdot Z^{(c)} + \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(B_n(1+b_i^{(\alpha)}) - B_n) h^{n-1}}{n!} \text{Li}_{2-n} \left( e^{-Z^{(c)}} \right),$$

2. $\Gamma^{(1)}_i = a_i^{(\alpha)} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(B_n(1+b_i^{(\alpha)}) - B_n) h^{n-1}}{n!} \text{Li}_{1-n} \left( e^{-Z^{(c)}} \right).$
The coefficient $B_n = B_n(1)$ is replaced by $B_n(1 - b^{(\alpha)}_i) - B_n$ in the vertex $\Gamma_i^{(s)}$, $s \geq 2$.

The coefficients $C_\alpha$ are Laurent polynomials in $q^{1/4}$, so they can be expanded in power series in $\hbar$:

\begin{equation}
C_\alpha(q^{1/4} = e^{\hbar/4}) = \sum_{s \geq 0} h^s f_{s,\alpha}.
\end{equation}

Therefore, the series expression in (70) can be written as a formal power series in $\hbar$ whose $\mathcal{O}(\hbar^0)$ term is given by

\begin{equation}
\frac{Z_h(M + \hat{O}; X_\alpha)}{Z_h(M; X_\alpha)} = \sum_c W^{(c)}_\gamma + \mathcal{O}(\hbar)
\end{equation}

where $W^{(c)}_{\gamma} := \sum_{\alpha} f_{0,\alpha} e^{z^{(\alpha)}_{i,\alpha}}$ is the classical expectation value of the light knot $K$ at the saddle point $(c)$. Therefore, for a fixed saddle point $(c)$ we can write (75) as

\begin{equation}
\ln \left( W^{(c)}_{\gamma} \right) + \ln \left( 1 + P^{(c)}(\hbar) \right),
\end{equation}

where $P^{(c)}(\hbar)$ is a power series in $\hbar$, without a constant term. Hence, the Taylor series of the logarithm defines the invariants $\{ W_s^{(hyp)}(\hat{O}_K; M) \}_{s=0}^\infty$. They become very involved as $s$ grows larger and we find it not very illuminating to include a general formula here. Instead we will present explicit expressions for $s = 0, 1$.

For $s = 0$, we get the classical expectation value, as remarked above

\begin{equation}
W^{class}_{\gamma} := \exp \left( W_0^{(hyp)}(\hat{O}; M) \right) = \sum_{\alpha} f_{0,\alpha} e^{z^{(\alpha)}_{i,\alpha}}
\end{equation}

$= \sum_{\alpha} C_\alpha(q^{1/4} = -1) \prod_i (z_i^{\mu} b^{(\alpha)}_{i,\alpha} a^{(\alpha)}_{i,\alpha})$, where $z_i^{\mu} = (1 - e^{-Z_i})$ and $z_i = e^{Z_i}$ are evaluated at the saddle point $Z^{(hyp)}$ in (46). Hence the value of $\exp \left( W_0^{(hyp)}(\hat{O}; M) \right)$ coincides with the classical expectation value of $\hat{O}$, as expected.

For $s = 1$, we get

\begin{equation}
W^{(hyp)}_1(\hat{O}; M) = \sum_{\alpha} \left( f_{1,\alpha} + f_{0,\alpha} z^{(hyp)}_{1,\alpha} e^{z^{(hyp)}_{1,\alpha}} \right) \frac{W^{class}_{\gamma}}{W^{class}_{\gamma}},
\end{equation}

where the explicit expressions for $z^{(hyp)}_{1,\alpha}$, $z^{(hyp)}_{2,\alpha}$ can be obtained with the help of the Feynman diagram expansion as described above. In the next section we will provide explicit examples for links in the figure-eight knot-complement.

**4. Example : figure-eight knot-complement**

We explicitly define the quantum trace map for $M = S^3 \setminus 4_1$ and prove (or numerically check) some parts of conjecture in (2.1).

The Skein module for $M = S^3 \setminus 4_1$ is studied in [3]:

\begin{equation}
S_q(S^3 \setminus 4_1) = \mathbb{C}[q^{\pm 1/4}] - \text{module with basis } \{ Y_{K_0^b \cup \bigcup_{m}^2} \}_{m \geq 0, 0 \leq n \leq 2}
\end{equation}

$\Rightarrow
\begin{equation}
S_q^{even}(S^3 \setminus 4_1) = \mathbb{C}[q^{\pm 1/4}] - \text{module with basis } \{ Y_{K_0^b \cup \bigcup_{m}^2} \}_{m \geq 0, 0 \leq n \leq 2}
\end{equation}
Where $\bigcirc_m$ is the meridian knot, i.e. the knot in the red color, and $K_b$ is the knot in green color depicted in Figure 6. $K_b$ is an even knot while $\bigcirc_m$ is an odd knot. $K^n$ denotes the $n$-cabling of a knot $K$.

![Figure 6](image_url)

**Figure 6.** Three generators of fundamental group, given in (133), of the figure-eight knot complement.

### 4.1. Explicit quantum trace map

The quantum gluing module $\hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}]$ for an ideal triangulation $\mathcal{T}$ in Appendix A is

$$\hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}] = \mathbb{C}[q^{\pm 1/4}, \hat{z}, \hat{z}^{-1}, (\hat{y}'', \hat{y}'')^{\pm 1}, (\hat{z}'', \hat{z}^{-1} - q^{-1}\hat{y}'\hat{y}'')] = 0,$$

where $\hat{O} \sim q^{-1}\hat{y}\hat{z}(\hat{y}'\hat{z}^{-1})^{-1}\hat{O}$, $\hat{O} \sim \hat{O} \cdot (\hat{y}^{-1} + \hat{y}'')$ and $\hat{O} \sim \hat{O} \cdot (\hat{z}^{-1} + \hat{z}'')$.

We propose following quantum trace map $\text{tr}_q^T : S_q^{\text{even}}[M] \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[\mathcal{T}]$

$$\text{tr}_q^T(Y_{\bigcirc_m}) = (\hat{y}'/\hat{z} + \hat{z}/\hat{y}' + 2)^m, \quad (80)$$

$$\begin{align*}
\text{tr}_q^T(Y_{K_b \cup \bigcirc_m}) &= -q^{1/2} (\hat{y}'/\hat{z} + \hat{z}/\hat{y}' + 2)^m (\hat{y}^{-1} + \hat{z}^{-1} - \hat{y}^{-1}\hat{z}^{-1}), \\
\text{tr}_q^T(Y_{K_2^b \cup \bigcirc_m}) &= (\hat{y}'\hat{z} + \hat{z}/\hat{y}' + 2)^m (q(\hat{y}^{-1} + \hat{z}^{-1} - \hat{y}^{-1}\hat{z}^{-1})^2 - q^2 + 1). \quad (81)
\end{align*}$$

Assuming the conjecture III in (2.1) and using the fact $e^{\pi i} = \hat{y}'/\hat{z}$, the only non-trivial parts of the proposal are $\text{tr}_q^T(Y_{K_b})$ and $\text{tr}_q^T(Y_{K_2^b})$. We support the proposal by checking the all-order length conjecture.

