

Truncated Heegaard Floer homology and knot concordance invariants

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We construct a sequence of smooth concordance invariants $\nu_n(K)$ defined using truncated Heegaard Floer homology. The invariants generalize the concordance invariants ν of Ozsváth and Szabó and ν^+ of Hom and Wu. We exhibit an example in which the gap between two consecutive elements in the sequence ν_n can be arbitrarily large. We also prove that the sequence ν_n contains more concordance information than τ , ν , ν' , ν^+ and $\nu^{+'}$.

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1 Introduction

Two knots, K_0 and K_1 , in S^3 are *smoothly concordant* if there is a smooth proper embedding of a cylinder $S^1 \times [0, 1]$ into $S^3 \times [0, 1]$ with boundary $S^1 \times \{0\} = K_0$ and $S^1 \times \{1\} = -K_1$. The Heegaard Floer homology package of Ozsváth and Szabó has led to a wealth of smooth concordance invariants. A survey on this topic can be found in Hom [6].

Two concordance invariants motivate this article:

- (1) $\nu(K)$, defined by Ozsváth and Szabó [14] using maps on Heegaard Floer homology \widehat{HF} induced by the two-handle cobordism corresponding to integral surgery along K .
- (2) $\nu^+(K)$, defined by Hom and Wu [7] using maps induced by surgery on HF^+ . Hom and Wu showed that $\nu^+(K)$ produces arbitrarily better four-ball genus bounds than $\nu(K)$.

We construct a sequence of concordance invariants $\nu_n(K)$ for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ which are defined using maps induced by surgery on the truncated Heegaard Floer homology HF^n . The invariants $\nu_n(K)$ generalize $\nu(K)$ and $\nu^+(K)$, as $\nu_1(K) = \nu(K)$ and $\nu_n(K) = \nu^+(K)$ for n sufficiently large. The properties of $\nu_n(K)$ are stated below.

Theorem 1.1 *The knot invariants $v_n(K)$, where $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, satisfy the following properties:*

- $v_n(K)$ is a concordance invariant.
- $v_1(K) = v(K)$.
- $v_n(K) \leq v_{n+1}(K)$.
- For sufficiently large n , $v_n(K) = v^+(K)$.
- $v_n(-K) = -v_{-n}(K)$, where $-K$ is the mirror of K .
- $v_n(K) \leq g_4(K)$.

By an extension of the large integer surgery formulas to truncated Floer homology (see Propositions 3.1 and 3.2) the invariants $v_n(K)$ can be computed from the $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ -filtered knot Floer chain complex $\text{CFK}^\infty(K)$.

Homologically thin knots are a special class of knots whose knot Floer homology lies in a single $\delta = A - M$ grading, where A is the Alexander grading and M is the Maslov grading. We prove that $v_n(K)$ of thin knots only depends on $\tau(K)$.

Proposition 4.1 *Let K be a homologically thin knot with $\tau(K) = \tau$.*

- (i) *If $\tau = 0$, $v_n(K) = 0$ for all n .*
- (ii) *If $\tau > 0$,*

$$v_n(K) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } n \leq -\frac{1}{2}(\tau + 1), \\ \tau + 2n + 1 & \text{for } -\frac{1}{2}\tau \leq n \leq -1, \\ \tau & \text{for } n \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

- (iii) *If $\tau < 0$,*

$$v_n(K) = \begin{cases} \tau & \text{for } n \leq 0, \\ \tau + 2n - 1 & \text{for } 1 \leq n \leq -\frac{1}{2}\tau, \\ 0 & \text{for } n \geq \frac{1}{2}(-\tau + 1). \end{cases}$$

The computation of $v_n(K)$ for thin knots illustrates that the gap between $v_n(K)$ and $v_{n+1}(K)$ can be more than one. In fact, the gap between $v_n(K)$ and $v_{n+1}(K)$ can be arbitrarily big.

Theorem 1.2 *Let $T_{p,p+1}$ denote the $(p, p+1)$ -torus knot. For $p > 3$,*

$$v_{-1}(T_{p,p+1}) - v_{-2}(T_{p,p+1}) = p.$$

Finally, we show that the sequence ν_n contains more concordance information than τ , ν , ν' , ν^+ and $\nu^{+'}$.

Proposition 1.3 *There exist knots K and K' with equal τ , ν , ν' , ν^+ and $\nu^{+'}$ invariants, but $\nu_n(K) \neq \nu_n(K')$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.*

Organization of the paper In [Section 2](#) we review the constructions of the concordance invariants $\nu(K)$ and $\nu^+(K)$. In [Section 3](#) we define the invariants $\nu_n(K)$ and prove their properties: monotonicity, stabilization and behavior under mirroring. In [Section 4](#) we compute $\nu_n(K)$ for special families of knots and compare them to $\nu(K)$ and $\nu^+(K)$. In [Section 5](#) we pose some questions about the concordance invariants $\nu_n(K)$.

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2 Background on the invariants $\nu(K)$ and $\nu^+(K)$

A four-dimensional cobordism equipped with a Spin^c structure between two three-manifolds induces a map on the Heegaard Floer homology groups [\[12\]](#). In particular, for a knot K in S^3 , the 2-handle attachment cobordism from $S_N^3(K)$ or $S_{-N}^3(K)$ to S^3 induces maps

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad \widehat{v}_{s,*}: \widehat{\text{HF}}(S_N^3(K), \mathfrak{s}_s) &\rightarrow \widehat{\text{HF}}(S^3), & \widehat{v}'_{s,*}: \widehat{\text{HF}}(S^3) &\rightarrow \widehat{\text{HF}}(S_{-N}^3(K), \mathfrak{s}_s), \\ (2) \quad v_{s,*}^+: \text{HF}^+(S_N^3(K), \mathfrak{s}_s) &\rightarrow \text{HF}^+(S^3), & v_{s,*}^{+'}: \text{HF}^+(S^3) &\rightarrow \text{HF}^+(S_{-N}^3(K), \mathfrak{s}_s), \\ (3) \quad v_{s,*}^-: \text{HF}^-(S_N^3(K), \mathfrak{s}_s) &\rightarrow \text{HF}^-(S^3), & v_{s,*}^{-'}: \text{HF}^-(S^3) &\rightarrow \text{HF}^-(S_{-N}^3(K), \mathfrak{s}_s), \end{aligned}$$

where \mathfrak{s}_s denotes the restriction to $S_N^3(K)$ or $S_{-N}^3(K)$ of a Spin^c structure \mathfrak{t} on the corresponding 2-handle cobordism such that

$$\langle c_1(\mathfrak{t}), [\widehat{F}] \rangle + N = 2s, \quad \langle c_1(\mathfrak{t}), [\widehat{F}] \rangle - N = 2s,$$

where \widehat{F} is a capped-off Seifert surface for K . These cobordism maps on $\widehat{\text{HF}}$ and HF^+ play a key role in defining the concordance invariants ν and ν^+ .

