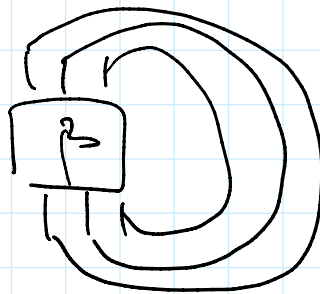
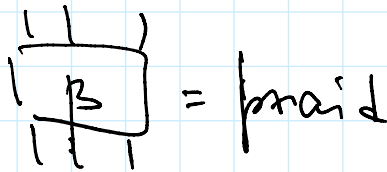


# Braids



braid on  $n$  strands



braid closure  
"link diagram"

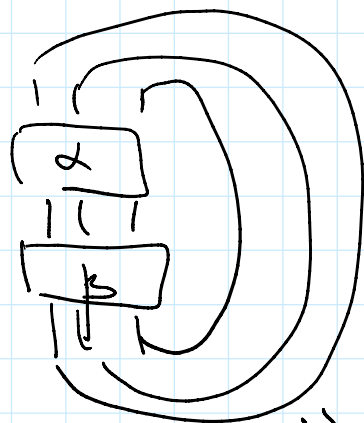
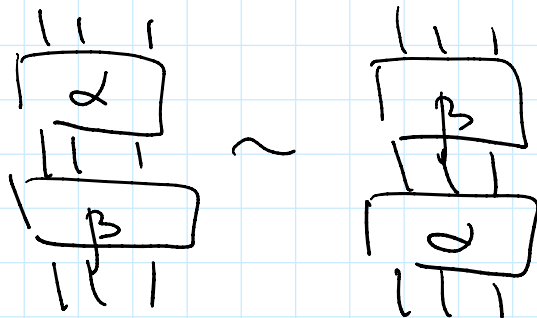
## Thm (Alexander)

Any link is a closure of some braid

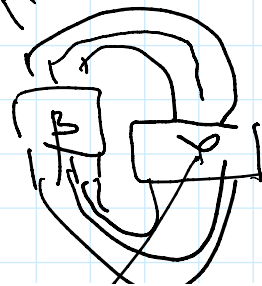
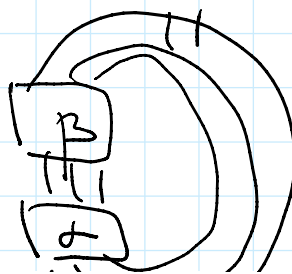
Thm (Markov) Two braids represent the same link, if they are related by a sequence of moves:

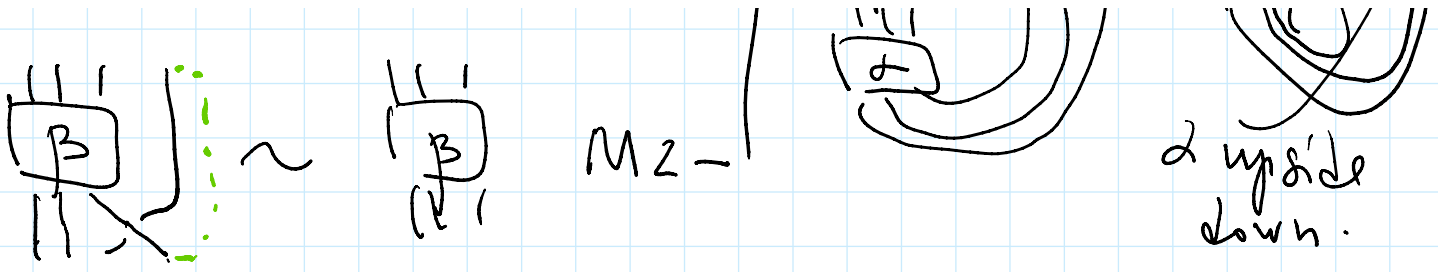
(M1)

(conjugation in braid group)



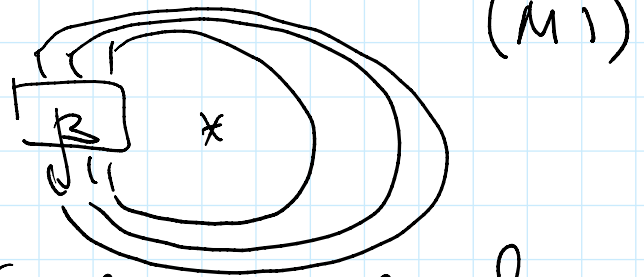
(M2) (stabilization)





$\beta$  braid  $\rightarrow$  usual braid closure  $(M1)$   
 $\beta$  braid  $\rightarrow$  annular closure  $(M1)$

transverse link  
 with respect to  
 standard contact  
 structure in  $S^3$



(annulus = plane minus  $*$ )  
 annular braids  
 " long. classes  
 in braid group

$(M1, M2+)$   
 conj. positive stabilization.  
 This (Orevkov sketch link)

Link invariants  $\leftrightarrow$  braid invariants  
 which do not change under  
 these moves.

these moves.