The perturbative invariant $W_s^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_K; S^3 \setminus A_1)$ defined in (44) for $K = K_b$ and $K = K_2^b$ can be computed by expanding the state-integral models in (53) and (56) around the saddle point in (50). Up to $s = 2$, one has

$$\begin{align*}
\sum_{s=0}^{2} W_s^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_{K_b}; S^3 \setminus A_1) h^s &= \frac{7i\pi + 3\log 3}{6} + \frac{i\sqrt{3} + 6}{18} h + \frac{i}{18\sqrt{3}} h^2, \\
\sum_{s=0}^{2} W_s^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_{K_2^b}; S^3 \setminus A_1) h^s &= \frac{i\pi + 3\log 3}{6} + \frac{i\sqrt{3} + 2}{3} h + \frac{i\sqrt{3} + 6}{27} h^2. \quad (82)
\end{align*}$$

The leading part is related to the complex length of $\gamma_b$ as follows

$$W_0^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_{K_b}; S^3 \setminus A_1) = \log \left( -\left( e^{\ell_c(\gamma_b)/2} + e^{-\ell_c(\gamma_b)/2} \right) \right) = \frac{7i\pi + 3\log 3}{6} \simeq 0.549306 + 3.66519i.$$  

$$W_0^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_{K_2^b}; S^3 \setminus A_1) = 2W_0^{(\text{hyp})}(\hat{O}_{K_b}; S^3 \setminus A_1) \pmod{2\pi i} \simeq 1.09861 + 1.0472i. \quad (83)$$
4.2. Test of the length conjecture - analytic proof up to 1-loop. For the figure-8 knot complement, one of the proofs of the classical volume conjecture [23] is based on the Habiro-Lê formula [17, 22] for the Jones polynomial:

\[ J_n(q) := \frac{J_n(K = 4_1; q)}{J_n(\emptyset; q)} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \prod_{j=1}^{k} \left( q^{(n-j)/2} - q^{-(n-j)/2} \right) \left( q^{(n+j)/2} - q^{-(n+j)/2} \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} w_{n,k}(q). \]

At \( q = e^{2\pi i/n} \), the function \( w_{n,k}(q) \) simplifies quite a bit:

\[ w_{n,k}(q = e^{2\pi i/n}) = \prod_{j=1}^{k} 4 \sin^2 \left( \frac{j\pi}{n} \right). \]

In the remainder of this section, \( w_{n,k} \) will mean this product depending on \( n \) and \( k \). Since \( w_{n,k} \) is positive definite, it makes sense to regard \( J^*_n := J_n(q = e^{2\pi i/n}) \) as a sort of partition function, and use it to define a probability distribution:

\[ p_{n,k} := \frac{w_{n,k}}{J^*_n}, \quad p_{n,k} \geq 0, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n} p_{n,k} = 1. \]

(The two boundary cases, \( k = 0 \) and \( k = n \), have zero probability.)

We provide an analytic proof of the length conjecture for the figure 8-knot complement in the presence of the \( K_b \) or \( K^2_b \). In this context, the length conjecture is a prediction on the large \( n \) limit of the series,

\[ A^K_n = \log \left( \frac{J^*_{n,2}}{J_n} \right), \quad A^K_2 = \log \left( 1 + \frac{J^*_{n,3}}{J_n} \right). \]

Our proof relies on simple formulas for \( J_{n,2}(q) \) and \( J_{n,3}(q) \):

\[ J_{n,2}(q) := \frac{(-1) \times J_{n,\tilde{n}=2}(K = 4_1 \cup K_b; q)}{J_n(\emptyset; q)} = q^{1/2} J_n(q) + q^{-1/2} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} q^{-k} w_{n,k}(q), \]

\[ J_{n,3}(q) := \frac{J_{n,\tilde{n}=3}(K = 4_1 \cup K_b; q)}{J_n(\emptyset; q)} = (1 + q) \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} q^{-k} w_{n,k}(q) + q^{-1} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} q^{-2k} w_{n,k}(q). \]

For \( J_{n,2} \), we include a sign factor to compensate the sign factor appearing in (148). After the compensation, it becomes identical to the conventional Jones polynomial. These formulas are conjectural. We have verified that they agree with computations based on braid diagrams and \( R \)-matrices up to \( n = 20 \). It would be interesting to derive these formulas from first principles, for example, using recursion relations [15] which proved extremely useful for Jones polynomials for single-component knots.
With the probability interpretation of (86), the series $A_n$ are rephrased as

$$A^K_n = \log \left( q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2} E_{n,1} \right), \quad E_{n,a} = \sum_k q^{-ak} p_{n,k},$$

$$A^2_n = \log \left( 1 + (1 + q) E_{n,1} + q^{-1} E_{n,2} \right).$$

We recognize $E_{n,a}$ as the expectation value of the function $q^{-ak}$ with respect to the probability distribution $p_{n,k}$.

As explained in e.g. [23], $w_{n,k}$ for fixed $n$ reaches its maximum value at $k/n = 5/6$. As $n$ increases, the ratio of the maximum value to generic values becomes exponentially large. So, as in a typical problem in statistical mechanics, we can approximate the probability distribution as Gaussian.

At the classical ($s = 0$) level of the conjecture, the only information we need is the position of the peak of the Gaussian:

$$E_{n,1} \approx q^{-k}|_{(k/n=5/6)} = e^{-5\pi i/3}, \quad E_{n,2} \approx q^{-2k}|_{(k/n=5/6)} = e^{-4\pi i/3}.$$  

It gives the leading contribution to $A_n$, which agrees with the prediction of the state integral model:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} A^K_n = \log(1 + e^{-5\pi i/3}) = \frac{1}{6}(3 \log 3 + \pi i).$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} A^2_n = \log(1 + 2e^{-5\pi i/3} + e^{-4\pi i/3}) = \frac{1}{3}(3 \log 3 + \pi i).$$

To proceed to the 1-loop ($s = 1$) level, we need to improve upon the Gaussian approximation. To prepare for a continuum limit, we define

$$x := \frac{k}{n}, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$  

A key step is to apply the Euler-Maclaurin formula, including the leading correction term, to approximate $w_{n,k}$ by a continuous function,

$$\frac{w_{n,k}}{w_{n,n/2}} \approx \tilde{w}_n(x) := \exp \left( 2n \int_{1/2}^x \log[2 \sin(\pi y)] dy + \log \left[ \frac{\sin(\pi x)}{\sin(\pi/2)} \right] \right).$$