Definition 2.1 [14, Section 9] The concordance invariant $\nu(K)$ is defined as

$$\nu(K) = \min\{s \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \widehat{v}_{s,*} \text{ is surjective}\}.$$

Definition 2.2 The concordance invariant $\nu'(K)$ is defined as

$$\nu'(K) = \max\{s \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \widehat{v}'_{s,*} \text{ is injective}\}.$$

For a rational homology 3–sphere Y with a Spin^c structure \mathfrak{s} , $\text{HF}^+(Y, \mathfrak{s})$ can be decomposed as the direct sum of two groups: the first group is the image of $\text{HF}^\infty(Y, \mathfrak{s}) \cong \mathbb{F}[U, U^{-1}]$ in $\text{HF}^+(Y, \mathfrak{s})$, which is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{T}^+ = \mathbb{F}[U, U^{-1}]/U\mathbb{F}[U]$; the second group is $\text{HF}_{\text{red}}(Y, \mathfrak{s}) = \text{HF}^+(Y, \mathfrak{s})/\mathfrak{T}^+$. That is,

$$\text{HF}^+(Y, \mathfrak{s}) = \mathfrak{T}^+ \oplus \text{HF}_{\text{red}}(Y, \mathfrak{s}).$$

Definition 2.3 [7] The concordance invariant ν^+ is defined as

$$\nu^+(K) = \min\{s \mid v_{s,*}^+ \colon \text{HF}^+(S_N^3(K), \mathfrak{s}_s) \rightarrow \text{HF}^+(S^3) \text{ sends } 1 \text{ to } 1\},$$

where 1 denotes the lowest-graded generator in the subgroup \mathfrak{T}^+ of the homology, and N is sufficiently large that the integer surgery formula holds.

Equivalently, Hom [6] defines the invariant $\nu^-(K)$ in terms of the map

$$v_{s,*}^- \colon \text{HF}^-(S_N^3 K, \mathfrak{s}_s) \rightarrow \text{HF}^-(S^3).$$

Definition 2.4 [6] The concordance invariant

$$\nu^-(K) = \min\{s \in \mathbb{Z} \mid v_{s,*}^- \text{ is surjective}\}$$

is equal to $\nu^+(K)$.

Hom and Wu show that

$$\tau(K) \leq \nu(K) \leq \nu^+(K)$$

and $\nu^+(K) \geq 0$. In addition, ν^+ gives a lower bound on the four-ball genus, $\nu^+(K) \leq g_4(K)$. Furthermore, Hom and Wu provide a family of knots where $\nu^+(K)$ is an arbitrarily better bound on $g_4(K)$ than $\tau(K)$.

The concordance invariants ν and ν^+ are easily computable from $\text{CFK}^\infty(K)$ via the large integer surgery formulas. Let CX denote the subgroup of $\text{CFK}^\infty(K)$ generated

by elements $[x, i, j]$ that lie in filtration level $(i, j) \in X \subset \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$. Consider the chain maps

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{v}_s &: C\{\max(i, j - s) = 0\} \rightarrow C\{i = 0\}, \\ v_s^+ &: C\{\max(i, j - s) \geq 0\} \rightarrow C\{i \geq 0\},\end{aligned}$$

defined by taking the quotient by $C\{i < 0, j = s\}$ or $C\{i < 0, j \geq s\}$, respectively, followed by the inclusions. The large integer surgery formula of Ozsváth and Szabó [11] asserts that the maps \widehat{v}_s and v_s^+ induce the maps from (1) and (2). Similarly, consider the chain maps

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{v}'_s &: C\{i = 0\} \rightarrow C\{\min(i, j - s) = 0\}, \\ v_s^{+'} &: C\{i \geq 0\} \rightarrow C\{\min(i, j - s) \geq 0\},\end{aligned}$$

consisting of quotienting by $C\{i = 0, j \leq s\}$ followed by the inclusion. Ozsváth and Szabó [11] show that these maps induce the maps from (1) and (2).

We introduce a concordance invariant $v^{+'}$, so that the pair v^+ and $v^{+'}$ is the HF^+ analogue to the pair v and v' .

Definition 2.5 The concordance invariant $v^{+'}$ is defined as

$$v^{+'}(K) = \max\{s \in \mathbb{Z} \mid v_{s,*}^{+'}: \mathrm{HF}^+(S^3) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}^+(S^3_{-N}(K), \mathfrak{s}_s) \text{ is injective}\},$$

where $-N$ is sufficiently negative that the (negative) large integer surgery formula holds.

We prove a mirroring property which relates $v^{+'}(K)$ to the invariant $v^+(-K)$ of the mirror of K :

Lemma 2.6 $v^{+'}(K) = -v^+(-K).$

Proof Recall the symmetry of CFK^∞ under mirroring [11, Section 3.5],

$$\mathrm{CFK}^\infty(-K) \simeq \mathrm{CFK}^\infty(K)^*,$$

where $\mathrm{CFK}^\infty(K)^*$ is the dual complex $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}[U, U^{-1}]}(\mathrm{CFK}^\infty(K), \mathbb{F}[U, U^{-1}])$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}v_{-s,*}^{+'}: \mathrm{HF}^+(S^3) &\rightarrow \mathrm{HF}^+(S^3_{-N}(K), \mathfrak{s}_{-s}) \text{ is injective} \\ \iff v_{s,*}^-: \mathrm{HF}^-(S^3_N(-K), \mathfrak{s}_s) &\rightarrow \mathrm{HF}^-(S^3) \text{ is surjective,}\end{aligned}$$

which implies the result. □

It follows from the above lemma that the invariant $\nu^{+'}$ exhibits properties similar to ν^+ ,

$$\nu^{+'}(K) \leq \nu'(K) \leq \tau(K) \leq \nu(K) \leq \nu^+(K)$$

and $\nu^{+'}(K) \leq 0$. In addition, the absolute value of $\nu^{+'}(K)$ gives a lower bound on the four-ball genus:

