

# The Teichmüller TQFT volume conjecture for twist knots

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## Abstract

The Teichmüller TQFT, defined by Andersen and Kashaev, gives rise to a quantum invariant of triangulated hyperbolic knot complements; it has an associated volume conjecture, where the hyperbolic volume of the knot appears as a certain asymptotic coefficient.

In this note, we announce a proof of this volume conjecture for all twist knots up to 14 crossings; along the way we explicitly compute the partition function of the Teichmüller TQFT for the whole infinite family of twist knots.

Among other tools, we use an algorithm of Thurston to construct a convenient ideal triangulation of a twist knot complement, as well as the saddle point method for computing limits of complex integrals with parameters.

## Résumé

**La conjecture du volume de la TQFT de Teichmüller pour les nœuds twist.**

La TQFT de Teichmüller, définie par Andersen et Kashaev, produit un invariant quantique des complémentaires de nœuds hyperboliques triangulés ; elle a une conjecture du volume associée, où le volume hyperbolique du nœud apparaît comme un certain coefficient asymptotique.

Dans cette note, nous annonçons une preuve de cette conjecture du volume pour tous les nœuds twist de 14 croisements ou moins ; au passage nous calculons explicitement la TQFT pour l'intégralité de la famille infinie des nœuds twist.

Entre autres outils, nous utilisons un algorithme de Thurston pour construire une triangulation idéale pratique du complémentaire d'un nœud twist, ainsi que la méthode du point selle pour calculer des limites d'intégrales complexes paramétrées.

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## Version française abrégée

Dans cette note nous annonçons le résultat suivant et nous esquissons sa preuve (voir la version anglaise pour un bref historique et [3] pour les détails de la preuve) :

**Théorème 0.1** *La conjecture du volume de la TQFT de Teichmüller est vérifiée pour tous les nœuds twist à au plus 14 croisements.*

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Commençons par clarifier quelques termes de l'énoncé précédent. Dans [1], les auteurs ont défini une TQFT généralisée à partir de la théorie de Teichmüller quantique, de fonction partition associée qu'on notera  $Z_{\hbar}$  dans la suite (ici  $\hbar > 0$  est le paramètre quantique). Pour construire cette *TQFT de Teichmüller*, on munit les 3-variétés de triangulations idéales avec des structures d'angles diédraux sur les arêtes ; on associe ensuite aux tétraèdres des distributions tempérées, pour finalement obtenir les fonctions partition par des intégrales sur des variables d'état (variables qui correspondent aux faces des tétraèdres). Les auteurs ont ensuite proposé une *conjecture du volume* (voir Conjecture 2 ci-après), énonçant que pour un nœud  $K$  de complément hyperbolique dans une 3-variété close  $M$ , le volume hyperbolique  $\text{Vol}(M \setminus K)$  apparaît comme le facteur de décroissance exponentielle de  $Z_{\hbar}(M \setminus K)$  dans la limite semi-classique  $\hbar \rightarrow 0^+$ .

Les *nœuds twist* sont les nœuds de la forme de la Figure 2 :  $K_n$  dénote le nœud twist à  $n+2$  croisements. Pour  $n \geq 2$ ,  $K_n$  est toujours hyperbolique. Cette famille est ainsi la famille infinie de nœuds hyperboliques la plus simple à étudier, et est donc apparue naturellement pour s'attaquer à la conjecture du volume de la TQFT de Teichmüller qui n'était démontrée jusqu'ici que pour un nombre fini de cas. Précisons maintenant comment nous avons démontré le résultat principal.

Tout d'abord, un algorithme remontant à Thurston nous a permis de construire une *triangulation idéale* du complémentaire d'un nœud twist  $K_n$  à partir d'un diagramme de ce nœud  $K_n$  (voir Figures 3 et 4).

Ces triangulations suivent une *forme générale* dont la complexité conceptuelle ne varie pas quand  $n$  augmente, ce qui est très pratique pour calculer et étudier l'*asymptotique* d'invariants construits à partir de triangulations.

