1128-57-141   **Christine Ruey Shan Lee*** (`clee@math.utexas.edu`). *Jones slopes and coarse volume for near-alternating links.*

We consider near-alternating links admitting a diagram where the number of crossing changes needed to obtain an alternating diagram is small compared to the number of the rest of the crossings. We show that with a mild diagrammatic condition, the Jones slopes of a near-alternating knot are realized by state surfaces, thereby verifying the Strong Slope Conjecture for these knots. In addition, we show that the colored Jones polynomial of a near-alternating knot has a tail, and we discuss geometric estimates on the knot complement from the first and second stable coefficients similar to those for an alternating knot. (Received February 22, 2017)