

An introduction to knot invariants

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A fundamental problem in knot theory is to determine when two knots are the same. This is often effectively done by using knot invariants. An interesting knot invariant called the Jones polynomial was discovered in 1984. In 1999 this invariant was improved by the discovery of Khovanov homology. I will introduce a simple invariant and then I will construct Khovanov homology from the ground up. If time allows I will compute a simple example.

Friday, October 3rd, 2008

2:40PM

Room: MG 120

Refreshments in MG 226 at 2:20pm