Nous pouvons ensuite calculer la *fonction partition de la TQFT de Teichmüller* pour les complémentaires des nœuds twist. Soit  $n \geq 5$  un entier et  $X_n$  la triangulation idéale construite pour  $S^3 \setminus K_n$ . Pour tout  $\hbar > 0$  et toute structure d'angle  $\alpha$  sur  $X_n$ , on a

$$|Z_{\hbar}(X_n, \alpha)| = \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} J_{S^3, K_n}(\hbar, x) e^{-\frac{1}{\sqrt{\hbar}} x \lambda_{X_n}(\alpha)} dx \right|,$$

où  $J_{S^3, K_n}$  est une fonction explicitement connue ne dépendant que du nœud  $K_n$ , et  $\lambda_{X_n}$  est une combinaison linéaire explicite d'angles diédraux. Nous ne détaillons pas ici les valeurs exactes de  $J_{S^3, K_n}$  et  $\lambda_{X_n}$  pour simplifier la lecture, mais nous renvoyons le lecteur au Théorème 4.1 (1) ci-après. Pour démontrer l'égalité précédente, nous avons remarqué des simplifications dans les intégrales d'état, conséquences des *équations d'équilibrage* sur les angles de la triangulation  $X_n$ . Nous ne doutons pas que la forme particulièrement pratique de  $X_n$  a aidé à ces simplifications.

Une fois la fonction  $J_{S^3, K_n}$  connue, on peut démontrer la Conjecture 2 pour des nouveaux nœuds. Cette conjecture avait été prouvée pour les deux premiers nœuds twist hyperboliques  $4_1$  et  $5_2$  dans [1], puis pour le nœud  $6_1$  dans [2]. En se fondant sur des idées de [1] et notamment la *méthode du point selle*, nous pouvons finalement vérifier numériquement la Conjecture 2 pour tous les  $K_n$  avec  $n \leq 12$ .

Remarquons que notre méthode de vérification est *indépendante du nombre de croisements* du nœud twist, et sa réussite ne dépend que de la puissance de calcul de l'ordinateur où nous faisons les vérifications numériques. Ainsi, la valeur 12 de  $n$  où nous nous sommes arrêtés pourrait certainement être remplacée par un entier arbitrairement plus grand.

## 1. Introduction

The *volume conjecture* of Kashaev and Murakami-Murakami is perhaps the most studied conjecture in quantum topology currently (see the original papers [4,7] and [6,8] for a survey); it states that a certain asymptotic of the colored Jones polynomials of a hyperbolic knot yields the hyperbolic volume of this knot. As such, it hints at a deep connection between quantum topology and classical geometry.

The *Teichmüller TQFT* is a quantum invariant defined in [1] by Andersen-Kashaev that one can understand as an infinite-dimensional version of the colored Jones polynomials. Taking its roots in quantum Teichmüller theory and making use of Faddeev's quantum dilogarithm, this infinite-dimensional TQFT is constructed with state integrals on tempered distributions from the data of a 3-dimensional triangulation with angles. Andersen and Kashaev conjectured that the hyperbolic volume of a knot complement appears in the Teichmüller TQFT as well:

**Conjecture 1** [1, Conjecture 1] *Let  $M$  be a closed oriented 3-manifold and  $K \subset M$  a knot whose complement is hyperbolic. Then the partition function of the Teichmüller TQFT associated to  $(M, K)$  can be computed from a function  $J_{M,K}$  independent of the triangulation on  $M$ , and the hyperbolic volume  $\text{Vol}(M \setminus K)$  appears as an asymptotic exponential decrease rate.*

We refer to Conjecture 2 in the note for a more detailed statement. This *volume conjecture* was proven for the first two hyperbolic knots  $(S^3, 4_1)$ ,  $(S^3, 5_2)$  in [1] and the next one  $(S^3, 6_1)$  in [2]. This conjecture can also be generalized to the case of non-balanced shape structures (see Section 2 for the terminology and [5] for the generalization).

In this note we announce further proof of the conjecture for several new examples, all part of the infinite family of *twist knots*:

**Theorem 1.1 (Main theorem)** *For the  $n$ -th twist knot  $K_n$  in  $S^3$ , the function  $J_{S^3, K_n}$  can be computed explicitly. Furthermore, the asymptotic part of the conjecture is checked numerically for all  $n \leq 12$ .*

We refer to Theorem 4.1 for more details. The newness of our approach resides in considering an infinite family of new examples globally, so that patterns are more easily discerned than for the previous isolated examples. Notably, we compute general triangulations for the twist knots, see Theorem 2.1, and we use them to prove the Main Theorem.