Theorem 2.7

$$|\nu^{+'}(K)| \leq g_4(K).$$

Proof

This follows from the fact that $\nu^+(K) \leq g_4(K)$ and [Lemma 2.6](#). □

3 The concordance invariants $\nu_n(K)$

The construction of the concordance invariants $\nu_n(K)$ uses truncated Heegaard Floer homology $\text{HF}^n(Y, \mathfrak{s})$, described in [\[9; 13\]](#). $\text{HF}^n(Y, \mathfrak{s})$ is the homology of the kernel $\text{CF}^n(Y, \mathfrak{s})$ of the multiplication map

$$U^n \colon \text{CF}^+(Y, \mathfrak{s}) \rightarrow \text{CF}^+(Y, \mathfrak{s}),$$

where $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. The two-handle cobordism from $S^3_N K$ or $S^3_{-N} K$, respectively, to S^3 induces a map on the truncated Floer chain complex,

$$\nu^n_s \colon \text{CF}^n(S^3_N K, \mathfrak{s}_s) \rightarrow \text{CF}^n(S^3), \quad \nu^{-n}_s \colon \text{CF}^n(S^3) \rightarrow \text{CF}^n(S^3_{-N} K, \mathfrak{s}_s),$$

and on the truncated Floer homology,

$$\nu^n_{s,*} \colon \text{HF}^n(S^3_N K, \mathfrak{s}_s) \rightarrow \text{HF}^n(S^3), \quad \nu^{-n}_{s,*} \colon \text{HF}^n(S^3) \rightarrow \text{HF}^n(S^3_{-N} K, \mathfrak{s}_s),$$

where \mathfrak{s}_s denotes the restriction to $S^3_N(K)$ or $S^3_{-N}(K)$, respectively, of a Spin^c structure \mathfrak{t} on the corresponding 2–handle cobordism such that

$$\langle c_1(\mathfrak{t}), [\widehat{F}] \rangle + N = 2s, \quad \langle c_1(\mathfrak{t}), [\widehat{F}] \rangle - N = 2s,$$

where \widehat{F} is a capped-off Seifert surface for K . These cobordism maps on $\widehat{\text{HF}}$ and HF^+ play a key role in defining the concordance invariants ν and ν^+ .

We extend the large integer surgery formula of Ozsváth and Szabó to truncated Heegaard Floer homology:

Proposition 3.1 (large negative integer surgery formula for HF^n) *Consider the subquotient complex*

$$\text{CFK}^{-n}(S^3, K, m) = C\{0 \leq \min(i, j - m) \leq n - 1\}$$

of $\text{CFK}^+(S^3, K, m)$ generated by $[x, i, j]$ with $0 \leq \min(i, j - m) \leq n - 1$. For each $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, there is an integer $N(m)$ such that for all $p \geq N(m)$, the map Φ of Ozsváth and Szabó induces isomorphisms in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{CFK}^{-n}(S^3, K, m) & \longrightarrow & \text{CFK}^+(S^3, K, m) & \xrightarrow{U^n} & \text{CFK}^+(S^3, K, m) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \Phi(n) & & \downarrow \Phi^+ & & \downarrow \Phi^+ \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{CF}^n(S_{-p}^3 K, [m]) & \longrightarrow & \text{CF}^+(S_{-p}^3 K, [m]) & \xrightarrow{U^n} & \text{CF}^+(S_{-p}^3 K, [m]) \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Proof The map Φ^+ is an isomorphism of chain complexes by Theorem 4.1 of [11]. By the five lemma, so is $\Phi(n)$. \square

Proposition 3.2 (large positive integer surgery formula for HF^n) *Consider the subquotient complex*

$$\text{CFK}^n(S^3, K, m) = C\{0 \leq \max(i, j - m) \leq n - 1\}$$

of $\text{CFK}^+(S^3, K, m)$ generated by $[x, i, j]$ with $0 \leq \max(i, j - m) \leq n - 1$. For each $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, there is an integer $N(m)$ such that for all $p \geq N(m)$, the map Ψ of Ozsváth and Szabó induces isomorphisms in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{CF}^n(S_p^3 K, [m]) & \longrightarrow & \text{CF}^+(S_p^3 K, [m]) & \xrightarrow{U^n} & \text{CF}^+(S_p^3 K, [m]) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \Psi(n) & & \downarrow \Psi^+ & & \downarrow \Psi^+ \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{CFK}^n(S^3, K, m) & \longrightarrow & {}^b\text{CFK}^+(S^3, K, m) & \xrightarrow{U^n} & {}^b\text{CFK}^+(S^3, K, m) \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Proof The map Ψ^+ is an isomorphism of chain complexes by Theorem 4.4 of [11]. By the five lemma, so is $\Psi(n)$. \square

Notation We sometimes use the notation, for $n > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} A_m^n &= C\{0 \leq \max(i, j - m) \leq n - 1\}, & A_m^+ &= C\{0 \leq \max(i, j - m)\}, \\ A_m^{-n} &= C\{0 \leq \min(i, j - m) \leq n - 1\}, & A_m^{+'} &= C\{0 \leq \min(i, j - m)\} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} B^n &= C\{0 \leq i \leq n - 1\}, \\ B^+ &= C\{0 \leq i\}. \end{aligned}$$

The cobordism maps on truncated Heegaard Floer groups lead us to define concordance invariants ν_n .

Definition 3.3 For $n > 0$, define

$$\nu_n(K) = \min\{s \in \mathbb{Z} \mid v_s^n \colon \mathrm{CF}^n(S_N^3(K), s) \rightarrow \mathrm{CF}^n(S^3)$$

induces a surjection on homology

and for $n < 0$, define

$$\nu_n(K) = \max\{s \in \mathbb{Z} \mid v_s^n \colon \mathrm{CF}^{-n}(S^3) \rightarrow \mathrm{CF}^{-n}(S_{-N}^3(K), s)$$

induces an injection on homology

where N is sufficiently large that the Ozsváth–Szabó large integer surgery formula of [11] holds. For $n = 0$, we define $\nu_0(K) = \tau(K)$.

Remark 3.4 For $n = \pm 1$, these invariants are already known as $\nu_1(K) = \nu(K)$ and $\nu_{-1}(K) = \nu'(K)$.

Proposition 3.5 $\nu_n(K)$ is a concordance invariant.

Proof Suppose K_1 is concordant to K_2 . Then $S_N^3(K_1)$ is homology cobordant to $S_N^3(K_2)$. This implies that there exists a (smooth, connected, oriented) cobordism W from $S_N^3(K_1)$ to $S_N^3(K_2)$ with $H_i(W, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ for $i = 1, 2$.

The map

$$\mathrm{HF}^n(S_N^3(K_1), s) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}^n(S^3)$$

induced by the cobordism obtained by adding a two-handle along K_1 factors through $\mathrm{HF}^n(S_N^3(K_2), s)$. So, if it is surjective, then the map

$$\mathrm{HF}^n(S_N^3(K_2), s) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}^n(S^3)$$

is also surjective. So we get that $\nu_n(K_1) \geq \nu_n(K_2)$. The same argument with K_1 and K_2 switched shows the inequality $\nu_n(K_2) \geq \nu_n(K_1)$. Therefore, $\nu_n(K_1) = \nu_n(K_2)$.

