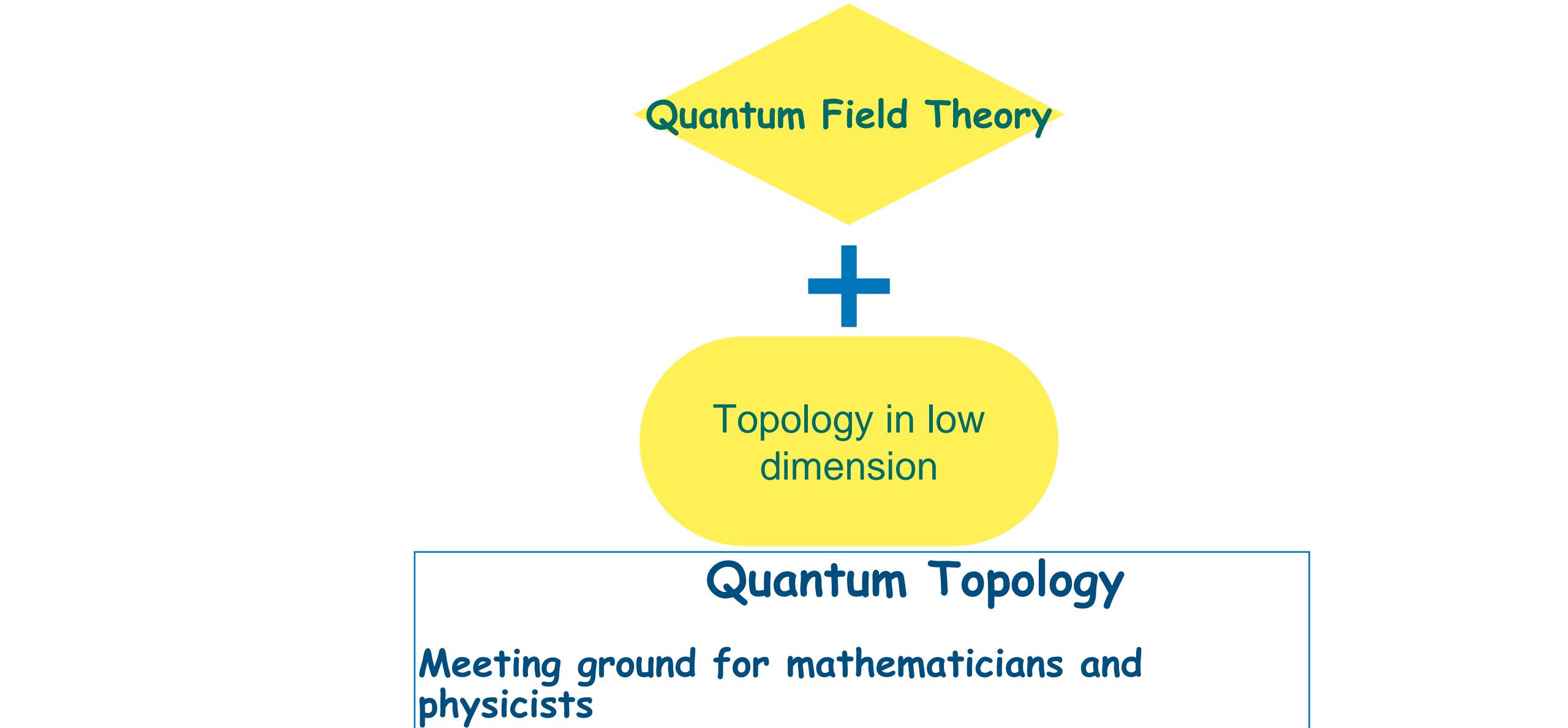


Quantifying Three-Manifolds (Physicists' and Mathematicians' Perspectives)

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30th Dec 2025

Women at the Intersection of Mathematics & Physics
(Dec 29, 2025 –Jan 2nd, 2026)

Based on work with Swatee Naik (arXiv:9901061)
Commun.Math.Phys. 209 (2000) 29-49