Then, the quantity $E_{n,a}$ can be approximated by the ratio of two integrals,

$$E_{n,a} \approx \left( \int_0^1 \tilde{w}_n(x) dx \right)^{-1} \int_0^1 e^{-2\pi i a x} \tilde{w}_n(x) dx.$$  

To evaluate these integrals up to the $(1/n)$ order, we change the variable

$$x = \frac{5}{6} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} t,$$

and expand the exponents to relevant orders,

$$\tilde{w}_n(x) \approx \exp \left( -\sqrt{3} \pi t^2 - \frac{3\sqrt{3} \pi t + 4\pi^2 t^3}{3\sqrt{n}} \right),$$

$$e^{-2\pi i a x} \approx e^{-5\pi a / 6} \exp \left( -\frac{2\pi a}{\sqrt{n}} \right).$$
Treating the $(1/\sqrt{n})$ terms in the exponents perturbatively, we find

$$A_n^{K_s} = \frac{1}{6} \left( 3 \log 3 + \pi i \right) + \frac{6 + i \sqrt{3}}{18} \left( \frac{2 \pi i}{n} \right) + O \left( \frac{1}{n} \right)^2,$$

$$A_n^{K_t} = \frac{1}{3} \left( 3 \log 3 + \pi i \right) + \frac{2 + i \sqrt{3}}{3} \left( \frac{2 \pi i}{n} \right) + O \left( \frac{1}{n} \right)^2,$$

in perfect agreement with (82) to the one-loop order ($s = 1$) up to an additive factor of $i\pi$ in $A_n^{K_s}$ which is due to the $(-1)$ in our definition of (88).

4.3. Test of the length conjecture - numerical check. For a numerical check below, we define two sequences from the truncated invariants,

$$B^K_n := \begin{cases} \sum_{s=0}^2 W_s(\tilde{O}_K; S^3 \setminus 4_1)h^s & |q = \exp(\frac{i\pi}{m,e})| - i\pi, \quad K = K_b \\ \sum_{s=0}^2 W_s(\tilde{O}_K; S^3 \setminus 4_1)h^s & |q = \exp(\frac{i\pi}{m,e})|, \quad K = K_b^2. \end{cases}$$

On the Jones-polynomial side, we introduce two sequences,

$$A_n^{K_s} := \log \left\{ \frac{(-1) \times J_{n,n=2}(4_1 \cup K_b; q)}{J_n(4_1; q)} \right\} \bigg|_{q = \exp(\frac{i\pi}{m,e})},$$

$$A_n^{K_t} := \log \left\{ \frac{J_{n,n=2}(4_1 \cup K_b^2; q)}{J_n(4_1; q)} \right\} \bigg|_{q = \exp(\frac{i\pi}{m,e})},$$

$$= \log \left\{ \frac{J_{n,n=3}(4_1 \cup K_b; q) + J_n(4_1; q)}{J_n(4_1; q)} \right\} \bigg|_{q = \exp(\frac{i\pi}{m,e})}.$$

The numerical values of $A^K_n$ up to $n = 30$ are given in Table 1.

The numerical data for $A_n$ is plotted against the continuous graph of $B_n$ in Figure 7. The two plots appear to converge as $n$ increases. To estimate the error more precisely, we define the two-loop error coefficients as

$$C^K_n = n^3 |A^K_n - B^K_n|, \quad K_b \text{ or } K_b^2.$$

Their numerical values are also given in Table 1. After some fluctuations for small $n$, say $n \leq 15$, they begin to converge slowly to a fixed $O(1)$ constant. This tendency suggests that the error $|A_n - B_n|$ is approximately $O(1/n)^3$. So, as far as the numerical experiment is concerned, we have confirmed that the all order length conjecture holds up to two-loop order ($s = 2$).

5. 3D index with quantum trace map

We discuss the 3D index with quantum trace map, which we call $\mathcal{I}_{M+\hat{O}}(m,c;q)$ and $\mathcal{I}_{M_{P/Q}+\hat{O}}(q)$, extending the previous works [7, 14, 13].

The 3D index for a single tetrahedron is

$$\mathcal{I}_{\Delta}(m,c) := \sum_{n=[e]}^\infty \frac{(-1)^n q^{\frac{1}{2}(n(n+1)- (n+1)e)}}{(q)_n(q)_{n+c}},$$

where $[e] := \frac{1}{2}(|e| - e)$ and $(q)_n := (1-q)(1-q^2) \ldots (1-q^n)$.
The 3D index for $M = \mathcal{S}^3 \setminus \mathcal{K}$ with an insertion on quantum loop operator

\[ \mathcal{O} = \sum_{\alpha} C_{\alpha}(q^{1/4}) \prod_{i=1}^{k} z_i^{(a)} (z_i^{(a)})^{b_i^{(a)}} \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}_q[T] \]
is given as

\[
\mathcal{I}_{M+O}(m, e; q) = \sum_{\alpha} C_{\alpha} \left( \sum_{\{m\}} \left( -q^{-1/2} \right)^{\langle \nu, \gamma \rangle} \prod_{i=1}^{k} \mathcal{I}_\Delta \left( m_i + \hat{b}_i^{(\alpha)} + e_i - a_i^{(\alpha)} \right) q \left[ a, b; m, e \right]^{(\alpha)}_{i} \right)_{\gamma = g^{-1} \tilde{\gamma}},
\]

with \( \{m\} = \{m_{c_1}, \ldots, m_{c_{k-1}} \} \),
\( \gamma := (m_1, \ldots, m_k, e_1, \ldots, e_k)^T \), \( \tilde{\gamma} = (m, m_{c_1}, \ldots, m_{c_{k-1}}, e, 0, \ldots, 0)^T \),
\( \langle \nu, \gamma \rangle := \sum_{i=1}^{k} (\nu_p m_i - \nu_1 e_i) \), \( [a, b; m, e]^{(\alpha)}_{i} = \frac{1}{2} \left( a_i^{(\alpha)} m_i + b_i^{(\alpha)} e_i - \hat{b}_i^{(\alpha)} a_i^{(\alpha)} \right) \).
Here \( g \in Sp(2k, \mathbb{Z}) \) and \((\hat{\nu}, \hat{\nu}_p) \in \mathbb{Z}^k \) are determined by gluing equations of an ideal triangulation \( T \) of \( M \) as given in (34). Under the Dehn filling, \( M \to \mp/\Omega \), with a slope \( P/Q \), the 3D index becomes [13]

\[
\mathcal{I}_{\mp/\Omega} = \sum_{(m,e) \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \frac{1}{2} (-1)^{R_m + 2 SE} \left( \delta_{\frac{P}{Q} m + Q e, 0} (q^{\frac{R_m + 2 SE}{2}} + q^{-\frac{R_m + 2 SE}{2}}) \right.
\]

\[
- \delta_{\frac{P}{Q} m + Q e, -1} - \delta_{\frac{P}{Q} m + Q e, 1} \right) \mathcal{I}_{\mp/\Omega}(m, e),
\]

Here two integers \((R, S)\) are chosen to satisfy

\[
\begin{pmatrix} R \\ S \\ P \\ Q \end{pmatrix} \in SL(2, \mathbb{Z}).
\]

For given \((P, Q)\), two integers \((R, S)\) satisfying the \( SL(2, \mathbb{Z}) \) relation is not unique but the choice of them does not affect the 3D index.