For negative n , that $\nu_n(K)$ is a concordance invariant follows from a similar argument to the above. □

Proposition 3.6 (mirroring property) $\nu_n(-K) = -\nu_{-n}(K)$.

Proof Recall the symmetry of CFK^∞ under mirroring [11, Section 3.5],

$$\mathrm{CFK}^\infty(-K) \simeq \mathrm{CFK}^\infty(K)^*,$$

where $\mathrm{CFK}^\infty(K)^*$ is the dual complex $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}[U, U^{-1}]}(\mathrm{CFK}^\infty(K), \mathbb{F}[U, U^{-1}])$. Letting $C = \mathrm{CFK}^\infty(S^3, K)$ and $n > 0$, the following conditions are equivalent:

- $v_{-s,*}^{-n}(K): \mathrm{HF}^n(S^3) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}^n(S_{-N}^3(K), \mathfrak{s}_{-s})$ is injective.
- $v_{-s}^{-n}(K): C\{0 \leq i \leq n-1\} \rightarrow C\{0 \leq \min(i, j+s) \leq n-1\}$ is injective on H_* .
- $U^{n-1}v_s^n(-K): C\{-(n-1) \leq \max(i, j-s) \leq 0\} \rightarrow C\{-(n-1) \leq i \leq 0\}$ is surjective on H_* .
- $v_s^n(-K): C\{0 \leq \max(i, j-s) \leq n-1\} \rightarrow C\{0 \leq i \leq n-1\}$ is surjective on H_* .
- $v_{s,*}^n(-K): \mathrm{HF}^n(S_N^3(-K), \mathfrak{s}_s) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}^n(S^3)$ is surjective.

Here U^{n-1} is a degree-shifting isomorphism on $\mathrm{CFK}^\infty(K)$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_n(-K) &= \min\{s \in \mathbb{Z} \mid v_{s,*}^n(-K) \text{ is surjective}\} \\ &= -\max\{-s \in \mathbb{Z} \mid v_{-s,*}^{-n}(K) \text{ is injective}\} = -\nu_{-n}(K). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Proposition 3.7 (monotonicity) $\nu_n(K) \leq \nu_{n+1}(K)$.

Proof It is known that $\nu_{-1}(K) \leq \tau(K) \leq \nu_1(K)$, so we focus on the two separate cases where $n > 0$ and $n < 0$.

For $n > 0$, consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{HF}^{n+1}(S_N^3 K, s) & \xrightarrow{v_{s,*}^{n+1}} & \mathrm{HF}^{n+1}(S^3) \\ \downarrow \cdot U & & \downarrow \cdot U \\ \mathrm{HF}^n(S_N^3 K, s) & \xrightarrow{v_{s,*}^n} & \mathrm{HF}^n(S^3) \end{array}$$

where the vertical maps are given by multiplication by U . The vertical map on the right is surjective. Thus, if $v_{s,*}^{n+1}$ is surjective, then so is $v_{s,*}^n$.

For $n < 0$, consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{HF}^{-n}(S^3) & \xrightarrow{v_{s,*}^{-n}} & \mathrm{HF}^{-n}(S_N^3 K, s) \\ \downarrow i'_a & & \downarrow i'_b \\ \mathrm{HF}^{-(n-1)}(S^3) & \xrightarrow{v_{s,*}^{-(n-1)}} & \mathrm{HF}^{-(n-1)}(S_N^3 K, s) \end{array}$$

where the vertical maps are induced by inclusion of chain groups. In particular, the left map i'_a is injective on homology. Therefore, if $v_{s,*}^{n-1}(K)$ is injective, then so is $v_{s,*}^n(K)$. We conclude that $v_{n-1}(K) \leq v_n(K)$. \square

Proposition 3.8 (boundedness) $v^{+'}(K) \leq v_n(K) \leq v^+(K)$ for all n .

Proof It is known that $v(K) \leq v^+(K)$ from [7]. For $n \geq 1$, consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_*(A_k^-) & \xrightarrow{j_A} & H_*(A_k^n) \\ \downarrow v_{k,*}^- & & \downarrow v_{k,*}^n \\ H_*(B^-) & \xrightarrow{j_B} & H_*(B^n) \end{array}$$

The map j_B is surjective, so if $v_{k,*}^-$ is surjective, then so is $v_{k,*}^n$.

For $n \leq -1$, consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_*(B^n) & \xrightarrow{i_B} & H_*(B^+) \\ \downarrow v_{k,*}^n & & \downarrow v_{k,*}^{+'} \\ H_*(A_k^n) & \xrightarrow{i_A} & H_*(A_k^{+'}) \end{array}$$

The map i_B is injective, so if $v_{k,*}^{+'}$ is injective, then so is $v_{k,*}^n$. \square

Proposition 3.9 (stabilization) For sufficiently large positive n , $v_n(K) = v^+(K)$ and $v_{-n}(K) = v^{+'}(K)$.

Proof Let $C_1 = \text{CF}^-(S_N^3 K, s)$ and $C_2 = \text{CF}^-(S^3)$. There is a canonical degree-shifting isomorphism

$$\text{CF}^n(Y, \mathfrak{s}) \cong \text{CF}^-(Y, \mathfrak{s}) \otimes_{\mathbb{F}[U]} \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n}.$$

Moreover, the map

$$v_{n,s}^-: C_1 \otimes_{\mathbb{F}[U]} \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n} \rightarrow C_2 \otimes_{\mathbb{F}[U]} \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n}$$

is the same as the map $v_s^n: \text{CF}^n(S_N^3 K, s) \rightarrow \text{CF}^n(S^3)$. We show that if $v_{s,*}^-$ is not surjective, then neither is $v_{s,*}^n$ for sufficiently large n . By the universal coefficient

theorem,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 \rightarrow H_*(C_1) \otimes \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n} & \xrightarrow{i_1} & H_*\left(C_1 \otimes \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n}\right) & \longrightarrow & \text{Tor}\left(H_*C_1, \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n}\right) & \rightarrow 0 \\
 \downarrow v_{s,*}^- \otimes \text{id} & & \downarrow v_{s,*}^n & & \downarrow \text{Tor}(v_s^-) & \\
 0 \rightarrow H_*(C_2) \otimes \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n} & \xrightarrow{i_2} & H_*\left(C_2 \otimes \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n}\right) & \longrightarrow & \text{Tor}\left(H_*C_2, \frac{\mathbb{F}[U]}{U^n}\right) & \rightarrow 0
 \end{array}$$

where all tensor products are taken over $\mathbb{F}[U]$.