A similar approach can be used to prove the conjecture for various hyperbolic knots in lens spaces [9].

The rest of this note is organized as follows: in Section 2 we review preliminaries and we show the construction of particularly convenient triangulations in Theorem 2.1; in Section 3 we recall the definition of the Teichmüller TQFT and we state its associated volume conjecture; finally in Section 4 we state the main result, Theorem 4.1, and give ideas of its proof.

## 2. Topological preliminaries

### 2.1. Triangulations

We mostly follow the notations of [1]. We consider triangulations of 3-dimensional manifolds, with *ordered* tetrahedra, i.e. with vertices numbered  $0, 1, 2, 3$  for each tetrahedron. We *orient the edges* of  $T$  accordingly to the order on vertices. We denote  $\epsilon(T)$  the *sign* of the tetrahedron  $T$ , defined to be  $\epsilon(T) = +1$  if the edges  $\vec{01}, \vec{02}, \vec{03}$  induce a right-handed coordinate system, and  $\epsilon(T) = -1$  otherwise.

A *triangulation*  $X = (T_1, \dots, T_N, \sim)$  is the data of  $N$  distinct tetrahedra  $T_1, \dots, T_N$  and an equivalence relation  $\sim$  first defined on the faces by pairing and the only gluing that respects vertex order, and also induced on edges and vertices by the combined identifications. We call  $M_X$  the (pseudo-)3-manifold  $M_X = T_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup T_N / \sim$  obtained by quotient.

We denote  $X^i$  (for  $i = 0, \dots, 3$ ) the set of  $i$ -cells of  $X$  after identification by  $\sim$ . In this paper we always consider that every face is paired with an other face by  $\sim$ , thus  $X^2$  is always of cardinal  $2N$ . By a slight abuse of notation we also call  $T_i$  the 3-cell inside the tetrahedron  $T_i$ , so that  $X^3 = \{T_1, \dots, T_N\}$ .

An *ideal triangulation*  $X$  contains ideal tetrahedra (which are homeomorphic to closed balls minus 4 boundary vertices), and in this case the quotient space minus its vertices  $M_X \setminus X^0$  is an open manifold. In this case we will denote  $M = M_X \setminus X^0$  and say that the open manifold  $M$  admits the ideal triangulation

$X$ .

An (one-vertex)  $H$ -triangulation is a triangulation  $Y$  with compact tetrahedra (which are homeomorphic to closed balls) so that  $M = M_Y$  is a closed manifold and  $Y^0$  is a singleton, with one particular edge in  $Y^1$  distinguished; this edge will represent a knot  $K$  (up to ambient isotopy) in the closed manifold  $M$ , and we will write that  $Y$  is an  $H$ -triangulation of  $(M, K)$ .

Finally, for  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$  we define  $x_i: X^3 \rightarrow X^2$  the map such that  $x_i(T)$  is the equivalence class of the face of  $T$  opposed to its vertex  $i$ .

Figure 1 displays two possible ways of representing an ideal triangulation of the open complement of the figure-eight knot  $M = S^3 \setminus 4_1$ , with one positive and one negative tetrahedron. Here  $X^3 = \{T_+, T_-\}$ ,  $X^2 = \{A, B, C, D\}$ ,  $X^1 = \{\rightarrow, \rightarrow\}$  and  $X^0$  is a singleton. On the left the tetrahedra are drawn as usual and all the cells are named; on the right we represent each tetrahedron by a “comb”  $\text{⏟}$  with four spikes numbered 0, 1, 2, 3 from left to right, we join the spike  $i$  of  $T$  to the spike  $j$  of  $T'$  if  $x_i(T) = x_j(T')$ , and we add a + or - next to each tetrahedron according to its sign.