Quantum Field Theory



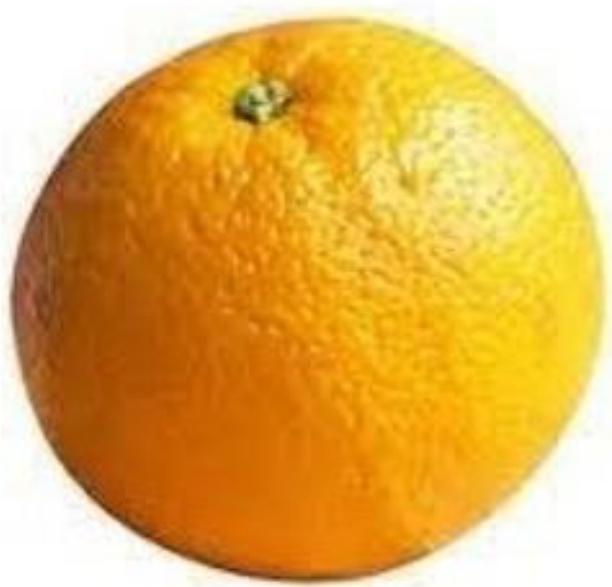
Topology in low
dimension

Quantum Topology

Meeting ground for mathematicians and
physicists

Challenging open problems- Machine learning/neural network approach

Two-dimensional topological spaces



$$S^2 \not\cong T^2$$



Orange surface is S^2 (two-sphere) Doughnut surface is T^2 (torus)

Euler characteristic $\chi = V - E + F = 2 - 2g$

Such a mathematical quantity for 3-dimensional manifolds?

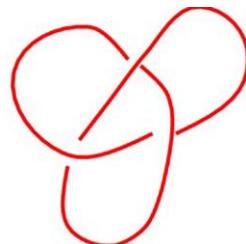
$$S^3, S^2 \times S^1, S^1 \times S^1 \times S^1, S^3/\Gamma$$

Fundamental Theorem of Lickorish-Wallace

- Any connected, closed, orientable 3-manifold can be obtained by surgery on a framed knot/link in S^3
- Can we quantify this theorem?

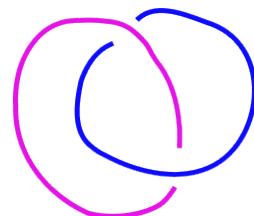
Definition of a knot/Link

- **Knot** is an embedding of a curve inside 3-manifold:



Trefoil

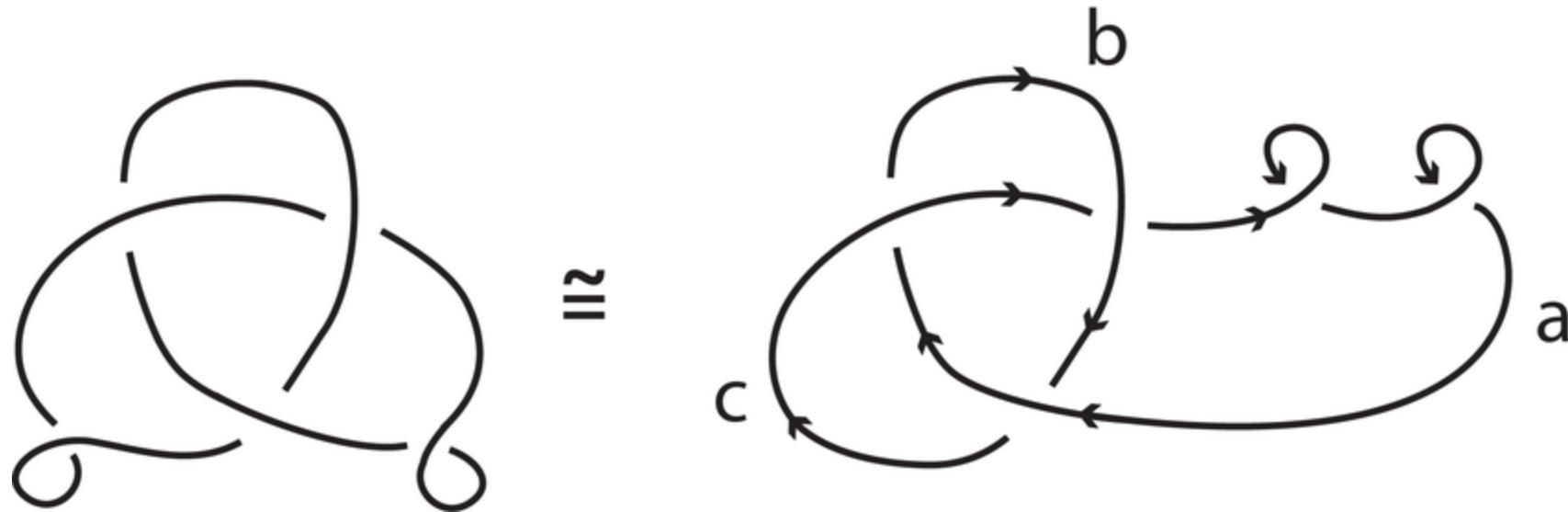
- **Link** is a collection of knots entangled



