

Mathematical Colloquia

Monday, 18 February 2019

17:15 h, Lecture Room 119

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Unknotting and Surfaces

Abstract:

The unknotting number of a knot is the minimum number of crossing changes necessary to transform the knot into a trivial knot. This is at the same time one of the most intuitive and one of the most inaccessible knot invariants. We will discuss how various variations of the unknotting number are related to various variations of the knot genus, which is the minimum genus of an oriented surface in 3-space having the given knot as boundary.