

# Three Stories about Epsilon

by Louis H. Kauffman  
 <kauffman@uic.edu>

I.

$$\begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagup \\ \bullet \\ \diagdown \\ c \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \diagdown \\ \bullet \\ \diagup \\ c \end{array} = \epsilon_{abc} := \begin{cases} 1 & abc = 123, 231, 312 \\ -1 & abc = 213, 132, 321 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \square \\ \diagdown \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \square \\ \diagup \end{array} := \sum_a \left( \begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \square \\ \diagdown \end{array} a \right) \left( a \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \square \\ \diagup \end{array} \right).$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \square \\ \diagdown \end{array} = - \left( \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \square \\ \diagup \end{array} \right)} \quad \begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagup \\ \square \\ \diagdown \\ b \end{array} = \delta_b^a := \begin{cases} 1 & a=b \\ 0 & a \neq b \end{cases}.$$

$$a := a \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{(a vector)} \\ | \\ i \end{array} \right\} \quad a := a_i$$

$$\boxed{a \cdot b := \begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ b \end{array}}, \quad \boxed{a \times b = \begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \bullet \\ \diagup \\ b \end{array}}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ b \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ c \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ b \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ c \end{array} \Leftrightarrow a \cdot (b \times c) = (a \times b) \cdot c$$

$$\begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \bullet \\ \diagup \\ c \end{array} = - \begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ b \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ c \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ b \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ c \end{array}$$

whence

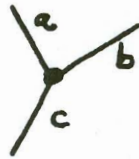
$$\boxed{(a \times b) \times c = -a(b \cdot c) + b(a \cdot c)}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \bullet \\ \diagup \\ c \end{array} = - \begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ b \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ c \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} a \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ b \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \diagdown \\ \cup \\ c \end{array}$$

$$\boxed{a \times (b \times c) = -(a \cdot b)c + b(a \cdot c)}$$

$$\boxed{(a \times b) \times c - a \times (b \times c) = (a \cdot b)c - a(b \cdot c)}$$

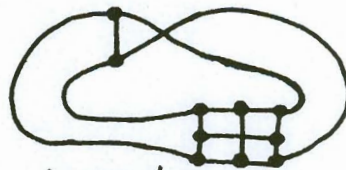
II. Coloring a cubic graph.



In a proper coloring  
 $a, b, c = \underline{3 \text{ distinct labels}}$   
 using  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ .



e.g.



uncolorable  
 (Petersen graph)

$:= \sqrt{-1} \epsilon_{abc}$

$\mathbb{G} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  a cubic graph immersed in plane.

$\mathbb{G}$  planar if no extra crossings  $\times$ .

$[\mathbb{G}] :=$  contraction of the tensor  
 obtained by replacing each  
 3-vertex by  $\sqrt{-1} \epsilon$ .

e.g.  $\xrightarrow{[\ ]}$   $= (\sqrt{-1})^2 \epsilon_{acb} \epsilon_{abc}$   
 $= \epsilon_{abc} \epsilon_{abc}$   
 $= 6.$

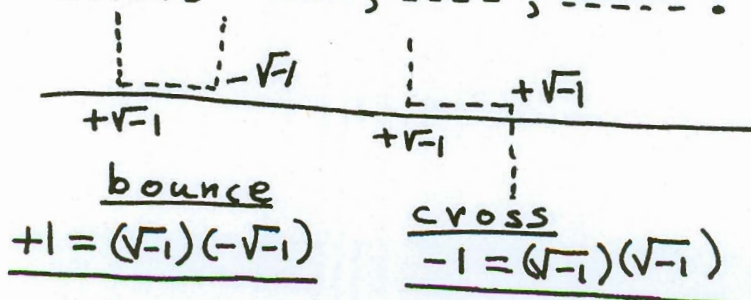
Theorem (Penrose).

(A)  $[\text{Y}] = [\ ] [\ ] - [\text{X}]$

(B)  $\mathbb{G}$  planar  $\Rightarrow [\mathbb{G}] =$  the number of  
 proper colorings of  $\mathbb{G} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ .

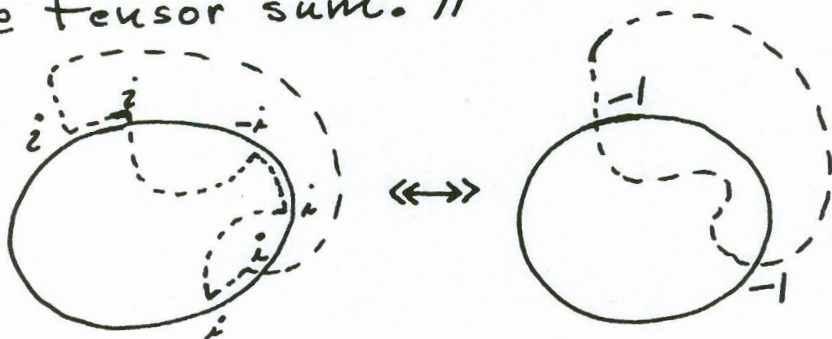
Proof. (A) Use section I.