- Usual link invt  $\Leftrightarrow$  braid invt  
which does not change under  $M1, M2$
- Annular link invt  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\xrightarrow{M1}$  —  $M1$   
(just the copy)
- Transverse link invt  $\Leftrightarrow M2+, M1$

---

One direction: define contact structure,  
transverse links . . . .

Another direction: use Khovanov homology  
to get interesting invariants of  
braids, annular links, transverse  
links.

Annular

Khovanov homology

[Grigsby, Wehrli, Licata, ...]

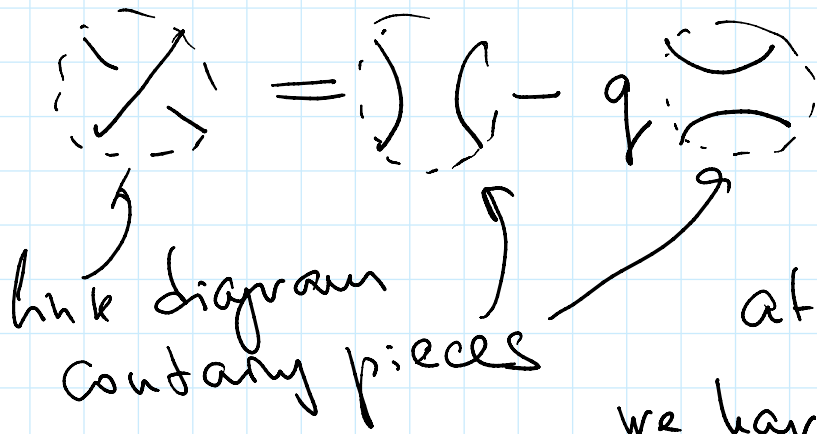
Plamenskaya  
invariant  
class in  $Kh(L)$   
which does not  
change under  $M1,$   
 $M2+$

[Plamenskaya, Ng. . .]