We note the following facts:

- For a rational homology 3-sphere Y , $\text{HF}^-(Y, \mathfrak{s})/\{U\text{-torsion}\} = \mathfrak{T}^- = \mathbb{F}[X]$. So $H_*(C_1) = \mathfrak{T}^- \oplus (\bigoplus \mathbb{F}[U]/U^{m_i})$.
- $\mathfrak{T}^- \otimes \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n = \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n$ and $\mathbb{F}[U]/U^{m_i} \otimes \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n = \mathbb{F}[U]/U^{m_i}$. So $H_*(C_1) \otimes \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n = \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n \oplus (\bigoplus \mathbb{F}[U]/U^{m_i})$.
- $\text{Tor}(\mathbb{F}[U]/U^m, \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n) = \mathbb{F}[U]/U^m$ if $m < n$.
- $H_*(C_2 \otimes \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n) = \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n$.

Assume n is sufficiently large that $m_i < n$ for all m_i . So the above Tor groups are $n-1$ torsion.

If v_s^- is not surjective, we can further choose n sufficiently large that the image of $v_{s,*}^- \otimes \text{id}$ is $n-1$ U -torsion. By commutativity of the diagram, the image of $v_{s,*}^n \circ i_1$ is $n-1$ U -torsion.

Suppose $\xi \in H_*(C_1 \otimes \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n)$ is such that $v_{s,*}^n(\xi)$ is an element of order n . Then, since the short exact sequence in the universal coefficient theorem splits, $\xi = \alpha + \beta$, where $\alpha \in H_*(C_1) \otimes \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n$ and $\beta \in \text{Tor}(H_*C_1, \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n)$. But

$$U^{n-1} \cdot v_{s,*}^n(\alpha + \beta) = v_{s,*}^n(U^{n-1}\alpha) + v_{s,*}^n(U^{n-1}\beta) = 0.$$

Since $H_*(C_2 \otimes \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n) = \mathbb{F}[U]/U^n$, the invariant $v_{s,*}^n$ is not surjective. Therefore, for sufficiently large n , $v_n(K) = v^+(K)$.

Finally, by the mirroring property, $v_n(K) = v^{+'}(K)$ for sufficiently large negative integers n . \square

The fact that $v_n(K)$ are not concordance homomorphisms from \mathcal{C} to \mathbb{Z} can easily be seen. Note $v_n(K)$ is not additive under connected sum of knots. For $n = 1$, just

consider two knots with $\varepsilon(K) = \varepsilon(K') = -1$. Then

$$\nu(K) = \tau(K) + 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \nu(K') = \tau(K') + 1,$$

but

$$\nu(K \# K') = \tau(K \# K') + 1 = \tau(K) + \tau(K') + 1 < \nu(K) + \nu(K').$$

4 Computations

Knot Floer homology groups can be easily computed for certain special families of knots. For example, homologically thin knots are knots with $\widehat{\text{HFK}}(K)$ supported in a single δ -grading, where $\delta = A - M$. If the homology is supported on the diagonal $\delta = -\frac{1}{2}\sigma(K)$, where $\sigma(K)$ denotes the knot signature, then we say the knot is σ -thin. The class of σ -thin knots contains as a proper subset all quasialternating knots, and in particular all alternating knots. The following theorem shows that $\nu_n(K)$ of thin knots only depends on $\tau(K)$:

Proposition 4.1 *Let K be a homologically thin knot with $\tau(K) = \tau$.*

(i) *If $\tau = 0$, $\nu_n(K) = 0$ for all n .*

(ii) *If $\tau > 0$,*

$$\nu_n(K) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } n \leq -\frac{1}{2}(\tau + 1), \\ \tau + 2n + 1 & \text{for } -\frac{1}{2}\tau \leq n \leq -1, \\ \tau & \text{for } n \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

(iii) *If $\tau < 0$,*

$$\nu_n(K) = \begin{cases} \tau & \text{for } n \leq 0, \\ \tau + 2n - 1 & \text{for } 1 \leq n \leq -\frac{1}{2}\tau, \\ 0 & \text{for } n \geq \frac{1}{2}(-\tau + 1). \end{cases}$$

Proof In [15, Theorem 4] Petkova constructs model complexes for $\text{CFK}^\infty(K)$ of homologically thin knots. She shows the model chain complex contains a direct summand (called the “staircase”) isomorphic to

$$\begin{cases} \text{CFK}^\infty(T_{2,2\tau+1}) & \text{if } \tau(K) > 0, \\ \text{CFK}^\infty(T_{2,2\tau-1}) & \text{if } \tau(K) \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

The “staircase” summand supports $H_*(\text{CFK}^\infty(K))$; that is,

$$H_*(\text{CFK}^\infty(K)) = H_*(\text{CFK}^\infty(T_{2,2\tau-1})).$$

The maps induced on homology by v_s^n (or $v_{n,s}^-$) will thus only depend on the “staircase” summand and not the acyclic summands. Thus, $v_n(T_{2,2\tau+1}) = v_n(K)$.

Without loss of generality, assume $\tau(K) > 0$. The chain complex $\text{CFK}^-(T_{2,2\tau+1})$ is generated over $\mathbb{F}[U]$ by generators $\{z_p\}_{p=1}^{2\tau+1}$ with U -filtration levels i and Alexander filtration levels j specified (for all $1 \leq p \leq 2\tau + 1$) by

$$j(z_p) = \begin{cases} \tau - \frac{1}{2}(p-1) & \text{if } p \text{ odd,} \\ \tau - \frac{1}{2}(p-2) & \text{if } p \text{ even,} \end{cases} \quad i(z_p) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(p-1) & \text{if } p \text{ odd,} \\ \frac{1}{2}p & \text{if } p \text{ even,} \end{cases}$$

and differential

$$\partial z_p = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \text{ odd,} \\ z_{p-1} + z_{p+1} & \text{if } p \text{ even.} \end{cases}$$

The above complex with generators $\{z_p\}_{p=1}^{2\tau+1}$ and given differential maps forms the generating “staircase” complex C_τ , and $\text{CFK}^\infty(T_{2,2\tau+1}) = C_\tau \otimes_{\mathbb{F}[U]} \mathbb{F}[U, U^{-1}]$. The U -action lowers i and j by one.