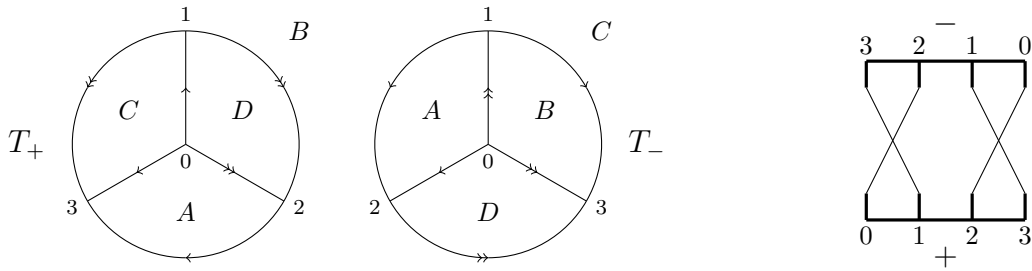


Figure 1. Two representations of an ideal triangulation of the knot complement  $S^3 \setminus 4_1$ . Deux représentations d’une triangulation idéale du complémentaire de nœud  $S^3 \setminus 4_1$ .

## 2.2. Angle structures

For a given triangulation  $X = (T_1, \dots, T_N, \sim)$  we denote  $\mathcal{S}_X$  the set of *shape structures on  $X$* , defined as

$$\mathcal{S}_X = \left\{ \alpha = (\alpha_1^1, \alpha_2^1, \alpha_3^1, \dots, \alpha_1^N, \alpha_2^N, \alpha_3^N) \in \mathbb{R}^{3N} \mid \forall (j, k) \in \{1, 2, 3\} \times \{1, \dots, N\}, \alpha_j^k \in (0; \pi), \sum_{j=1}^3 \alpha_j^k = \pi \right\}.$$

An angle  $\alpha_j^k$  represents the value of a dihedral angle on the edge  $\overrightarrow{0j}$  and its opposite edge in the tetrahedron  $T_k$ . If a particular shape structure  $\alpha \in \mathcal{S}_X$  is fixed, we define associated maps  $\alpha_j: X^3 \rightarrow (0; \pi)$  for  $j = 1, 2, 3$  by  $\alpha_j(T_k) = \alpha_j^k$  for  $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ .

Let  $(X, \alpha)$  be a triangulation with a shape structure as before. We denote  $\omega_{X, \alpha}: X^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  the associated *weight function*, which sends a quotient edge  $e \in X^1$  to the sum of angles  $\alpha_j^k$  corresponding to tetrahedral edges that are preimages of  $e$  by  $\sim$ . For example, if we denote  $\alpha = (\alpha_1^+, \alpha_2^+, \alpha_3^+, \alpha_1^-, \alpha_2^-, \alpha_3^-)$  a shape structure on the triangulation  $X$  of Figure 1, then  $\omega_{X, \alpha}(\rightarrow) = 2\alpha_1^+ + \alpha_3^+ + 2\alpha_2^- + \alpha_3^-$ .

One can also consider the closure  $\overline{\mathcal{S}_X}$  where the  $\alpha_j^k$  are taken in  $[0; \pi]$  instead. The definitions of the maps  $\alpha_j$  and  $\omega_{X, \alpha}$  can immediately be extended.

We finally define  $\mathcal{A}_X = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{S}_X \mid \forall e \in X^1, \omega_{X, \alpha}(e) = 2\pi\}$  the set of *balanced shape structures on  $X$* , or *angle structures on  $X$* .

### 2.3. Hyperbolic knot complements

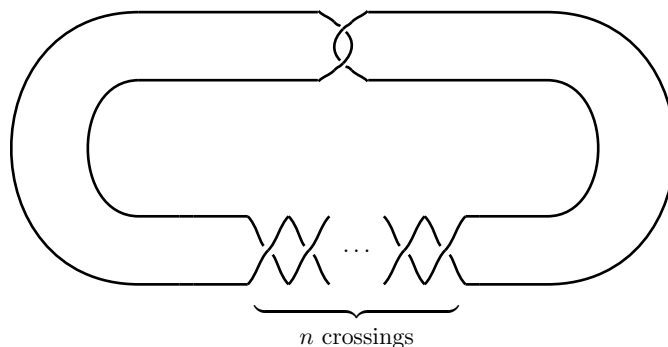


Figure 2. The twist knot  $K_n$ . Le noeud twist  $K_n$ .

