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Alexander N Shumakovitch* (Shurik@gwu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Monroe Hall, 2115 G St. NW, room 240, Washington, DC 20052, and **Oleg Viro**. *Towards Naive Categorification of the Skein sl_N Polynomials*. Preliminary report.

We show how to categorify the Murakami-Ohtsuki-Yamada state sum for the skein sl_N polynomials. The construction involves Kauffman-type states and does not rely on matrix factorization. (Received February 05, 2008)