Computation of $v^+(T_{2,2\tau+1})$ and $v_n(T_{2,2\tau+1})$ for $n > 0$ Since

$$C\{i < 0, j \geq \tau\} = 0,$$

the map v_τ^+ is the same as the inclusion

$$C\{0 \leq i \leq n-1, j \leq \tau+n-1\} \rightarrow C\{0 \leq i \leq n-1\} = B^n.$$

Moreover, the generator with the highest Alexander grading in $C\{0 \leq i \leq n-1\}$ is $U^{n-1}z_1$, with

$$j(U^{n-1}z_1) = \tau + n - 1.$$

Thus, $C\{0 \leq i \leq n-1, j > \tau+n-1\} = 0$. That is, the inclusion v_τ^+ is an isomorphism of chain complexes, so $v^+(K) = \tau(K)$. Therefore, $v_n(K) = \tau(K)$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Computation of $v^{+'}(T_{2,2\tau+1})$ The homology of B^+ is generated by $\{[U^{-i}z_1]\}$ for all $i \geq 0$. The subquotient complex $A_0^{+'}$ contains $U^{-i}C_\tau$ for all $i \geq 0$, and the homology of $U^{-i}C_\tau$ is generated by the class $[U^{-i}z_1]$. Therefore, $v_{0,*}^{+'}[U^{-i}z_1] \neq 0$ in $H_*(A_0^{+'})$, and $v_{0,*}^{+'}$ is injective. So $v^{+'}(T_{2,2\tau+1}) \geq 0$. But since $v^{+'}(K) \leq 0$ for any knot K , we conclude $v^{+'}(T_{2,2\tau+1}) = 0$.

Computation of $v_n(T_{2,2\tau+1})$ for $-\frac{1}{2}\tau \leq n \leq -1$ Consider the subquotient complex A_k^n where $k = \tau + 2n + 1$. For each $1 \leq p \leq 2\tau + 1$,

$$\min(i(z_p), j(z_p) - k) = \begin{cases} \min(\frac{1}{2}(p-1), -\frac{1}{2}(p-1) - 2n - 1) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd,} \\ \min(\frac{1}{2}p, -\frac{1}{2}(p-2) - 2n - 1) & \text{if } p \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(p-1) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd and } p \leq -2n-1, \\ -\frac{1}{2}(p-1)-2n-1 & \text{if } p \text{ is odd and } p > -2n, \\ \frac{1}{2}p & \text{if } p \text{ is even and } p \leq -2n, \\ -\frac{1}{2}(p-2)-2n-1 & \text{if } p \text{ is even and } p > -2n. \end{cases}$$

Using these formulas, it is straightforward to check that A_k^n contains z_p for $1 \leq p \leq -2n-1$ but $z_{-2n} \notin A_k^n$. Therefore, $[z_1] \neq 0$ in A_k^n . Similarly, for $1 \leq i \leq -n-1$, A_k^n contains $U^{-i}z_p$ for $1 \leq p \leq -2(n+i)-1$ but $z_{-2(n+i)} \notin A_k^n$. Therefore, $[U^{-i}z_1] \neq 0$ in $H_*(A_k^n)$. Since $H_*(B^n)$ is generated by $[U^{-i}z_1]$ for $0 \leq i \leq -n-1$, v_k^n is injective on homology.

To check that $v_n(T_{2,2\tau+1}) = \tau + 2n + 1$, consider the subquotient complex $A_{\tau+2n+2}^n$. For each $1 \leq p \leq 2\tau + 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \min(i(z_p), j(z_p) - k) &= \begin{cases} \min(\frac{1}{2}(p-1), -\frac{1}{2}(p-1)-2n-2) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd,} \\ \min(\frac{1}{2}p, -\frac{1}{2}(p-2)-2n-2) & \text{if } p \text{ is even} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(p-1) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd and } p \leq -2n-1, \\ -\frac{1}{2}(p-1)-2n-2 & \text{if } p \text{ is odd and } p > -2n, \\ \frac{1}{2}p & \text{if } p \text{ is even and } p \leq -2n-2, \\ -\frac{1}{2}(p-2)-2n-2 & \text{if } p \text{ is even and } p \geq -2n. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Using the above, it is straightforward to check that $A_{\tau+2n+2}^n$ contains z_p for $1 \leq p \leq -4n-2$ but $z_{-4n-1} \notin A_{\tau+2n+2}^n$. Therefore, $[z_1] = 0$ in $H_*(A_{\tau+2n+2}^n)$. Thus, $v_n(T_{2,2\tau+1}) = \tau + 2n + 1$.

Computation of $v_n(T_{2,2\tau+1})$ for $n \leq -\frac{1}{2}(\tau + 1)$ Consider $A_0^{n'}$, where

$$n' = \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2}(\tau + 1) & \text{if } \tau \text{ is odd,} \\ -\frac{1}{2}\tau - 1 & \text{if } \tau \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

For each $1 \leq p \leq 2\tau + 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \min(i(z_p), j(z_p) - 0) &= \begin{cases} \min(\frac{1}{2}(p-1), \tau - \frac{1}{2}(p-1)) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd,} \\ \min(\frac{1}{2}p, \tau - \frac{1}{2}(p-2)) & \text{if } p \text{ is even} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(p-1) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd and } p \leq \tau + 1, \\ \tau - \frac{1}{2}(p-1) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd and } p > \tau + 1, \\ \frac{1}{2}p & \text{if } p \text{ is even and } p \leq \tau + 1, \\ \tau - \frac{1}{2}(p-2) & \text{if } p \text{ is even and } p > \tau + 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

These computations show that $v_0^{n'}$ is injective on homology:

- If τ is odd, $A_0^{n'}$ contains z_p for $1 \leq p \leq -2n-1$ but $z_{-2n} \notin A_0^{n'}$. Similarly, for $1 \leq i \leq -n-1$, $A_0^{n'}$ contains $U^{-i}z_p$ for $1 \leq p \leq -2(n+i)-1$ but

$z_{-2(n+i)} \notin A_0^{n'}$. Therefore, $[U^{-i} z_1] \neq 0$ in $H_*(A_0^{n'})$ for $0 \leq i \leq -n-1$. So $v_0^{n'}$ is injective on homology.

- If τ is even, $A_0^{n'}$ contains all z_p for $1 \leq p \leq 2\tau+1$. Furthermore, for $1 \leq i \leq -n-1$, $A_0^{n'}$ contains $U^{-i} z_p$ for $1 \leq p \leq -2(n+i)-1$ but $z_{-2(n+i)} \notin A_0^{n'}$. Therefore, $[U^{-i} z_1] \neq 0$ in $H_*(A_0^{n'})$ for $0 \leq i \leq -n-1$. So $v_0^{n'}$ is injective on homology.