**Conjecture 5.1.** The quantum trace map \( tr^\mp_q \) in the conjecture 2.1 satisfies the following properties

For any even link \( K \subset M \),

\[
\mathcal{I}_{\mp/\Omega}(m, e; q) = \mathcal{I}_{\mp/\Omega}(-m, -e; q) \quad \text{and}
\]

\[
\mathcal{I}_{\mp/\Omega}(m, e; q) = 0, \quad \text{if} \ M_P/Q \text{ is a Lens space}.
\]

Not all \( \hat{\Omega} \in \hat{C}_q[T] \) satisfy the above constraints and it will provide a guideline for determining the quantum trace map.

**Example 5.2.** As an example, consider the case when \( M = S^3 \setminus 4_1 \). The 3D index \( \mathcal{I}_M(m, e; q) \) is

\[
\mathcal{I}_{M=S^3\setminus 4_1}(m, e; q)
\]

\[
= \sum_{e_c \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - e, e_c) \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - m, e_c - e - m).
\]

With an insertion of \( \hat{\Omega} = \hat{y}^{\alpha} \hat{z}^{\beta}(\hat{y}^{\gamma})^{\gamma}(\hat{z}^{\delta})^{\delta} \in \hat{C}_q[T] \), the index becomes

\[
\mathcal{I}_{S^3\setminus 4_1+\hat{\Omega}}(m, e; q) = \sum_{e_c \in \mathbb{Z}} q^{\alpha(e_c - e) + \beta(e_c - m) + \gamma(e_c - e + m - e - m) + \delta}
\]

\[
\times \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - e + \gamma, e_c - \alpha) \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - m + \delta, e_c - e - m - \beta).
\]

Using the above expression, one can check that all \( \hat{\Omega} \in \text{tr}^\mp_q (S^q_{\text{even}}[S^3\setminus 4_1]) \) in (81) satisfy the conditions in the conjecture. For \( \hat{\Omega} = C_1 \hat{y}^{-1} \hat{z}^{\gamma} + C_2 \hat{z}^{-1} \hat{y}^{\gamma} + C_3 \hat{y} \hat{z}^{1} \in \hat{C}_q[T] \), as an example, the 3D index becomes

\[
\mathcal{I}_{S^3\setminus 4_1+\hat{\Omega}}(m, e)
\]

\[
= \sum_{e_c \in \mathbb{Z}} \left[ C_1 \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - e, e_c + 1) \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - m + 1, e_c - e - m) q^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}}
\]

\[
+ C_2 \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - e + 1, e_c) \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - m, e_c - e - m + 1) q^{\frac{\gamma}{2}}
\]

\[
+ C_3 \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - e, e_c + 1) \mathcal{I}_\Delta(e_c - m, e_c - e - m + 1) q^{\frac{\gamma - 2 e + e}{2}} \right],
\]
which implies (to avoid clutter, we suppress the subscript in $I_{S^3\setminus \{4_1\}+\hat{O}}$)

\[
I(0, 0) = C_3 + (-2C_1 - 2C_2 + C_3) q - 2(C_1 + C_2 + C_3) q^2 \\
+ (2C_1 + 2C_2 - 5C_3) q^3 + \ldots,
\]

\[
I(1, 0) = (C_3 - C_1) q^{1/2} - (C_1 + C_2 + C_3) q^{3/2} + (2C_1 - 2C_2 - 2C_3) q^2 + (4C_1 - 3C_3) q^3 + \ldots,
\]

\[
I(-1, 0) = (C_3 - C_2) q^{1/2} - (C_1 + C_2 + C_3) q^{3/2} + (2C_2 - C_1 - 3C_3) q^2 + (4C_2 - 3C_3) q^3 + \ldots.
\]

\[
I(1, 1) = (C_3 - C_1) - C_3 q + (C_1 - 2C_2 - 2C_3) q^2 + (4C_1 - 3C_3) q^3 + \ldots,
\]

\[
I(-1, -1) = (C_3 - C_2) - C_3 q + (C_2 - 2C_1 - 2C_3) q^2 + (4C_2 - 3C_3) q^3 + \ldots.
\]

For the index to be invariant under the Weyl $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetry, $(m, e) \mapsto (-m, -e)$, in the conjecture, the quantum loop operator $\hat{O} = C_1 \hat{y}^{-1} \hat{z}'' + C_2 \hat{z}^{-1} \hat{y}'' + C_3 \hat{y}^{-1} \hat{z}^{-1}$ should satisfy

\[
(111) \quad C_1 = C_2.
\]

So we expect that only the $\hat{O}$ with $C_1 = C_2$ can appear as image of the quantum trace map. For example, from (81),

\[
\text{tr}_q^f(K_b) = (\hat{y}^{-1} + \hat{z}^{-1} - \hat{y}^{-1} \hat{z}^{-1})
\]

\[
\sim (\hat{y}^{-1}(\hat{z}'' + \hat{z}^{-1}) + \hat{z}^{-1}(1 - \hat{y}^{-1}))
\]

\[
\sim (\hat{y}^{-1}(\hat{z}'' + \hat{z}^{-1}) + \hat{z}^{-1} \hat{y}'' = \hat{O}|_{C_1=C_2=C_3=-1}
\]

satisfies the condition.

6. Quantum trace map in complex Chern-Simons theory

In this section, we give a brief review on general aspect of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ Chern-Simons theory and its relation the volume conjecture. Refer to \cite{16, 8, 34} for details. By interpreting the quantum trace operator as holomorphic Wilson loop in the complex Chern-Simons theory, we give a physical derivation of the length conjecture.