We denote  $K_n$  the unoriented twist knot with  $n$  half-twists and  $n+2$  crossings, whose diagram is drawn in Figure 2.

**Theorem 2.1** For every  $n \geq 5$  odd (respectively for every  $n \geq 6$  even), the triangulations  $X_n$  and  $Y_n$  represented in Figure 3 (respectively in Figure 4) are an ideal triangulation of  $S^3 \setminus K_n$  and an H-triangulation of  $(S^3, K_n)$  respectively.

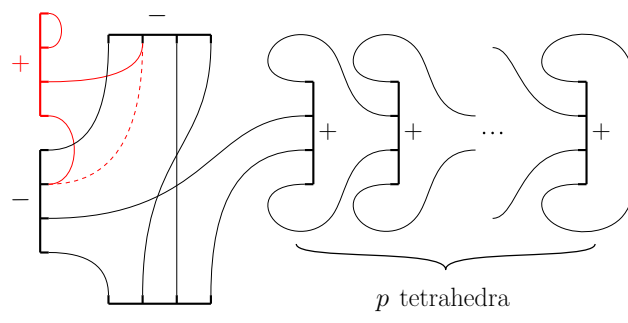


Figure 3. An H-triangulation for  $(S^3, K_n)$  and an ideal triangulation for  $S^3 \setminus K_n$  for odd  $n \geq 5$ , with  $p = \frac{n-3}{2}$ . Une H-triangulation de  $(S^3, K_n)$  et une triangulation idéale de  $S^3 \setminus K_n$  pour  $n \geq 5$  impair, avec  $p = \frac{n-3}{2}$ .

Figures 3 and 4 display an H-triangulation for  $(S^3, K_n)$ , and the corresponding ideal triangulation for  $S^3 \setminus K_n$  is obtained by replacing the upper left red tetrahedron (glued to itself) by the dotted line (note that we did not write the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3 of the vertices). Theorem 2.1 is proven by applying an algorithm of Thurston to construct a polyhedral decomposition of  $S^3$  where the knot  $K_n$  is one of the edges, starting from a diagram of  $K_n$ ; along the way we apply some combinatorial tricks to reduce the number of edges and we choose a convenient triangulation of the polyhedra. Once we have the H-triangulation for  $(S^3, K_n)$ , we can collapse both the edge representing the knot  $K_n$  and its underlying tetrahedron to obtain an ideal triangulation of  $S^3 \setminus K_n$ .

Recall that a knot  $K$  in a closed 3-manifold  $M$  is *hyperbolic* if  $M \setminus K$  admits a complete hyperbolic structure; the associated *volume* is denoted  $\text{Vol}(M \setminus K)$ . Note that for  $n \geq 2$ , the twist knot  $K_n$  is hyperbolic.

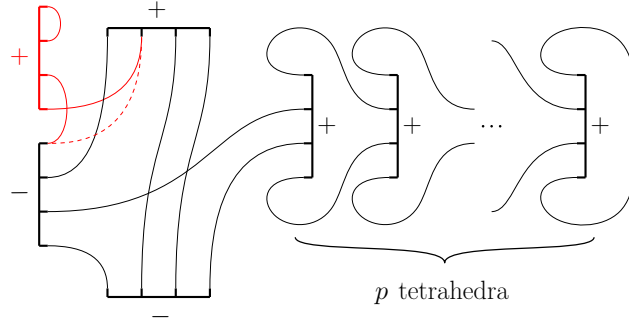


Figure 4. An H-triangulation for  $(S^3, K_n)$  and an ideal triangulation for  $S^3 \setminus K_n$  for even  $n \geq 6$ , with  $p = \frac{n-2}{2}$ . Une H-triangulation de  $(S^3, K_n)$  et une triangulation idéale de  $S^3 \setminus K_n$  pour  $n \geq 6$  pair, avec  $p = \frac{n-2}{2}$ .

