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The Kauffman polynomial and trivalent graphs

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(Submitted on 6 Jul 2011 (v1), last revised 24 May 2012 (this version, v3))

We construct a state model for the two-variable Kauffman polynomial using planar trivalent graphs. We also use this model to obtain a polynomial invariant for a certain type of trivalent graphs embedded in three-dimensional space.

Comments: 24 pages, many figures; typos corrected, Theorem 3

modified

Subjects: **Geometric Topology (math.GT)**

MSC classes: 57M27, 57M15

Cite as: arXiv:1107.1210 [math.GT]

(or arXiv:1107.1210v3 [math.GT] for this version)

Submission history

From: Carmen Caprau [view email]

[v1] Wed, 6 Jul 2011 18:12:03 GMT (432kb,D)

[v2] Mon, 11 Jul 2011 01:20:56 GMT (430kb,D)

[v3] Thu, 24 May 2012 23:15:44 GMT (375kb,D)

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