2-component Hopf-Link

What is framed knot/link?

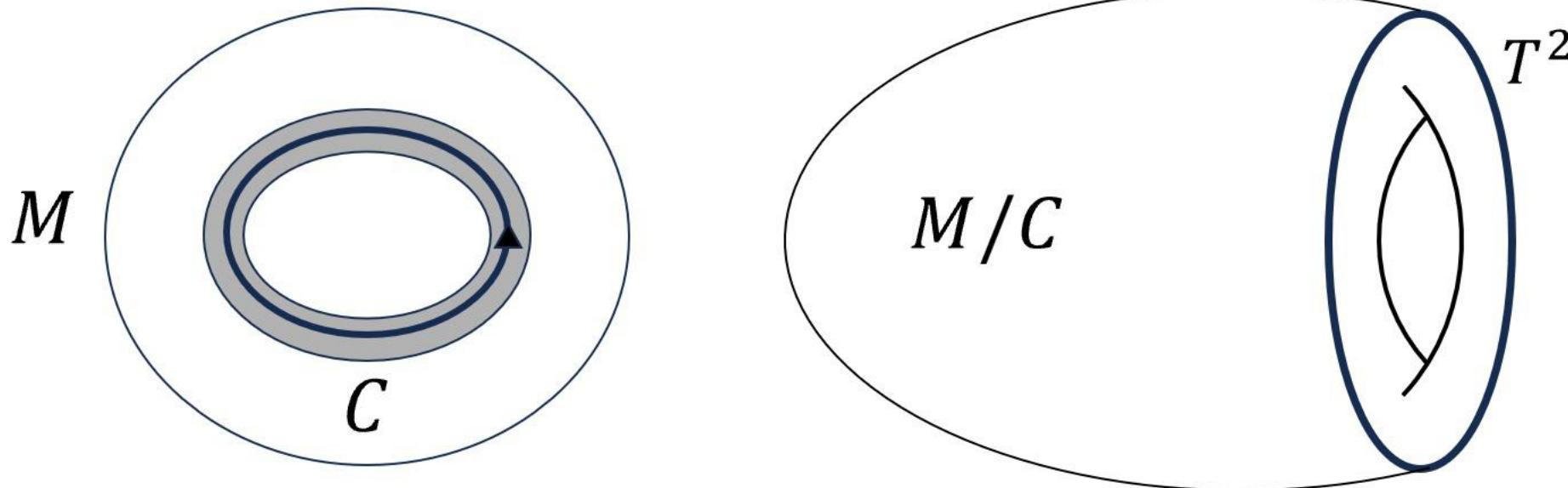
- Framed Knot/Link projected on a black-board frame



- The above knot is **framed trefoil** with framing +1 : $[T, f=1]$
- Similar framing f on every component of a link L : $[L, f]$

