

Colloquium

Ted Stanford

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Friday, October 01, 2010 at 3pm in Bell Hall 143

Linking Numbers for Knotted Graphs

The linking number between two closed, disjoint curves in three-dimensional space is one of the easiest topological invariants to understand, and it is also one of the most useful and applicable invariants. We will show how to generalize the linking number to embeddings of graphs in three space. We will discuss in particular some graphs which do not contain pairs of disjoint cycles but which nonetheless have nontrivial linking numbers.