### 3. The Teichmüller TQFT

#### 3.1. Definition

Recall that for  $\hbar > 0$  and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^*$  such that  $(\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b}^{-1})\sqrt{\hbar} = 1$ , Faddeev's quantum dilogarithm  $\Phi_{\mathbf{b}}$  is the meromorphic function defined by

$$\Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(x) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{4} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R} + i0^+} \frac{e^{-2ixz} dz}{\sinh(\mathbf{b}z) \sinh(\mathbf{b}^{-1}z)}\right),$$

and which depends only on  $\hbar = \frac{1}{(\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b}^{-1})^2}$ . Note that the poles and zeroes of  $\Phi_{\mathbf{b}}$  are all outside of the strip  $\mathbb{R} + i\left(\frac{-1}{2\sqrt{\hbar}}; \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\hbar}}\right)$ .

Let  $X$  be a triangulation and  $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_X$  an angle structure. The *partition function of the Teichmüller TQFT* of  $(X, \alpha)$  at  $\hbar > 0$  is defined as:

$$Z_{\hbar}(X, \alpha) := \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{X^2}} d\mathbf{x} \prod_{T \in X^3} \frac{\delta(x_0(T) - x_1(T) + x_2(T)) e^{2\pi i \epsilon(T) x_0(T) (x_3(T) - x_2(T))} e^{\frac{\alpha_3(T)(x_3(T) - x_2(T))}{\hbar^{1/2}}}}{\Phi_{\mathbf{b}}((x_3(T) - x_2(T)) - \frac{i}{2\pi\hbar^{1/2}} \epsilon(T) (\alpha_2(T) + \alpha_3(T)))^{\epsilon(T)}}.$$

At first glance it may not be obvious that this multi-integral is well-defined, convergent or topologically invariant. We refer to [1] for technical details.

#### 3.2. The volume conjecture

From now on, we will write  $z \stackrel{*}{=} w$  if  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$  have the same module. Let us recall the general statement of the volume conjecture for the Teichmüller TQFT, due to Andersen-Kashaev:

**Conjecture 2** [1, Conjecture 1] *Let  $M$  be a closed oriented 3-manifold and  $K \subset M$  a knot whose complement is hyperbolic. The following statements hold:*

- (1) *For every ideal triangulation  $X$  of  $M \setminus K$ , there exists a degree one real polynomial  $\lambda_X$  of dihedral angles of  $X$  and a smooth function  $J_{M,K}: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that for all angle structures  $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_X$  and all  $\hbar > 0$ ,*

$$Z_{\hbar}(X, \alpha) \stackrel{*}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}} J_{M,K}(\hbar, x) e^{-\frac{1}{\sqrt{\hbar}} x \lambda_X(\alpha)} dx.$$

- (2) *For every one-vertex H-triangulation  $Y$  of the pair  $(M, K)$ , for every  $\hbar > 0$  and for every  $\tau \in \overline{S}_Y$  such that  $\omega_{Y,\tau}$  vanishes on  $K$  and is equal to  $2\pi$  on every other edge, one has*

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \tau, \alpha \in \mathcal{S}_Y} \Phi_{\mathbf{b}} \left( \frac{\pi - \omega_{Y, \alpha}(K)}{2\pi i \sqrt{\hbar}} \right) Z_{\hbar}(Y, \alpha) \stackrel{*}{=} J_{M, K}(\hbar, 0).$$

(3) The hyperbolic volume of the complement of  $K$  in  $M$  is obtained as the following limit:

$$\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0^+} 2\pi \hbar \log |J_{M, K}(\hbar, 0)| = -\text{Vol}(M \setminus K).$$

Note that thanks to the invariance properties proved in [1], one needs only to prove parts (1) and (2) of Conjecture 2 for a specific ideal triangulation  $X$  or H-triangulation  $Y$ , as we will do for the twist knots.

