
PETER SAMUELSON, University of Toronto
Character varieties and a deformed peripheral map

The Kauffman bracket skein module of a 3-manifold M is a quantization of the $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ character variety of M , depending on a parameter q . We describe a conjecture with Y. Berest that the skein module of a knot complement is naturally a module over a 3-parameter algebra. When $q = 1$ we explain that this gives a (canonical) deformation of the peripheral map between the character varieties of the knot complement and the torus. If time permits we discuss some quantum corollaries as well.