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**Christine Ruey Shan Lee\*** (clee@math.utexas.edu). *Jones slope and coarse volume of 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 stable coefficients, and we discuss geometric estimates on the knot complement from the first and second stable coefficients similar to those for an alternating knot. (Received March 11, 2017)