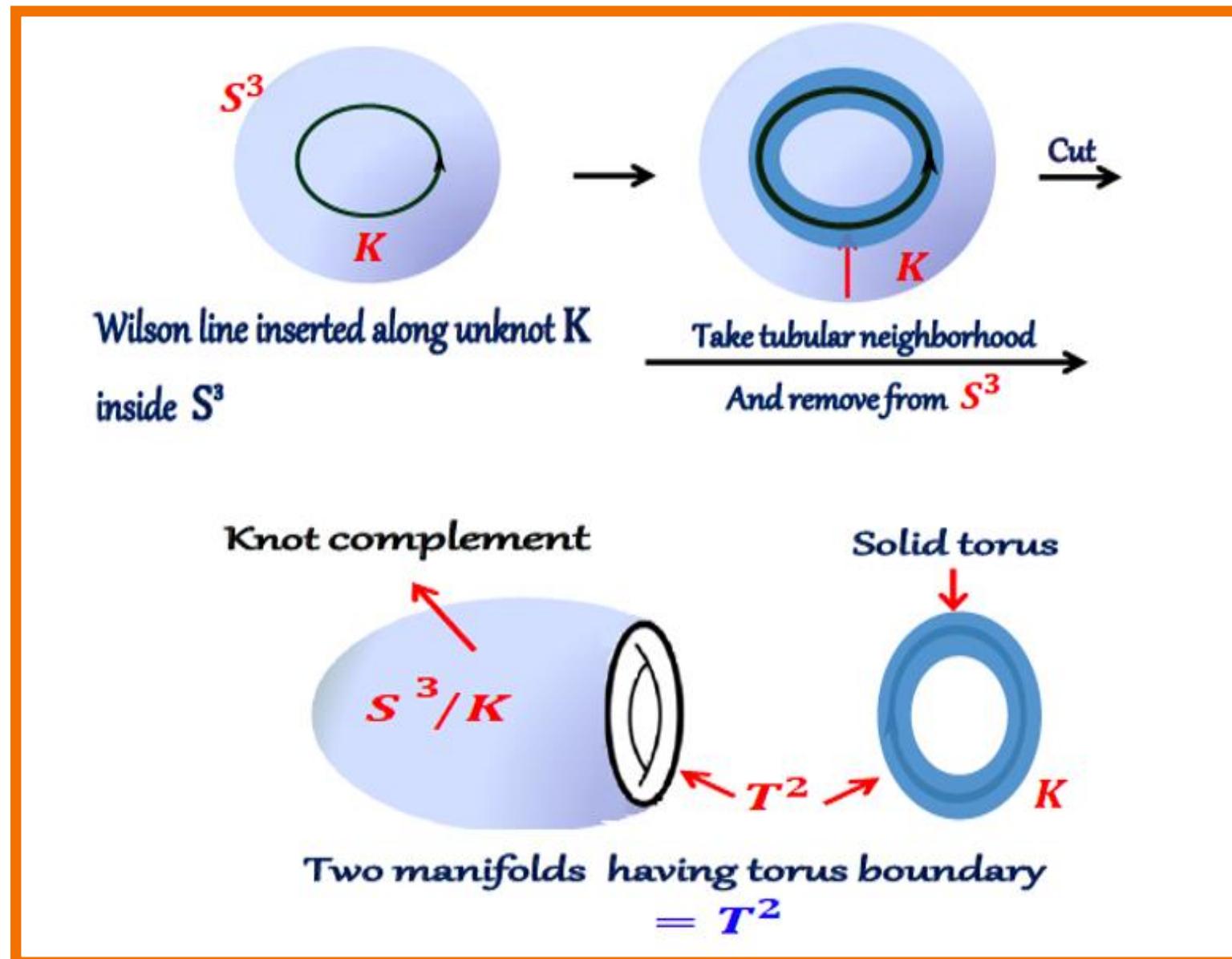
Surgery of framed knot/link in M

- Tubular neighbourhood of a knot C in a 3-manifold



- Remove this tubular neighbourhood- we call this knot complement M/C

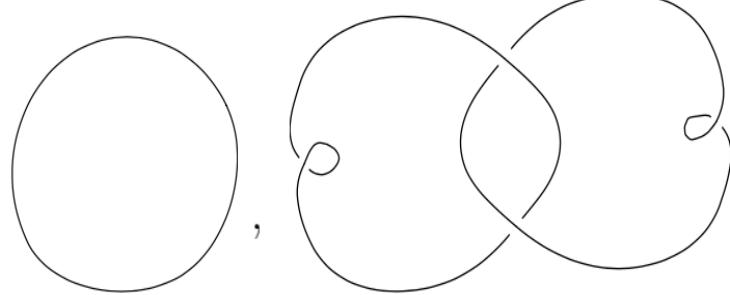
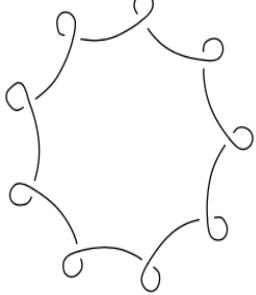
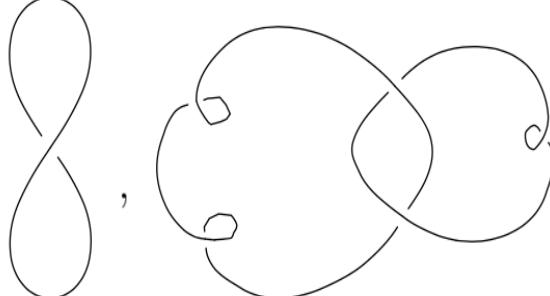
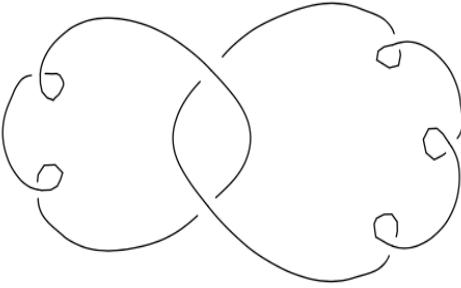
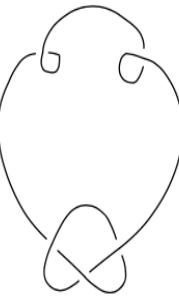
Three-Manifolds – from Surgery of knots in S^3



$$S: \partial(S^3/K) \rightarrow T^2$$

p/r surgery : $S_{\frac{p}{r}}^3(K)$

Some examples of 3-manifolds

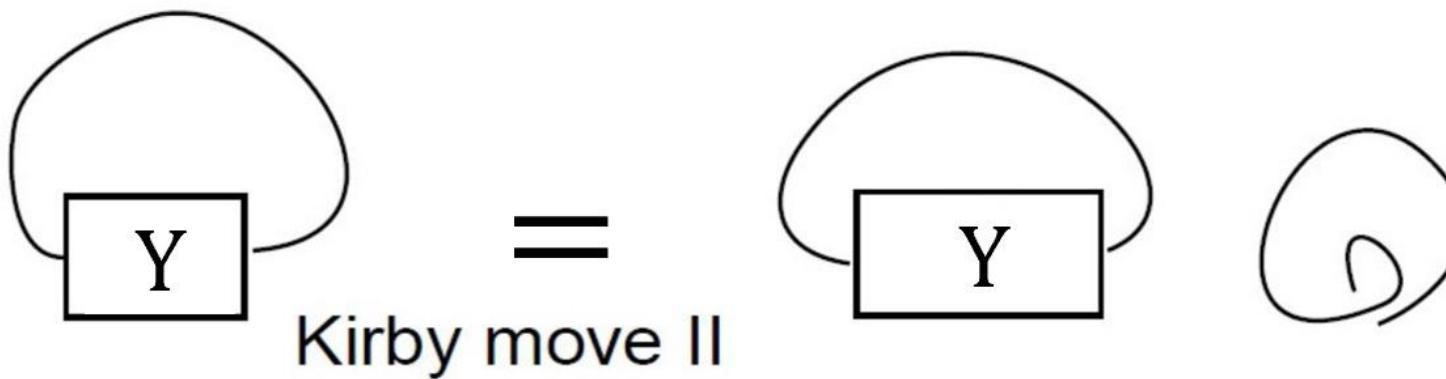
Framed Link Diagram	3-manifold	Framed Link Diagram	3-manifold
	$S^2 \times S^1$		$L(9,1)$
	S^3		$L(5,1)$
	\mathbb{RP}^3		\mathbb{P}^3

framed link corresponding to M is not unique

3-manifolds are same for framed links related by Kirby moves



Kirby move I



Kirby move II

Strategy to quantify 3-manifolds

- An algebraic expression involving
 - (i) Invariants of the framed links
 - (ii) Homeomorphism map
- Such that the expression is unchanged under Kirby moves
- Then the expression qualifies to be a three-manifold invariant

Invariants of framed links

- Bracket polynomials $\langle D_L \rangle$ through a recursive relation

$$\langle \times \times \rangle = A \langle \circ \circ \rangle + A^{-1} \langle \smile \smile \rangle$$