Kauffman bracket

Link diagram  $\rightsquigarrow \mathbb{C}(q)$

Link diagram  $\rightsquigarrow \mathbb{C}(q)$

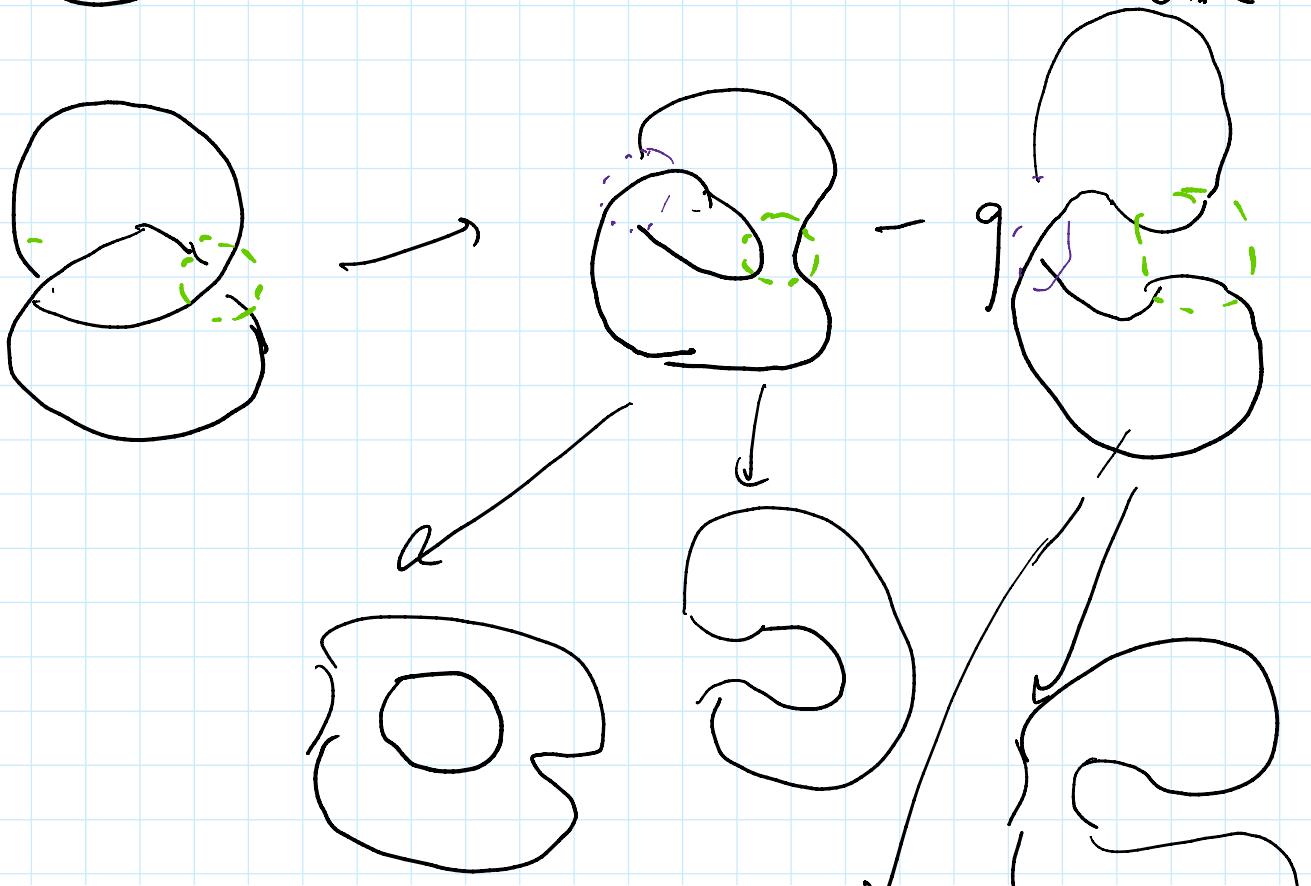


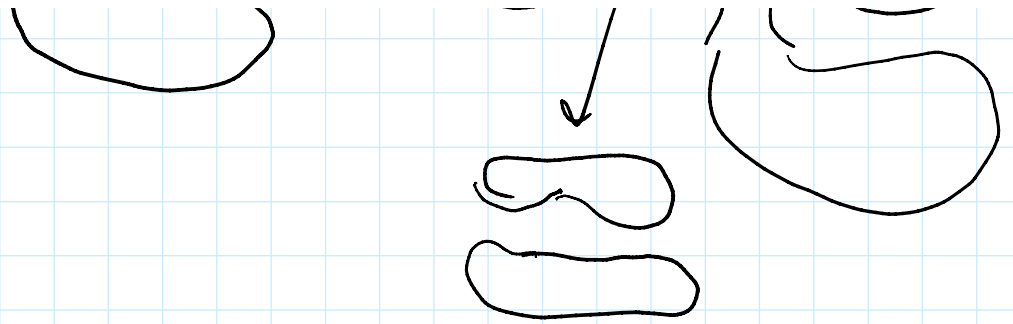
If we do this  
at every crossing,  
we have a lot of resolutions

usual link diagram  
→ bunch of circles

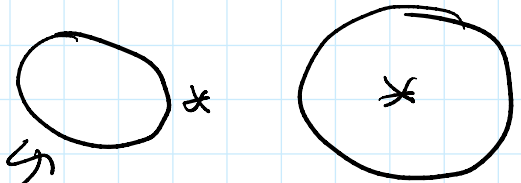
$\langle L \rangle =$  linear  
combination of  
evaluations of these  
circles.

$$\bigcirc = -q - q^{-1}$$





In the annular link diagram, we get  
two types of circles



non-essential  
circle

essential  
circle

non-essential  $\rightarrow -q - q^{-1}$

essential  $\rightarrow \sqrt{\phantom{x}}$



$\rightarrow$  2 essential  
2 non-essent

$\sim \sqrt{\phantom{x}}^2 \cdot (-q - q^{-1})^2$

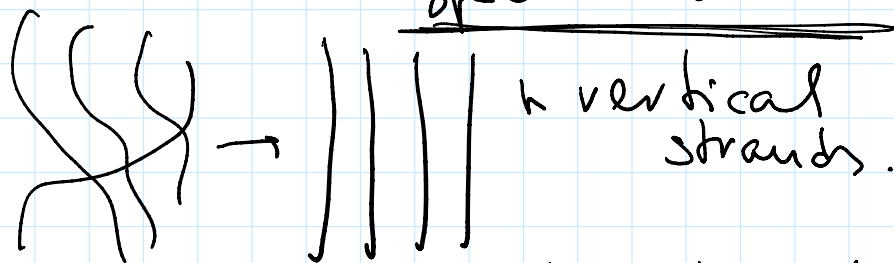
Kauffman bracket <sup>( $\sim$  Jones poly)</sup> in a circle  $\rightarrow$

$\rightarrow$  polynomial in  $\sqrt{\phantom{x}}$  and  $q$

Can get to normal Kauffman bracket  
 by evaluation at  $T = -q - q^{-1}$

by evaluating at  $V = -q - q^{-1}$ .

Plamenskaya: braid closure has  
a special resolution



$\times \rightarrow \parallel$   $\backslash \rightarrow \parallel$

$\leadsto$  special class in  $Kh$ .