The action of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})(k, \sigma)$ Chern-Simons theory is given as follows

\[
S_{(k, \sigma)}[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^\ast ; M] = \frac{k + \sigma}{8\pi} \int \text{tr} \left( \mathcal{A} \wedge d\mathcal{A} + \frac{2}{3} \mathcal{A}^3 \right) + \frac{k - \sigma}{8\pi} \int \text{tr} \left( \mathcal{A} \wedge d\mathcal{A}^\ast + \frac{2}{3} \mathcal{A}^\ast \right).
\]

The $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ should be quantized for gauge invariance while $\sigma$ can be either real ($\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$) or purely imaginary ($\sigma \in i\mathbb{R}$). The state-integral and the 3D index for a knot complement $M = S^3 \setminus K$ compute the partition function $Z$ of the complex Chern-Simons theory with $k = 1$ and $k = 0$ respectively \cite{7, 6}:

\[
(113) \quad Z_{h=2\pi i b^2}(M; X_m) = Z \left[ SL(2, \mathbb{C})_{k, \sigma} \text{ CS theory on } M \text{ with } k = 1, \sigma = \frac{1 - b^2}{1 + b^2} \right]
\]

\[
= \int \left[ \left| \left[ D\mathcal{A} \right] [D\mathcal{A}^\ast] \right| \right]_{\text{gauge}} \exp \left( i S_{(k, \sigma)}[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^\ast ; M] \right) \bigg|_{k=1, \sigma=\frac{1 - b^2}{1 + b^2}},
\]

\[
Z_{\text{fugacity}}(m, u; q) = Z \left[ SL(2, \mathbb{C})_{k, \sigma} \text{ CS theory on } M \text{ with } k = 0, \sigma = \frac{4\pi i}{\log q} \right]
\]

\[
= \int \left[ \left| \left[ D\mathcal{A} \right] [D\mathcal{A}^\ast] \right| \right]_{\text{gauge}} \exp \left( i S_{(k, \sigma)}[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^\ast ; M] \right) \bigg|_{k=0, \sigma=\frac{4\pi i}{\log q}}.
\]
Here $\mathcal{I}_M^{\text{fugacity}}(m, u; q)$ is the 3D index in fugacity basis
\begin{equation}
\mathcal{I}_M^{\text{fugacity}}(m, u; q) = \sum_{e \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{I}_M(m, e; q) u^e .
\end{equation}

The boundary conditions are
\begin{equation}
P \exp \left( \oint_{O_m} A \right) = \left( e^{\hat{X}/2} 0 e^{-\hat{X}/2} \right), \quad P \exp \left( \oint_{\hat{O}_m} \hat{A} \right) = \left( e^{\hat{X}/2} 0 e^{-\hat{X}/2} \right)
\end{equation}
where
\begin{equation}
(e^X, e^{\hat{X}}) = \begin{cases} (e^X_m, e^{X_m}) & \text{for } Z_{\hbar=2\pi i b^2}(M; X_m) \\ (q^{\frac{m}{2}} u, q^{\frac{2 \pi i}{2}} u^{-1}) & \text{for } \mathcal{I}_M^{\text{fugacity}}(m, u; q) \end{cases}
\end{equation}
The partition functions can be written in the following factorization form [1]
\begin{equation}
Z_{\hbar=2\pi i b^2}(M; X_m) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\rho} B_M^\rho(q; e^X) B_M^\rho(\tilde{q}; e^{\tilde{X}}) \text{ with } (q, \tilde{q}) = (e^{2\pi i b^2}, e^{\frac{2 \pi i}{2}}),
\end{equation}
\begin{equation}
\mathcal{I}_M^{\text{fugacity}}(m, u; q) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\rho} B_M^\rho(q; X) B_M^\rho(\tilde{q}; \tilde{X}) \text{ with } (q, \tilde{q}) = (q, q^{-1}) .
\end{equation}
$(e^X, e^{\tilde{X}})$ here are identical to that of (115). $B_M^\rho(q; e^X)$ is so-called holomorphic block labelled by an (adj)-irreducible $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ flat connection $A_\rho$ satisfying the boundary condition in (115).\footnote{A $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ flat connection $\rho \in \text{Hom}[\pi_M \to SL(2, \mathbb{C})]$ can be alternatively described by a $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ gauge connection $A_\rho$ with vanishing curvature, i.e. $dA_\rho + A_\rho \wedge A_\rho = 0$.}
It can be defined as following path-integral
\begin{equation}
B_M^\rho(q; e^X) = \int_{\Gamma^\rho} [DA] e^{-\frac{\hbar}{\pi i} \int_M \text{tr}(A \wedge dA + \frac{2}{3} A^3)} \text{ with } q = e^\hbar .
\end{equation}
Here $\Gamma^\rho$ denotes the Lefschetz thimble in the functional space of $A$ associated with the flat connection $A_\rho$ [34].
The $Z_h(M, X_m)$ and $B_M(q = \hbar); e^X)$ have the same asymptotic expansion in the limit $\hbar \to 0$:
\begin{equation}
B_M^\rho(q = \hbar; e^X) \xrightarrow{\hbar \to 0} \exp \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n^{(x)}(M) \hbar^{n-1} \right) \bigg|_{X_m=X}
\end{equation}
where the $S_n^{(x)}$ is the perturbative expansion of the state-integral around the saddle point $\tilde{Z}^{(x)}$ as defined in (43). For each irreducible flat connection $\rho_\alpha$, there is an associated saddle point $\tilde{Z}^{(x)}$ in the state-integral model. More precisely, the map is generically in 2-to-1 since two flat connections $\rho_\alpha$ and $\rho_\beta$ related to each other by the action of $H^1(M, \mathbb{Z}_2) = \mathbb{Z}_2$ correspond to the same saddle point $\tilde{Z}^{(x)}$. In the asymptotic limit $\hbar \to 0$, the $B_M^\rho(q; e^{\tilde{X}})$ becomes trivially 1 since $\tilde{q} = e^{-\frac{2 \pi i}{2}}$ goes to 0 in the limit and $B^{(x)}(q)$ becomes an infinite power series in $q^{1/2}$ starting with $1 + O(q^{1/2})$ as $q \to 0$.
The quantum trace map $\hat{O}_K$ for a knot $K \subset M$ corresponds to the following holomorphic Wilson loop in the CS theory
\begin{equation}
W_K(A) = (-1) \times \text{Tr} \left( P \exp \left( \oint_K A \right) \right) ,
\end{equation}
and the \( Z_h(M + \hat{O}_K) \) and \( \mathcal{I}_{M + \hat{O}_K} \) are given by following path-integrals

\[
Z_h(M + \hat{O}_K; X_m) = (-1) \times \int \frac{[DA][D\mathcal{A}]}{(\text{gauge})} e^{iS_{(k, \sigma)}}[A, \mathcal{A}; M]W_K(A)|_{k=1, \sigma = \frac{1-k^2}{4\pi}} ,
\]

\[
\mathcal{I}_{M + \hat{O}_K}^{\text{fugacity}}(m, u; q) = (-1) \times \int \frac{[DA][D\mathcal{A}]}{(\text{gauge})} e^{iS_{(k, \sigma)}}[A, \mathcal{A}; M]W_K(A)|_{k=0, \sigma = \frac{\pi i}{2 \pi}} .
\]

