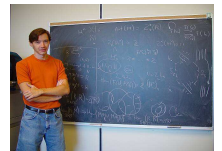
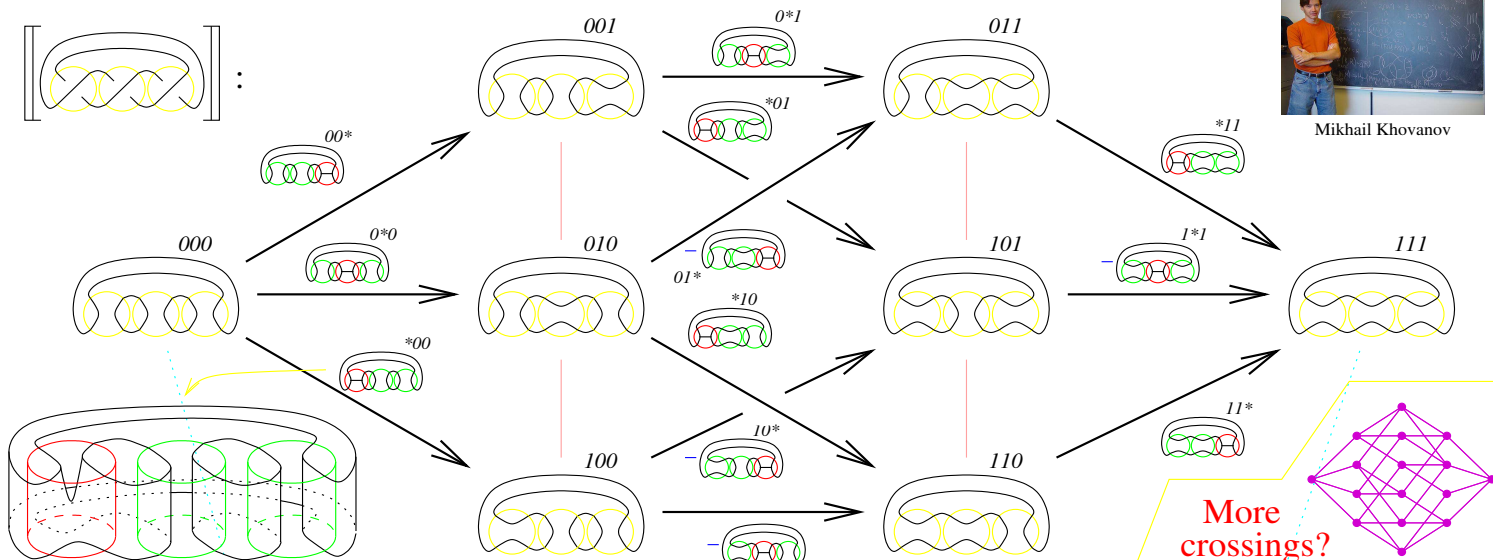


Khovanov Homology



Mikhail Khovanov

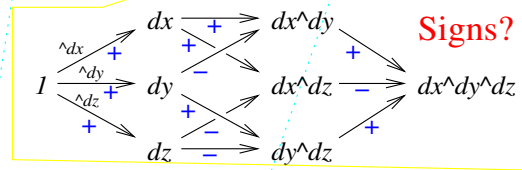


What is it?

A cube for each knot/link projection;

Vertices: All fillings of with or with .

Edges: All fillings of $I \times$ = with $I \times$ = or with $I \times$ = and precisely one .



Where does it live?

In $Kom(Mat(\langle Cob \rangle / \{S, T, 4Tu\})) / homotopy$:

Kom : Complexes Cob : Cobordisms S : = 0 T : = 2

$\langle \dots \rangle$: Formal lin. comb. Mat : Matrices

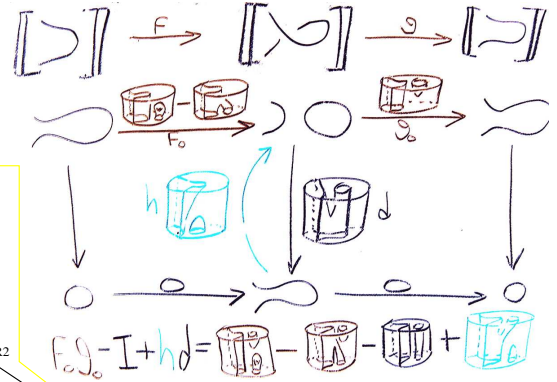
Jones/Kauffman?

A TQFT takes it to a complex whose graded Euler characteristic is the Jones polynomial.

The key point: $\rightarrow V = \langle v_+, v_- \rangle$, $\deg v_{\pm} = \pm 1$
 $q\text{-dim} V = q + q^{-1}$

But is it invariant?

(With similar proofs for R-II and R-III)



Why is it interesting?

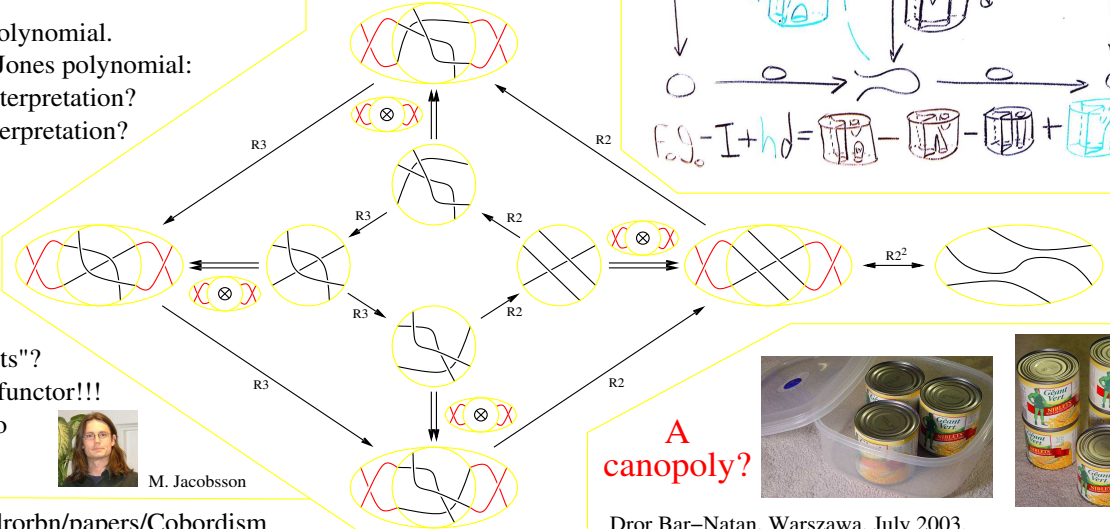
1. It is stronger than the Jones polynomial.
2. It is less understood than the Jones polynomial:
 - a. Does it have a topological interpretation?
 - b. Does it have a "physical" interpretation?
 - c. Does it also work for other quantum invariants?
 - d. Does it work for manifolds and for knots in manifolds?
 - e. Is there a relation with finite-type invariants?
 - f. Does it work for "virtual knots"?
3. Jacobsson, Khovanov: It is a functor!!!
 (from knots and cobordisms to complexes and morphisms)



M. Jacobsson

See <http://www.math.toronto.edu/~drorbn/papers/Cobordism>

A functor?



A canopoly?



Dror Bar-Natan, Warszawa, July 2003.