Since $v^{+'}(T_{2,2\tau+1}) = 0$ is a lower bound on $v_n(T_{2,2\tau+1})$, we conclude that

$$v_n(T_{2,2\tau+1}) = 0$$

for all $n \leq -\frac{1}{2}(\tau+1)$. □

We have the following result for strongly quasipositive knots (see [4] for background on strongly quasipositive knots):

Proposition 4.2 *If K is strongly quasipositive, then $v_n(K) = \tau(K) = g_4(K) = g(K)$ for all positive n .*

Proof Theorem 1.2 of [4] states that K is strongly quasipositive if and only if $\tau(K) = g_4(K) = g(K)$. The result immediately follows since $\tau(K) \leq v_n(K) \leq v^+(K) \leq g_4(K)$ for positive n . See also [7, Proposition 3]. □

Example 4.3 Figure 1 (top-left) shows the knot Floer chain complex CFK^∞ of the $(2, 9)$ -torus knot. The computation of $v_{-2}(T_{2,9})$ is shown in Figure 1 (top-right and bottom-left). We have

$$v_n(T_{2,9}) = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{for all } n \geq 0, \\ 3 & \text{for } n = -1, \\ 1 & \text{for } n = -2, \\ 0 & \text{for all } n \leq -3. \end{cases}$$

The computation of $v_n(K)$ for thin knots shows that the sequence v_n can increase by more than one at a time, in contrast to the local h -invariants defined by Rasmussen, which jump by at most one [16, Proposition 7.6].

In fact, the gap between $v_n(K)$ and $v_{n+1}(K)$ can be arbitrarily big. For example, a straightforward (partial) computation of $v_n(T_{p,p+1})$ using $\text{CFK}^\infty(T_{p,p+1})$ shows that for $p > 3$,

$$v_{-1}(T_{p,p+1}) - v_{-2}(T_{p,p+1}) = p.$$

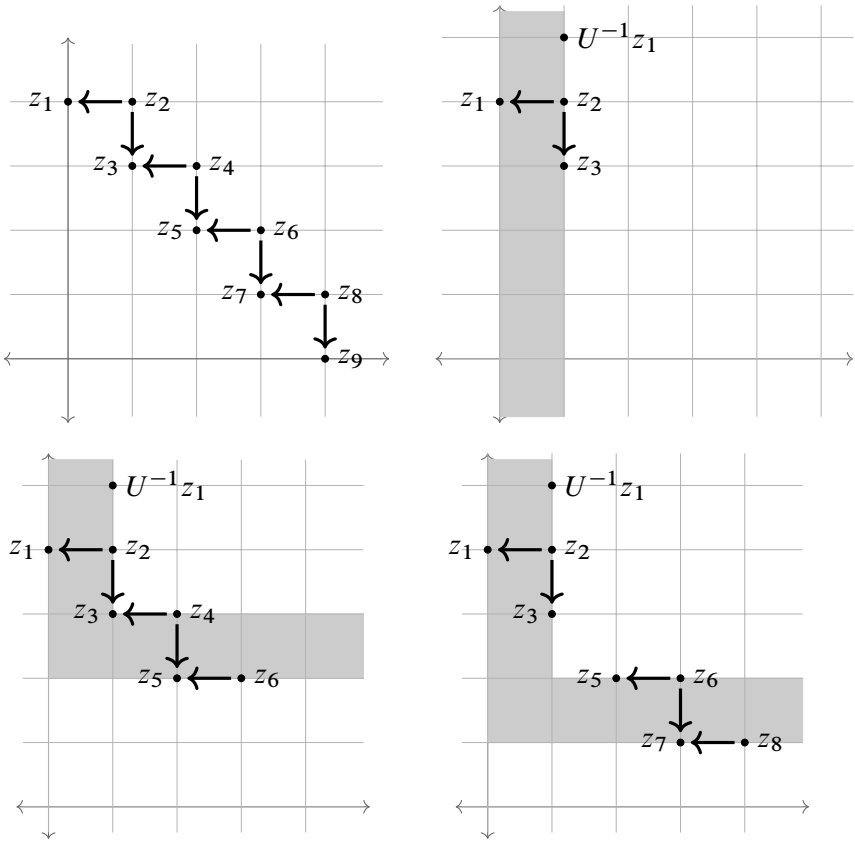


Figure 1: Top-left: Generating complex for CFK^∞ of the $(2, 9)$ -torus knot $T_{2,9}$. Top-right: The classes $[U^{-1}z_1]$ and $[z_1]=[z_3]$ generate $\text{HF}^2(S^3)$. Bottom-left: The classes $[z_1]$ and $[z_3]$ vanish in $\text{HF}^2(S^3_{-N}K, [2])$. Bottom-right: The classes $[z_1]=[z_3]$ and $[U^{-1}z_1]$ survive in $\text{HF}^2(S^3_{-N}K, [1])$.

Theorem 4.4 Let $T_{p,p+1}$ denote the $(p, p+1)$ -torus knot for $p > 3$. Let $\tau = \tau(T_{p,p+1}) = \frac{1}{2}(p-1)p$. Then

$$\nu_n(T_{p,p+1}) = \begin{cases} \tau & \text{for } n \geq 0, \\ \tau - 1 & \text{for } n = -1, \\ \tau - 1 - p & \text{for } n = -2. \end{cases}$$

Thus, $\nu_{-1}(T_{p,p+1}) - \nu_{-2}(T_{p,p+1}) = p$.

Proof In [1], Allen shows that the staircase model chain complex for $\text{CFK}^\infty(T_{p,p+1})$ takes the form

$$[1, \, p-1, \, 2, \, p-2, \, \dots, \, j, \, p-j, \, \dots, \, p-1, \, 1],$$

where the indices alternate between the widths of the horizontal and vertical steps. From this staircase description, there exists a (i, j) –filtered basis for $\text{CFK}^\infty(T_{p,p+1})$ consisting of generators $\{b_l\}_{l=0}^{2(p-1)}$ lying in (i, j) –filtrations

$$\begin{aligned} b_{2m} &: \left(\sum_{k=1}^m k, \frac{1}{2}(p-1)p - \sum_{k=1}^m (p-k) \right), \\ b_{2m+1} &: \left(\sum_{k=1}^{m+1} k, \frac{1}{2}(p-1)p - \sum_{k=1}^m (p-k) \right), \end{aligned}$$

and differential

$$\partial b_{2m} = 0, \quad \partial b_{2m+1} = b_{2m} + b_{2m+2}.$$

The same argument for showing that $\nu^+(T_{2,2\tau+1}) = \tau(T_{2,2\tau+1})$ in Proposition 4.1 holds for the knots $T_{p,p+1}$. Moreover, in the terminology of [5], the basis $\{b_l\}_{l=0}^{2(p-1)}$ satisfies:

- b_0 is the vertically distinguished element of a vertically simplified basis.
- b_0 has a unique incoming horizontal arrow (from b_1) (and no outgoing horizontal arrows).

We immediately conclude that $\varepsilon(T_{p,p+1}) = 1$ and $\nu_{-1}(T_{p,p+1}) = \tau - 1$.