With the insertion of loop operator, we expect that factorization should be modified as follows

\[
Z_h(M + \hat{O}; X_m) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_\rho B^\rho_{M + \hat{O}}(q; e^X) B^\rho_{M}(\tilde{q}; e^\tilde{X}) ,
\]

\[
\mathcal{I}_{M + \hat{O}_K}^{\text{fugacity}}(m, u; q) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_\rho B^\rho_{M + \hat{O}}(q; e^X) B^\rho_{M}(\tilde{q}; e^\tilde{X}) .
\]

Here we define

\[
B^\rho_{M + \hat{O}_K}(q; X) = (-1) \times \int_{\Gamma_{\rho'}} [DA] e \neq \int_{M + \hat{O}_K} \text{tr}(A \wedge dA + \frac{3}{2} A^3) W_K(A) .
\]

In the same argument used in (118), the \( Z_h(M + \hat{O}_K, X_m) \) and \( B^\rho_{M + \hat{O}_K}(q = e^h; e^X) \) is expected to share the same asymptotic expansion in the limit \( h \to 0 \):

\[
B^\rho_{M + \hat{O}_K}(q = e^h; e^X) \xrightarrow{h \to 0} \exp \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n^{(a)}(\hat{O}_K; M) h^{n-1} \right) |_{X_m = X} .
\]

where the \( S_n^{(a)} \) is the perturbative expansion of the state-integral around the saddle point \( \tilde{Z}^{(a)} \) as defined in (43).

Volume conjecture for a hyperbolic knot \( K \) relates an asymptotic expansion of Jones polynomial to an asymptotic expansion of the \( B_{S^3 \setminus K}^{(\text{byp})}(q, X) \) as follows

\[
\left( \text{asymptotic expansion of } J_n(\mathcal{K}; q = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{k})) \right) \xrightarrow{k \to n \to \infty} \left( \text{asymptotic expansion of } B_{S^3 \setminus K}^{(\text{byp})}(q = e^h, X = 0) \text{ in the limit } h \to 0 \right) ,
\]

with an identification \( h = \frac{2\pi i}{k} \).

Here \( \bigcirc \) denote the unknot in \( S^3 \) and \( \simeq \) means the same asymptotic expansion modulo an overall factor of the form \( C^{\frac{C}{k^2}} \). The equivalence of two asymptotic expansions can be understood by comparing the path-integral of the Jones polynomial in (150) and the \( B^\rho_M \) in (117) modulo some subtleties. The most subtle part is that how the path-integral of \( SU(2) \) gauge field \( a \) can be related to the path-integral of \( SL(2, \mathbb{C}) = SU(2)_C \) gauge field \( A \) along the \( \Gamma^{(\text{byp})} \) in the asymptotic limit. To understand it, let us consider a finite dimensional integral \( \int_0^\infty dx e^{ik(\frac{3}{2}x^2 + x)} \) in the limit \( k \to \infty \) as an analogy. Although it is integration over real axis, it gets contribution from the saddle point at \( x = -i \) in the asymptotic limit. So, the appearance of complex flat connection in the asymptotic expansion of \( SU(2) \) Chern-Simons theory is not so strange. But unlike in the finite-dimensional analogy, the contribution from the flat connection \( J_{(\text{byp})} \) is exponentially growing in the asymptotic limit. This issue has been addressed in [34] and we will not address the subtle issue here.
Our length conjecture can be understood in a similar way. For that, we consider the Jones polynomial \( J_{n, \tilde{n} = 2}(K \cup \tilde{K}; q) \). We consider the case when the \( K \) is a knot, i.e. \( \sharp(K) = 1 \), for simplicity. The Jones polynomial can be represented by the following path-integral

\[
J_{n, \tilde{n} = 2}(K \cup \tilde{K}; q = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{k})) = (-1) \times \int \frac{[da]}{(\text{gauge})} \left| \text{b.c. in (149)} \right| \frac{\exp \left( \frac{i(k-2)}{4\pi} \int_{S^3 \setminus K} \text{Tr}(a \wedge da - \frac{2}{\pi} a^3) \right) W_K(a)}{\int \frac{[da]}{(\text{gauge})} \exp \left( \frac{i(k-2)}{4\pi} \int_{S^3} \text{Tr}(a \wedge da - \frac{2}{\pi} a^3) \right)}.
\]

Then, from comparison with the path-integral in (122), one naturally expects that

\[
\left( \text{asymptotic expansion of } J_{n, \tilde{n} = 2}(K \cup \tilde{K}; q = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{k})) \text{ in the limit } k = n \to \infty \right) \left( \text{asymptotic expansion of } J_n(C; q = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{k})) \right) \approx \left( \text{asymptotic expansion of } B^{(hyp)}_{S^3 \setminus K}(q = e^h, X = 0) \text{ in the limit } h \to 0 \right),
\]

with an identification \( h = \frac{2\pi i}{k} \).

Combining (124), (126) with (118), (123), one derives the length conjecture in (18) where the \( Z^{(hyp)}_{s}(\hat{O}_K; M) \) is given in (44).

Proposed properties of \( I_{M + \hat{O}}(m, e; q) \) or \( I_{M_{P/Q} + \hat{O}} \) in (107) simply follows from the path-integral expression (113) or the factorization (116). The invariance of the 3D index under \((m, e) \leftrightarrow (-m, -e)\) comes from the Weyl \( Z_2 \) invariance, \( X_m \leftrightarrow -X_m \), in the path-integral. For \( M_{P/Q} = (\text{Lens space}) \), there is no irreducible flat connection \( \rho \) on \( M_{P/Q} \) and thus we expect the index vanishes from the factorization.

