### Equivariant annular Khovanov homology

Ross Akhmechet

University of Virginia

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#### Outline

1. Equivariant link homology

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- 2. Annular Khovanov homology

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- 3. Building an equivariant annular theory

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- 3. Building an equivariant annular theory
- 4. Properties

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- For a cobordism S with d dots, its associated map has degree

$$-\chi(S)+2d.$$

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- The Khovanov chain complex is obtained by applying  $\mathcal{F}$  to the cube of resolutions [[D]].
- Extend  $\mathcal{F}$  to surfaces with dots by interpreting a dot as multiplication by  $X \in A_0$ .

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# (R, A)

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- Common notation:  $E_1 = h$ ,  $E_2 = -t$ .
- *R* and *A* are the *U*(2)-equivariant cohomology of a point and of CP<sup>1</sup>, respectively.

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- The extensions (R, A), (R<sub>α</sub>, A<sub>α</sub>), and others were studied by Khovanov-Robert [KR20].

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$$R_0 = \mathbb{Z} \qquad R = \mathbb{Z}[E_1, E_2] \qquad R_\alpha = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha_0, \alpha_1]$$

$$A_0 = \frac{R_0[X]}{(X^2)} \qquad A = \frac{R[X]}{(X^2 - E_1 X + E_2)} \qquad A_\alpha = \frac{R_\alpha[X]}{((X - \alpha_0)(X - \alpha_1))}$$

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- (*R*, *A*) specializes to Lee's deformation by setting  $E_1 = 0, E_2 = -1$  and to Bar-Natan's theory by setting  $E_1 = 1, E_2 = 0$ .

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Expanding

$$(X - \alpha_0)(X - \alpha_1) = X^2 - (\alpha_0 + \alpha_1)X + \alpha_0\alpha_1,$$

we see that  $(R_{\alpha}, A_{\alpha})$  is an extension of (R, A) via

$$E_1 \mapsto \alpha_0 + \alpha_1, E_2 \mapsto \alpha_0 \alpha_1.$$

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• There are special elements

$$e_0 := rac{X - lpha_0}{lpha_1 - lpha_0}, \quad e_1 := rac{X - lpha_1}{lpha_0 - lpha_1} \in A_{lpha \mathcal{D}}.$$

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Hence the algebra structure on  $A_{\alpha D}$  decomposes,

$$A_{\alpha \mathcal{D}} = A_{\alpha \mathcal{D}} e_0 \times A_{\alpha \mathcal{D}} e_1.$$

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The link homology determined by  $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha \mathcal{D}}$  is essentially Lee's theory.

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#### Proposition

Let L be an n component link with diagram D, and let  $C_{\alpha D}(D)$  denote the chain complex obtained by applying  $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha D}$  to the cube of resolutions. Then the homology of  $C_{\alpha D}(D)$  is a free  $R_{\alpha D}$ -module of rank  $2^n$ .

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Can be proven along the same lines as [BNM06, Weh08].

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- Form the cube of resolutions [[D]] as usual, with all smoothings drawn in A.

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- A link  $L \subset \mathbb{A} \times I$  will be called an *annular link*.
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- Apply the annular  $TQFT \mathcal{G}$  to [[D]].
- Annular homology is triply graded: in additional to homological and quantum grading, there is a third grading coming from winding around the annulus.

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• Embed  $\mathbb{A} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{(0,0)\}$  standardly.



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#### The annular TQFT ${\cal G}$

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So  $\mathcal{G}(\mathscr{C})$  is a bigraded free abelian group via (deg, adeg).

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 $\bullet$  In other words,  ${\cal F}$  respects the adeg filtration, and  ${\cal G}$  is the associated graded map.

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We distinguish the module assigned to trivial and essential circles. For a circle  $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{A}$ , write

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We see that X acts trivially on an essential circle.

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Indeed, there are no nonzero endomorphisms of  $V = \mathbb{Z}v_- \oplus \mathbb{Z}v_+$  of bidegree (2,0) This can't hold in the equivariant theories, since

$$X^2 - E_1 X + E_2 = 0$$

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• Recall the U(2)-equivariant pair

$$R = \mathbb{Z}[E_1, E_2], \quad A = R[X]/(X^2 - E_1X + E_2)$$
  
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#### The equivariant annular TQFT $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha}$

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Let C ⊂ A be a collection of circles. As an R<sub>α</sub>-module, set G<sub>α</sub>(C) to simply be

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• Say, the first essential circle is assigned  $\{v_0,v_1\},$  the second is assigned  $\{v_0',v_1'\},$  etc.