To show $\nu_{-2}(T_{p,p+1}) = \tau - p - 1$, we observe:

- $A_{\tau-p-1}^{-2}$ contains the generators b_0, b_1 and b_2 , but $b_3 \notin A_{\tau-p-1}^{-2}$. Therefore, $[b_0] \neq 0$ in $H_*(A_{\tau-p-1}^{-2})$. Moreover, $[U^{-1}b_0] \neq 0$ in $H_*(A_{\tau-p-1}^{-2})$. Thus, $v_{\tau-p-1}^{-2}$ is injective on homology.
- $A_{\tau-p}^{-2}$ contains the generators b_0, b_1, b_2 and b_3 , but $b_4 \notin A_{\tau-p}^{-2}$. Therefore, $[b_0] = 0$ in $H_*(A_{\tau-p}^{-2})$. □

We show the concordance invariants $\{\nu_n(K)\}$ contain more concordance information than the collection $\{\tau, \nu, \nu', \nu^+, \nu^{+'}\}$:

Proposition 4.5 *There exist knots K and K' with equal τ, ν, ν', ν^+ and $\nu^{+'}$ invariants, but $\nu_n(K) \neq \nu_n(K')$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.*

Proof The torus knot $T_{4,5}$ and the torus knot $T_{2,13}$ share the following invariants in common:

$$\begin{aligned} \nu^{+'}(T_{4,5}) &= 0 = \nu^{+'}(T_{2,13}), \\ \nu'(T_{4,5}) &= 5 = \nu'(T_{2,13}), \\ \tau(T_{4,5}) &= \nu(T_{4,5}) = \nu^+(T_{4,5}) = 6 = \tau(T_{2,13}) = \nu(T_{2,13}) = \nu^+(T_{2,13}). \end{aligned}$$

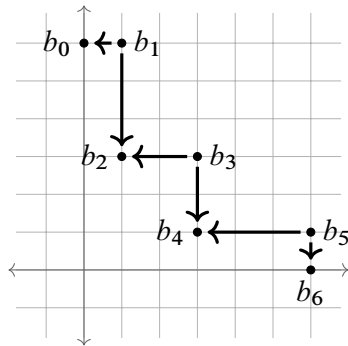


Figure 2: Generating complex for CFK^∞ of the left-handed $(4, 5)$ -torus knot $T_{4,5}$. $\text{CFK}^\infty(T_{4,5})$ is generated over $\mathbb{F}[U, U^{-1}]$ by the above chain complex. The arrows, representing terms in the differential, are drawn to scale, with lengths of arrows ranging between one and three.

However, the invariants $v_n(T_{4,5})$ are different from $v_n(T_{2,13})$:

$$v_n(T_{4,5}) = \begin{cases} 6 & \text{for } n \geq 0, \\ 5 & \text{for } n = -1, \\ 1 & \text{for } n = -2, \\ 0 & \text{for } n \leq -3, \end{cases} \quad v_n(T_{2,13}) = \begin{cases} 6 & \text{for } n \geq 0, \\ 5 & \text{for } n = -1, \\ 3 & \text{for } n = -2, \\ 1 & \text{for } n = -3, \\ 0 & \text{for } n \leq -4, \end{cases}$$

where $v_n(T_{4,5})$ is computed from the knot Floer chain complex $\text{CFK}^\infty(T_{4,5})$ as shown in Figure 2. □

5 Further directions

One question is the effectiveness of $v_n(K)$ when compared to other concordance invariants such as $\Upsilon_K(t)$, coming from t -modified knot Floer homology [10], or V_k , coming from surgery formulas of Ozsváth and Szabó [13].

The invariants $v_n(K)$ do not define concordance homomorphisms $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, where \mathcal{C} is the concordance group of knots. This implies that they do not necessarily vanish on knots of finite concordance order. The existence of p -torsion, with $p \neq 2$, in the concordance group \mathcal{C} is an open question. A related conjecture, based on a question of Gordon [3], as phrased in [8] is:

Conjecture 5.1 (Gordon) A knot has order two in \mathcal{C} if and only if $K = -K$ is negative amphichiral.

Recently, Hendricks and Manolescu defined involutive Heegaard Floer concordance invariants \overline{V}_0 and \underline{V}_0 , which detects the nonsliceness of the figure eight knot. The nonsliceness of 4_1 was previously known through classical methods, but this is the first method of detection coming from the Heegaard Floer package. By additivity of τ and the behavior of ε under connected sums, $\tau(K)$ and $\nu(K)$ vanish for all knots K of finite concordance order. This leaves open the cases $\nu_n(K)$ for $n > 1$ and $n < -1$. We pose the question:

Question 5.2 Does there exist a knot K of finite concordance order such that $\nu_n(K) \neq 0$ for some n ?

Another question is how the invariants $\nu_n(K)$ behave under connected sum. It is known that $\nu^+(K)$ is subadditive by [2]. That is,

$$\nu^+(K \# L) \leq \nu^+(K) + \nu^+(L).$$

Using mirroring relations and subadditivity of $\nu^+(K)$ shows that $\nu^{+'}(K)$ is superadditive:

Lemma 5.3 For any two knots K and L ,

$$\nu^{+'}(K \# L) \geq \nu^{+'}(K) + \nu^{+'}(L).$$

Proof By subadditivity of ν^+ and the mirroring relations,

$$\begin{aligned} \nu^+(-K \# -L) &\leq \nu^+(-K) + \nu^+(-L), \\ -\nu^{+'}(K \# L) &\leq -\nu^{+'}(K) - \nu^{+'}(L), \\ \nu^{+'}(K \# L) &\geq \nu^{+'}(K) + \nu^{+'}(L). \end{aligned}$$

□

As pointed out to the author by Jen Hom, it can also be seen by additivity of τ and the behavior of ε under connected sum that $\nu(K)$ is subadditive. A similar argument shows that $\nu'(K)$ is superadditive. This leads us to ask the following two questions:

Question 5.4 Is $\nu_n(K \# K') \leq \nu_n(K) + \nu_n(K')$ for all positive integers $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$?

Question 5.5 Is $\nu_n(K \# K') \geq \nu_n(K) + \nu_n(K')$ for all negative integers $n \in \mathbb{Z}_-$?

The next question was posed by Zhongtao Wu:

Question 5.6 (Wu) If $v_n(K) = v_n(K')$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, then is $v^+(K \# -K') = v^+(-K \# K') = 0$?

The condition that $v^+(K \# -K') = v^+(-K \# K') = 0$ implies that

$$\mathrm{CFK}^\infty(K \# -K') \simeq \mathrm{CFK}^\infty(U) \oplus A,$$

where A is an acyclic complex [6].

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