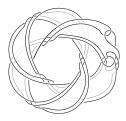
Khovanov homology and uniqueness of surfaces in the 4-ball

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16 September 2022



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What is Khovanov homology?

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What is Khovanov homology?

Khovanov homology is a functor on the category of link cobordisms:

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A link cobordism $\Sigma \colon L_0 \to L_1$ in $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0,1]$ is assigned a bigraded \mathbb{Z}_2 -linear map

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Defining the induced maps

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Defining the induced maps

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Defining the induced maps

Link cobordism	Movie	Chain complex	Chain map
$\Sigma \left \begin{array}{c} L_1 \\ \Sigma \\ L_0 \end{array} \right $			

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Important facts about Khovanov homology

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Important facts about Khovanov homology

Theorem (Jac04, BN05, Kh06, CMW07)

The cobordism induced map $\mathsf{Kh}(\Sigma)$ is invariant under smooth, boundary-preserving isotopy of Σ .

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Important facts about Khovanov homology

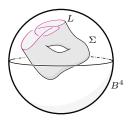
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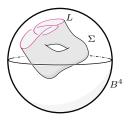
Theorem (MWW19)

Invariance of $\mathsf{Kh}(\Sigma)$ holds for link cobordisms in $S^3 \times [0,1]$.

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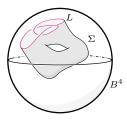


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For smooth, properly embedded surfaces $\Sigma \subset B^4$ bounding a link $L \subset S^3$, we study the link cobordism $L \to \emptyset$ (can also study the mirror $\emptyset \to L$).

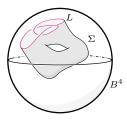
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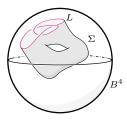


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• closed surfaces, $L = \emptyset$

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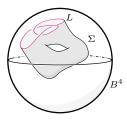


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- slice disks, $g(\Sigma) = 0$

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- slice disks, $g(\Sigma) = 0$
- Seifert surfaces, $\Sigma \hookrightarrow S^3$

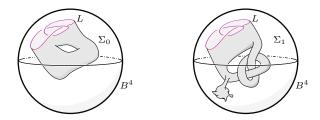
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Let $\Sigma_{0,1} \subset B^4$ be surfaces with common boundary $L \subset S^3$ and similar topology:

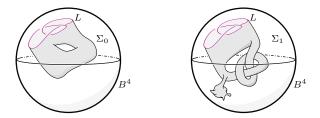
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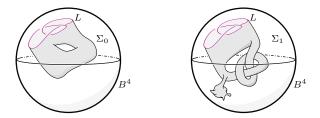
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These surfaces induce maps $\mathsf{Kh}(\Sigma_{0,1}) \colon \mathsf{Kh}(L) \to \mathbb{Z}_2$

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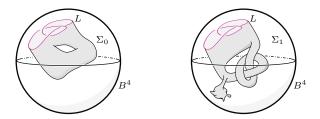


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Goal: show $\mathsf{Kh}(\Sigma_0) \not\equiv \mathsf{Kh}(\Sigma_1)$ to conclude $\Sigma_0 \not\simeq \Sigma_1$ rel boundary.

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Strategy: find $\varphi \in \mathsf{Kh}(L)$ such that $\mathsf{Kh}(\Sigma_0)(\varphi) \neq \mathsf{Kh}(\Sigma_1)(\varphi)$

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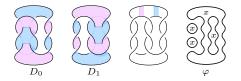
Proposition (S.-Swann 20, Hayden-S. 21)

The knot 9_{46} bounds a pair of slice disks $D_{0,1}$ distinguished up to boundary-preserving isotopy by their maps on Khovanov homology.

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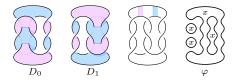
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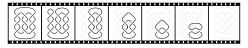


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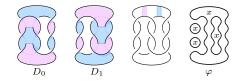


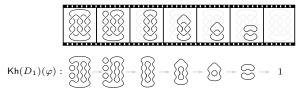
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Some initial examples

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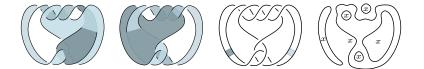
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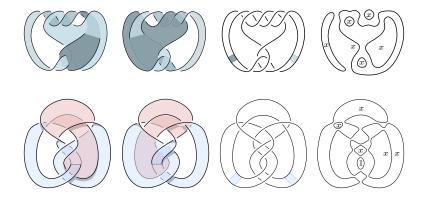
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Theorem (Hayden-S. 21)

Khovanov homology can detect exotic* slice surfaces of all genera.

**exotic*: isotopic through homeomorphisms, but not diffeomorphisms.

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Some notes:

• topological isotopy comes from [CP19]

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- recent work extends to nonorientable surfaces [LS21]

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Does Khovanov homology distinguish Seifert surfaces?

Note that all the surfaces we have considered are *immersed* in S^3 .

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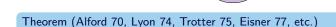
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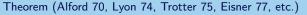


There are knots with (infinite) families of non-isotopic Seifert surfaces.

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Almost all become isotopic when pushed into B^4 .



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Question (Livingston)

Are all Seifert surfaces for a link L isotopic when pushed into B^4 ?



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Theorem (Livingston 82)

Seifert surfaces for the unlink are isotopic when pushed into B^4 .



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Non-isotopic Seifert surfaces in ${\cal B}^4$

Theorem (Hayden-Miller-Kim-Park-S. 22)

There are knots bounding pairs of non-isotopic Seifert surfaces, which remain non-isotopic when pushed into B^4 .

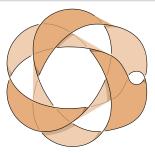
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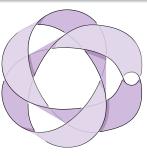
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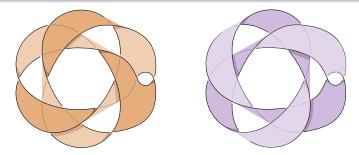
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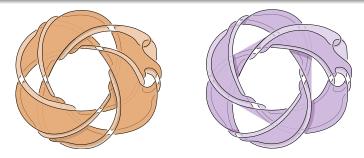
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By Whitehead doubling, we produce exotic examples (see [CP20]).

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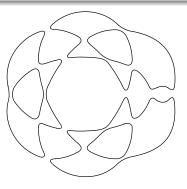
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Non-isotopic Seifert surfaces in B^4

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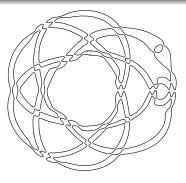
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(All x labels)

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Proposition

If S is a strongly quasipositive Seifert surface for a knot J, then Wh(S) induces a nontrivial map from Kh(Wh(J)) to \mathbb{Z}_2 .

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- study similar calculations with generalized Khovanov homologies:
 - reduced/odd Khovanov homology
 - deformed Khovanov homology (e.g., Lee and Bar-Natan)
 - Khovanov-Rozansky homology
 - annular Khovanov homology

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 - annular Khovanov homology
- study surfaces in 4-manifolds (c.f., [MWW19])

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 - deformed Khovanov homology (e.g., Lee and Bar-Natan)
 - Khovanov-Rozansky homology
 - annular Khovanov homology
- study surfaces in 4-manifolds (c.f., [MWW19])
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Khovanov homology of surfaces	Applications to surfaces in B^4 0000	Applications to Seifert surfaces	Future O●O

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- study the induced maps from concordances (link cobordisms $\Sigma \cong S^1 \times [0,1]$)

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Thank You!

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