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Appendix A. Gluing equations of an ideal triangulation

From an ideal triangulation \( T \) of a knot complement \( M = S^3 \setminus K \), we have following gluing equations for the logarithmic edge parameters, \((e_z, e_{z'}, e_{z''}) = (z, z', z'')\), of tetrahedra (refer to, e.g., [9] for details)

\[
C_{t=1, \ldots , |T|} = \sum_{i=1}^{|T|} F_{t} Z_i + G_{t} Z'_i + H_{t} Z''_i - (2\pi i + \bar{h}) \quad \text{(internal edges)},
\]

\[
\mathfrak{M} = \sum_{i=1}^{|T|} U_i Z_i + V_i Z'_i + W_i Z''_i \quad \text{(meridian)},
\]

\[
\mathcal{L} = \sum_{i=1}^{|T|} P_i Z_i + Q_i Z'_i + R_i Z''_i \quad \text{(longitude)}.
\]

Here \( F_t, G_t, H_t \in \{0, 1, 2\} \) while \( U_i, V_i, W_i, P_i, Q_i, R_i \in \mathbb{Z} \). The logarithmic edge parameters \((Z_i, Z'_i, Z''_i)\) satisfy following linear relation

\[
Z_i + Z'_i + Z''_i = i\pi + \frac{\bar{h}}{2}.
\]

Then, the gluing equation variety \( \chi[T] \) is given by

\[
\chi[T] = \{ (z_i, z''_i)_{i=1}^{|T|} : z_i^{-1} + z''_i - 1 = 0, \}
\]

\[
e^{C_t} := \prod_{i=1}^{|T|} (-1)^{G_{t} z'_i - G_{t} z''_i} (z''_i H_{t} - G_{t} z''_i) = 1 \}.
\]

We define \( e^{\tilde{C}_t}, e^{2\mathfrak{M}} \) and \( e^{-2\mathfrak{M}} \in \mathbb{C}[q^{\pm1/4}] \) as

\[
e^{\tilde{C}_t} := q^{-1} \prod_{i=1}^{|T|} (-q^{1/2})^{G_{t} z'_i} q^{1/2} (F_{t} z''_i - G_{t} z''_i) z''_i H_{t} - G_{t} z''_i,
\]

\[
e^{2\mathfrak{M}} := \prod_{i=1}^{|T|} (-q^{1/2}) Q_i q^{1/2} (P_i - Q_i) (R_i - Q_i) z''_i - P_i (z''_i) R_i - Q_i,
\]

\[
e^{-2\mathfrak{M}} := \prod_{i=1}^{|T|} (-q^{1/2}) Q_i q^{1/2} (P_i - Q_i) (R_i - Q_i) z''_i - P_i (z''_i) R_i - Q_i.
\]

They all mutually commute due to a symplectic structures in gluing equations [25]

\[
[e^{\tilde{C}_t}, e^{C_t}] = [e^{\pm2\mathfrak{M}}, e^{\tilde{C}_t}] = 0.
\]

As a concrete example, we collect some information on the figure-8 knot complement. The fundamental group of the knot-complement is (see Figure 6)

\[
\pi_1(S^3 \setminus 4_1) = \langle a, b, c : ac^{-1} ba^{-1} c = b c^{-1} b^{-1} a = 1 \rangle.
\]

It contains the peripheral subgroup \( \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \) to be identified as the fundamental group of the boundary torus,

\[
\pi_1(\partial(S^3 \setminus 4_1)) = \pi_1(\mathbb{T}^2) = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} = \langle m, l \rangle \subset \pi_1(S^3 \setminus 4_1).
\]
We choose \((m, 1)\) canonically to be the meridian and longitude. Then the embedding 
\[ i : \pi_1(\partial(S^3 \setminus \{4\})) \to \pi_1(S^3 \setminus \{4\}) \]
\[ i(m) = a, \quad i(1) = ac^{-1}bca^{-1}b^{-1}. \]  
(135)

The simplest ideal triangulation \(\mathcal{T}\) of the knot complement consists of two tetra-
dra. The edge variables,  
\[ (y, y', y'') = (e^Y, e^Y', e^{2Y}), \quad (z, z', z'') = (e^Z, e^{Z'}, e^{2Z}), \]
are subject to the usual conditions,  
\[ y + \frac{1}{y'} = 1, \quad y + \frac{1}{y''} = 1, \quad y'' + \frac{1}{y} = 1, \quad yy'y'' = -1, \]
(137)
and similar ones for \((z, z', z'')\). The two internal edges require that  
\[ C_1 = Y' + 2Y + Z' + 2Z - 2\pi i = 0, \]
\[ C_2 = Y' + 2Y'' + Z' + 2Z'' - 2\pi i = 0, \]
(138)
which implies \(yz = y''z''\). In summary, the gluing equation variety \(\chi[\mathcal{T}]\) is  
\[ \chi[\mathcal{T}] = \{(y, z, y', z'') : y^{-1} + y'' - 1 = 0, z^{-1} + z'' - 1 = 0, yz = y''z''\}. \]
(139)

For each \((y, z, y'', z'') \in \chi[\mathcal{T}], \) one can assign a \(PSL(2, \mathbb{C})\)-representation \(\rho\) as follows  
\[ \rho(a) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & z \end{pmatrix}, \]
\[ \rho(b) = \begin{pmatrix} y' & 0 \\ y'z' & 1 \\ -z' & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \]
\[ \rho(c) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -z^{-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \]
\[ \rho(m) = \rho(a) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-\mathfrak{m}/2} & 0 \\ e^{-\mathfrak{m}/2} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \]
\[ \rho(1) = \rho(ac^{-1}bca^{-1}b^{-1}) = \begin{pmatrix} e^2 & 0 \\ e^{-2} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \]
(141)

\section*{Appendix B. Colored Jones polynomial for framed link}

Let \(K = \bigcup_{i=1}^{z(K)} K_i\) be a framed link inside 3-sphere \(S^3\). Here we provide the definitions of colored Jones polynomial \(J_{\tilde{n}}(K; q)\) using the Kauffman bracket Skein module \(\mathcal{S}_q[S^3]\). The subscript \(\tilde{n} = (n_1, \ldots, n_{z(K)})\) with \(n_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}\) represents colors of each components of the link.

When \(n_i = 2\) for all \(i = 1, \ldots, \tilde{z}(K)\), the invariant is called just Jones polynomial and will be simply denoted by \(J\) without subscript. The polynomial \(J(K; q)\) is defined as follows  
\[ J(K; q) := \frac{Y_K}{Y_0} \in \mathbb{Z}[q^{1/4}, q^{-1/4}] \].  
(142)

Here \(Y_K\) is considered to be an element of \(\mathcal{S}_q[S^3]\). The definition makes sense since the Skein module \(\mathcal{S}_q[S^3]\) is one-dimensional module spanned by \(Y_0\). The invariant is slightly different from the conventional Jones polynomial, \(J^{\text{oriented}}(K; q)\), which
is an invariant for oriented (unframed) link. The two invariants are related to each other in the following way

\[ J_{\text{oriented}}(K; q) := (-1)^{2|K|}(-q^{3/4})w(K)J(K; q) \]

The sign factor is introduced in order for \( J_{\text{oriented}}(K = \emptyset^n; q) \) to be \((q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2})^n\). Here \( w(K) \) is the writhe of the framed link

\[ w(K) := \sum_{p: \text{crossings in } K} \epsilon(p), \quad \epsilon(p) := \begin{cases} +1, & p \text{ is a positive crossing} \\ -1, & p \text{ is a negative crossing} \end{cases} \]

The writhe is an oriented framed link invariant. Since the factor \((-q^{3/4})w(K)\) exactly cancels the \((-q^{3/4})^{\pm 1}\) factor in \( Y_K \) under the 1st Reidemeister move, see Figure 2, the \( J_{\text{oriented}} \) is an oriented unframed invariant.