- Proportional to the Jones polynomial

$$\langle D_L \rangle = q^{\left(\frac{3\omega}{4}\right)} J[L, q] | A = -q^{1/4}$$

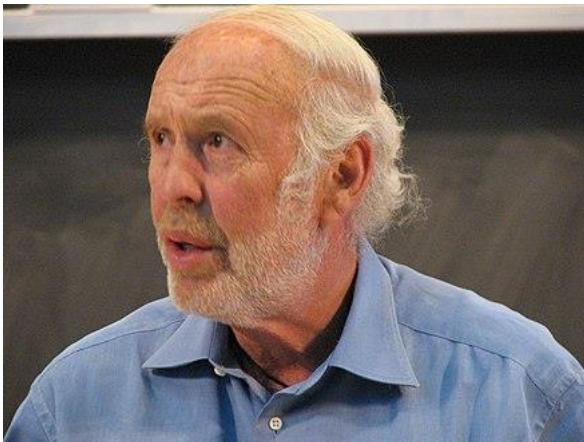
Invariants of framed links(contd)

- Invariants from Chern-Simons field theory
- Includes Jones polynomials and the new pool of generalized invariants
- Brief overview of Chern-Simons theory

Chern-Simons Theory

(Historical remarks)

- This theory was discovered first by Albert Schwarz
- Named after the two mathematicians **Shiing-Shen Chern** and **James Harris Simons** introduced the 3-form term.



Founder of Simons Foundation

April 25, 1938- May 10, 2024

Chern-Simons Theory- Schwarz type theory



Edward Witten

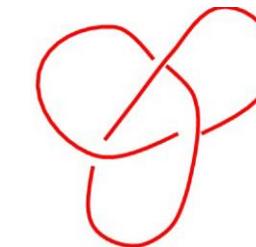
Three-dimensional gauge theory whose partition function

$$Z[M^3] = \int \mathcal{D}A \exp \left[i \int_{M^3} S(A) \right]$$

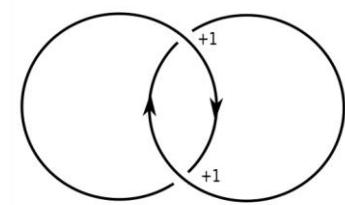
Metric independent

Z[M³]: Topological invariant of the three-manifold M³

∞ Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev (WRT) invariant



Trefoil knot



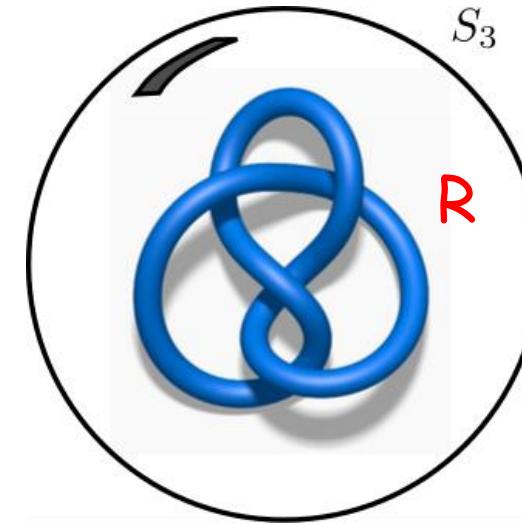
Hopf Link

The expectation value of
Wilson loop operators

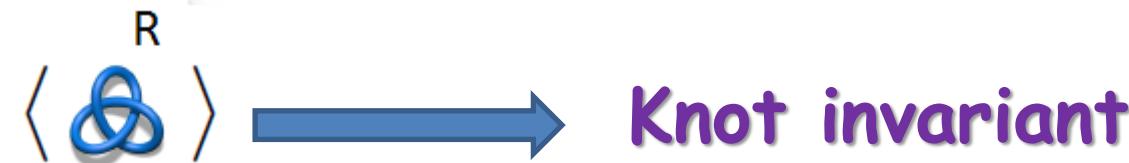
Knot and Link invariants

Wilson loop operator

$$W_{\underline{R}}[K] = \text{Tr}_{\underline{R}} \exp \oint_K dx^u A_\mu^a T_R^a$$