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#### Proposition

Let  $S \subset \mathbb{A} \times I$  be a cobordism from  $C_1$  to  $C_2$ . Viewing S as a cobordism in  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times I$ , the map

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- Setting  $\alpha_0 = \alpha_1 = 0$  recovers the (non-equivariant) annular TQFT  $\mathcal{G}$ .
- Can set, say α<sub>0</sub> = 0 and rename α<sub>1</sub> to α<sub>1</sub> = h to get an annular version of Bar-Natan homology.

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Figure: Product cobordism with the *i*-th component dotted

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Then  $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha}(S)$  is the identity on all tensor factors except the *i*-th, where it acts via

$$i \text{ odd} \qquad i \text{ even}$$

$$v_0 \mapsto \alpha_0 v_0 \qquad v'_0 \mapsto \alpha_1 v'_0$$

$$v_1 \mapsto \alpha_1 v_1 \qquad v'_1 \mapsto \alpha_0 v'_1$$

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$$\begin{array}{c} v_0 \otimes v'_0 \mapsto \boxed{1} \\ v_1 \otimes v'_0 \mapsto X - \alpha_0 \\ v_0 \otimes v'_1 \mapsto X - \alpha_1 \\ v_1 \otimes v'_1 \mapsto 0 \end{array}$$

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Note that such a merge is always between consecutive essential circles.

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## Some remarks

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- Grigsby-Licata-Wehrli [GLW18] showed that the annular chain complex carries an action of *sl*(2).
- This action also depends on parity of nesting.

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$$\mathcal{D} = (\alpha_0 - \alpha_1)^2, \quad R_{\alpha \mathcal{D}} = R_{\alpha} [\mathcal{D}^{-1}], \quad A_{\alpha \mathcal{D}} = A_{\alpha} \otimes_{R_{\alpha}} R_{\alpha \mathcal{D}}.$$

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$$e_0 := \frac{X - \alpha_0}{\alpha_1 - \alpha_0}, \quad e_1 := \frac{X - \alpha_1}{\alpha_0 - \alpha_1}, \quad e_i e_j = \delta_{ij} e_i$$

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Let  $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha \mathcal{D}} = \mathcal{G}_{\alpha} \otimes_{R_{\alpha}} R_{\alpha \mathcal{D}}$  denote the annular TQFT obtained by extending scalars to  $R_{\alpha \mathcal{D}}$ .

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#### Theorem (A.)

Let  $L \subset \mathbb{A} \times I$  be an n-component annular link with diagram D. Let  $C^{\mathbb{A}}_{\alpha \mathcal{D}}(D)$ denote the chain complex obtained by applying  $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha \mathcal{D}}$  to the cube of resolutions. Then the homology of  $C^{\mathbb{A}}_{\alpha \mathcal{D}}(D)$  is a free  $R_{\alpha \mathcal{D}}$ -module of rank  $2^n$ .

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*Proof:* Consider the following elements of  $A_{\alpha D}$ ,

$$\overline{v}_0 := v_0 = 1, \qquad \overline{v}_1 := \frac{v_1}{\alpha_1 - \alpha_0} = \frac{X - \alpha_0}{\alpha_1 - \alpha_0},$$
  
$$\overline{v}'_0 := v'_0 = 1, \qquad \overline{v}'_1 := \frac{v'_1}{\alpha_0 - \alpha_1} = \frac{X - \alpha_1}{\alpha_0 - \alpha_1}.$$



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• From (a), we see that  $\overline{v}_0$  acts as  $e_1$  and  $\overline{v}_1$  acts as  $e_0$ .



- From (a), we see that  $\overline{v}_0$  acts as  $e_1$  and  $\overline{v}_1$  acts as  $e_0$ .
- From (b),  $\overline{\nu}'_0$  acts as  $e_0$  and  $\overline{\nu}'_1$  acts as  $e_1$ .



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Thank you!

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