(B) Colors  $\text{---}, \text{- - -}, \text{= = =} :$



Now use the Jordan curve theorem to conclude that each proper coloring of the planar graph contributes  $(-1)^{\#(\text{crossings})} = (-1)^{\text{even}} = +1$  to the tensor sum. //

e.g.



### III. Witten's Functional Integral For Knot Invariants

$$A(x) = A_i^a(x) T_a dx^i, \quad i=1,2,3$$

gauge field on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .  $a=1,2,\dots,d$

$\{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_d\}$  matrix Lie algebra basis.

$\mathcal{D}K \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  a knot.

$$W_K(A) = \text{tr} \left( P \exp \oint_K A \right) \quad \text{Wilson Loop}$$


$$W_K(A) := \text{tr} \left( \prod_{x \in K} (\mathbb{1} + A(x)) \right)$$

(a limit over finite partitions of  $K$ )

$$\frac{\delta W_K}{\delta A_i^a(x_0)} := \int_i^a W_K$$

$$\int_i^a W_K = \int_i^a \text{tr} \prod_{x \in K} (\mathbb{1} + A_i^a(x) T_a dx^i)$$

$$= \underbrace{T_a dx^i}_{\text{insert at } x_0} \text{tr} \prod_{x \in K} (\mathbb{1} + A(x))$$

Let  =  $T_a$ ,  $\Delta^i = dx^i$

$\left( i \rightarrow \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \rightarrow j = (T_a)_{ij} \right)$ .

Then



$\oint W \rightarrow = W \rightarrow \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \rightarrow$

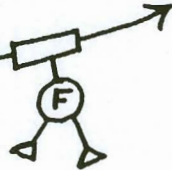
Insert  $T_a dx^i$  at  $x_0$  in Wilson Loop.

The functional integral:


$$Z_K = \int DA e^{\frac{ik}{4\pi} \mathcal{L}(A)} W_K(A).$$

$$\mathcal{L}(A) = \int_{S^3} \text{tr} (A \wedge dA + \frac{2}{3} A \wedge A \wedge A)$$

(\*)   $\mathcal{L} =$   curvature tensor for  $dA + A \wedge A$ .

(\*)  $\delta W_{\rightarrow} := W_{\rightarrow} - W_{\rightarrow}$   
 $\delta W_{\rightarrow} = W \rightarrow \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \rightarrow$   } Lie algebra and curvature insertion for small variation of the loop.

Curvature tensor arises from varying the field or varying the loop. Note the epsilon appearing in relation to the field variation. Note that

 =  $dx^i dx^j dx^k \epsilon_{ijk}$

is a volume form.

Let  $\delta Z_K := Z_{\rightarrow} - Z_{\rightarrow}$ .

$$\delta Z_K = \int DA e^{\frac{ik}{4\pi} \mathcal{L}} \delta W_K$$

$$\delta Z_{\rightarrow} = \int DA e^{\frac{ik}{4\pi} \mathcal{L}} W \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft (F) \end{array}$$

$$= \int DA e^{\frac{ik}{4\pi} \mathcal{L}} \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft \mathcal{L} \end{array} W \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft (F) \end{array}$$

$$= -\frac{i4\pi}{k} \int DA e^{\frac{ik}{4\pi} \mathcal{L}} \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft \mathcal{L} \end{array} W \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft (F) \end{array}$$

$$= \frac{i4\pi}{k} \int DA e^{\frac{ik}{4\pi} \mathcal{L}} \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft \mathcal{L} \end{array} W \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft (F) \end{array}$$

$$\delta Z_{\rightarrow} = \frac{i4\pi}{k} \int DA e^{\frac{ik}{4\pi} \mathcal{L}} \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft \mathcal{L} \end{array} W \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft (F) \end{array}$$

Because of the appearance of the volume form  $\begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \circlearrowleft \end{array}$ ,  $\delta Z_{\rightarrow} = 0$  when the small deformation of the knot does not generate volume. Thus

$Z_K$  has formal invariance under

$\begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array} \leftrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}$  ( and  $\begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array} \leftrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}$  but

not under  $\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} \leftrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowleft \\ \curvearrowright \end{array}$ .

Thus it is a framed invariant, and the Lie algebra is involved in the framing and in the switching structure as well:

$$Z_{\rightarrow} - Z_{\leftarrow} = \frac{c}{k} Z \begin{array}{c} \square \rightarrow \\ \square \rightarrow \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array}$$

Reference. L.K. "Knots and Physics", World Scientific (1994).