To generalize the definition to general colors \( \vec{n} \), we introduce the symmetric \( k \)-product of a framed knot \( K \)

\[
J_{\vec{n}}(K; q) := J\left( \bigcup_{l=1}^{t(K)} \text{Sym}^{\otimes_{n_l-1}}K_l; q \right) = \frac{Y_{\bigcup_{l=1}^{t(K)} \text{Sym}^{\otimes_{n_l-1}}K_l}}{Y_{0}}.
\]

The framed colored Jones polynomial have following path-integral representation \((k > 2) [33]\)

\[ J_{\vec{n}}(K; q = e^{2\pi i/k}) = \prod_{l=1}^{t(K)} (-1)^{n_l-1} \int [da]_{\text{gauge}} \exp \left( \frac{i(k-2)}{4\pi} \int_{S^3} \text{CS}(a) \right) \prod_{l=1}^{t(K)} \text{tr}_{R_n} \left( P \exp(\oint_{K_l} a) \right), \]

where \( \text{CS}(a) = \text{Tr} \left( a \wedge da - \frac{2}{3} a^3 \right) \).

Here \( \int [da]_{\text{gauge}} \) means integral over gauge-equivalence classes of \( SU(2) \) connections on \( S^3 \). \( P \exp(\oint a) \) denotes the \( SU(2) \) holonomy matrix of \( SU(2) \) connection \( a \) along the closed knot \( K \). \( R_n = \text{Sym}^{\otimes(n-1)2} \in \text{Hom}[SU(2) \to SU(n)] \) is the \( n \)-dimensional irreducible representation of \( SU(2) \) and we define

\[ \text{tr}_{R}(g) = \text{Tr}(R(g)). \]

Since \( \text{tr}_{R}(g) = \text{tr}(g^{-1}) \), the path-integral does not depend on the orientation choice of \( K_I \). To regularize infinity coming from self-interaction of knots, on the other hand, one need to introduce framing and the quantum Wilson loop expectation
value depends on the choice. In the above, we include following overall sign factor

\[ \prod_{I=1}^{\sharp(K)} (-1)^{n_I-1} \]

which reflects that \( J_{K \cup \bigcirc} = -(q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2})J_K \) while an additional Wilson loop along the disjoint unknot \( \bigcirc \) in \( R = 2 \) contribute a multiplicative factor \( (q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2}) \) to the path-integral of Chern-Simons theory [33].

Wilson loop operator, \( \text{tr}_R(P \exp(\oint K a)) \), along a knot \( K \subset S^3 \) with color \( R = \text{Sym}^{\otimes(n-1)}2 \) in the \( SU(2) \) Chern-Simons theory can be alternatively described by monodromy defect in the knot complement \( S^3 \setminus K \) defined by following boundary condition

\[ \begin{bmatrix} e^{\pi i/n} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-\pi i/n} \end{bmatrix} \]

(149)

boundary condition : \( P \exp\left( \oint_{\bigcirc_m} a \right) \).

Using the alternative definition of the Wilson loop operator, the Jones polynomial \( J_n(K;q) \) can be given as

\[ J_n(K;q) = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{\int [da]_{(\text{gauge})} \left| \begin{array}{c} \text{h.c. in (149)} \end{array} \right| \exp\left( \frac{i(k-2)}{4\pi} \int_{S^3 \setminus K} \text{CS}(a) \right)}{\int [da]_{(\text{gauge})} \exp\left( \frac{i(k-2)}{4\pi} \int_{S^3} \text{CS}(a) \right)} . \]

(150)

Using the physical definition of the Jones polynomial, now let us explain a non-trivial property of the knot invariant summarized in Figure 8. In the Chern-Simons path-integral, the addition of the meridian knot \( \bigcirc_m \) on the top of the knot \( K \) corresponds to including following term in the integrand of (150),

\[ (-1) \times \text{tr}_{R=2} \left( P \exp\left( \oint_{\bigcirc_m} a \right) \right) . \]

(151)

Note that the value of the above Wilson loop is always

\[ - \left( e^{\frac{\pi i}{k}} + e^{-\frac{\pi i}{k}} \right) = - \left( q^{\frac{2}{k}} + q^{-\frac{2}{k}} \right) \]

for arbitrary gauge field \( a \) satisfying the boundary condition in (149). It explains the property of the knot invariant depicted in Figure 8.
Appendix C. Quantum dilogarithm function

The quantum dilogarithm function (Q.D.L) \( \psi_h(Z) \) is defined by [10]

\[
\psi_h(Z) := \begin{cases} 
\prod_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1-q^r e^{-Z}}{1-q^r e^{-Z} e^{-\tilde{Z}}} & \text{if } |q| < 1, \\
\prod_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1-\tilde{q}^r e^{-\tilde{Z}}}{1-\tilde{q}^r e^{-\tilde{Z}} e^{-Z}} & \text{if } |q| > 1,
\end{cases}
\]

with

\[
q := e^h, \quad \tilde{q} := e^{-\frac{4\pi^2}{h}}, \quad \tilde{Z} := \frac{2\pi Z}{h}.
\]

The function satisfies the following difference equations:

\[
\psi_h(Z + h) = (1 - e^{-Z}) \psi_h(Z), \quad \psi_h(Z + 2\pi i) = (1 - e^{-\tilde{Z}}) \psi_h(Z).
\]

In the asymptotic limit \( h \to 0 \),

\[
\log \psi_h(Z) \xrightarrow{h \to 0} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{B_n h^{n-1}}{n!} \text{Li}_2(e^{-Z}).
\]

Here \( B_n \) is the \( n \)-th Bernoulli number with \( B_1 = 1/2 \). The Q.D.L satisfies the following identity

\[
\int \frac{dZ}{\sqrt{2\pi h}} e^{-\frac{Z^2}{2h}} \psi_h(Z) = e^{i\delta} e^{\frac{\pi^2}{2h}(2\pi i + h) \lambda^2 + \pi i \lambda^2 (h - 2)} \psi_h(U)
\]

with a constant overall phase factor \( e^{i\delta} \).
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