#### 4. Main result

Conjecture 2 was proven for the cases  $(S^3, 4_1)$ ,  $(S^3, 5_2)$  in [1] and for  $(S^3, 6_1)$  in [2]. Note that for this last case, part (3) of Conjecture 2 was checked numerically. The main result of this paper is the following:

**Theorem 4.1** *The following statements hold:*

(1) Part (1) of Conjecture 2 is satisfied for all twist knots  $K_n$  such that  $n \geq 5$ . More precisely:

(i) If  $n$  is odd, let  $p = \frac{n-3}{2}$ . We take the ideal triangulation  $X = X_n = (T_1, \dots, T_p, T_U, T_V, T_W, \sim)$  of  $S^3 \setminus K_n$  described in Figure 3, the angle polynomial  $\lambda_X: \alpha \mapsto -3\alpha_1^U + 2\alpha_1^V - \alpha_3^V - \alpha_1^W + 2\pi$ , and the smooth map

$$J_{S^3, K_n}: (\hbar, x) \mapsto \int d\mathbf{y} e^{2i\pi \mathbf{y}^T Q \mathbf{y}} e^{2i\pi x(x - y_U - y_W)} e^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\hbar}} \mathbf{y}^T \mathcal{W}} \frac{\Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_U) \Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_U + x) \Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_W)}{\Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_1) \dots \Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_p)},$$

with

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_p \\ y_U \\ y_W \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{W} = \begin{bmatrix} -2p\pi \\ \vdots \\ -2\pi \left( kp - \frac{k(k-1)}{2} \right) \\ \vdots \\ -p(p+1)\pi \\ (p^2 + p + 1)\pi \\ \pi \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & \dots & 2 & -2 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 2 & \dots & p & -p & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & \dots & -p & p & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(ii) If  $n$  is even, let  $p = \frac{n-2}{2}$ . We take the ideal triangulation  $X = X_n = (T_1, \dots, T_p, T_U, T_V, T_W, \sim)$  of  $S^3 \setminus K_n$  described in Figure 4, the angle polynomial  $\lambda_X: \alpha \mapsto \alpha_1^U - 2\alpha_1^V - \alpha_3^V - \alpha_1^W + 2\pi$ , and the smooth map

$$J_{S^3, K_n}: (\hbar, x) \mapsto \int d\mathbf{y} e^{2i\pi \mathbf{y}^T Q \mathbf{y}} e^{2i\pi x(y_U - y_W - x)} e^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\hbar}} \mathbf{y}^T \mathcal{W}} \frac{\Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(x - y_U) \Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_W)}{\Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_1) \dots \Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_p) \Phi_{\mathbf{b}}(y_U)},$$

with

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_p \\ y_U \\ y_W \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{W} = \begin{bmatrix} -2p\pi \\ \vdots \\ -2\pi \left( kp - \frac{k(k-1)}{2} \right) \\ \vdots \\ -p(p+1)\pi \\ -(p^2 + p + 3)\pi \\ \pi \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & \cdots & 2 & 2 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 2 & \cdots & p & p & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & \cdots & p & p+1 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(2) Part (2) of Conjecture 2 holds for all twist knots  $K_n$  with  $n \geq 5$  with the  $H$ -triangulation  $Y_n$  of Figures 3 and 4.

(3) Part (3) of Conjecture 2 is checked numerically for all twist knots  $K_n$  up to  $n = 12$ .

Let us give a sketch of the proof. We first compute the partition function  $Z_{\hbar}$  on the triangulation  $X_n$  using the definitions; then we simplify the multi-integral, starting with removing the Dirac delta functions and then applying the balancing equations on the dihedral angles satisfied by any angle structure  $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{X_n}$ . This gives us part (1) of Conjecture 2 and the explicit values of  $\lambda_{X_n}$  and  $J_{S^3, K_n}$  for any  $n$ .

The computations in part (2) are similar, but it is important to notice that the balancing angle equations for  $Y_n$  slightly differ from those of  $X_n$ .

Finally, for part (3), we follow the techniques of [1,2] and we employ the saddle point method to equate the limit  $\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0^+} 2\pi\hbar \log |J_{S^3, K_n}(\hbar, 0)|$  with the extremum of a potential function constructed from  $J_{S^3, K_n}$ . We find and compute this extremum on *Mathematica* numerically, and we check for each separate  $n$  that it coincides with the value of  $-\text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K_n)$  taken from *Snappy*. This process can be applied for any  $n$  without difference, and we decided to stop at  $n = 12$ . We expect part (3) of Conjecture 2 to hold similarly for every  $n$ .

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