T_R^a = Generators for representation \underline{R} of $SU(N)$



Knot invariant

	$R = \square$ (fundamental)	Higher rank representation
$SU(2)$	Jones Polynomial	Colored Jones
$SU(N)$	HOMFLY-PT Polynomial	Colored HOMFLY-PT

$$J(\text{Jones}, q) = q + q^3 - q^4$$

$$J_n(K, q) \quad n \equiv \overbrace{\text{---}}^{n-1}$$

Variables: $q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{k+N}}$, $a = q^N$

Colored framed link invariants

$$P_{n_1, n_2, \dots} [L, f] = q^{3\omega/4} J_{n_1, n_2, \dots} [L, f]$$

Colored framed link invariants

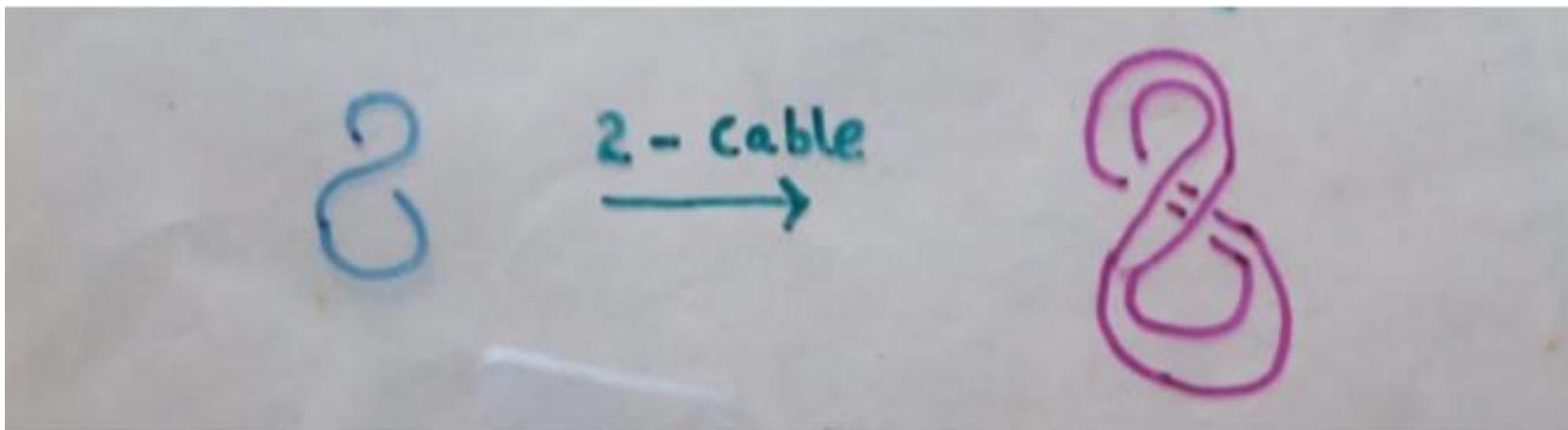
$$P_{n_1, n_2, \dots} [L, f] = q^{3\omega/4} J_{n_1, n_2, \dots} [L, f]$$

Bracket polynomial

$$\langle D_L \rangle | A = -q^{\frac{1}{4}} = P_{2, 2, \dots} [L, f]$$

Two different looking 3-manifold invariants

- I) Lickorish invariant $F_\ell[M]$ involve
 - (i) bracket polynomials of the framed links
 - (ii) forces the introduction of **c-cables** of framed knot/link $\langle c * D_L \rangle$



Two different looking 3-manifold invariants(contd)

- I) Lickorish invariant

$$F_\ell[M] \propto \sum_c \lambda_c \langle c * D_K \rangle$$

where A is 4rth root of unity &

$$c = [1, r - 2]$$

Two different looking 3-manifold invariants (contd)

- II) Kaul invariant $F_k[M]$ involves
 - (i)colored framed link invariants in $SU(2)$

Chern-Simons theory:

- $F_k[M] \propto \sum_n \mu_n P_n[K, f]$
- Here $n \leq k + 1$

Two different looking 3-manifold invariants (contd)

- We validated that

Cabling = tensor product of spins $\frac{1}{2}$

- So $\langle c * DL \rangle$ can be converted as a linear combination of colored framed link invariants
- Indeed we verified in the paper [with Swatee Naik (arXiv:9901061)]
- $$F_k[M] \propto F_\ell[M]$$

Thank You