

Titolo del corso: Knots, braids and braid equivalences

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Membro del collegio proponente: Giovanni Mongardi

Ore frontali di lezione: 10

Periodo di lezione:

- Tuesday March 31st 2:00pm-4:30pm Seminario 2 - Dep. Mathematics, p.zza di Porta San Donato 5,
- Thursday April 9th 2 pm-4:30 pm Aula D - Dep. Physics, via Irnerio 46
- Thursday April 16th 2pm-4:30 om Seminario 2 - Dep. Mathematics, p.zza di Porta San Donato 5
- Friday April 17th 2pm-4:30 om Seminario 2 - Dep. Mathematics, p.zza di Porta San Donato 5

Settore disciplinare del corso:

MAT 03 Geometry

Tipologia di corso: Basic

Modalità di verifica dell'apprendimento: seminar

Abstract del corso: The course begins with a comprehensive introduction to knot theory, the notion of isotopy and some useful tools, as well as the Artin braid group and its presentation.

We then present the two classical theorems, the Alexander theorem that provides an algorithm for turning knots and links into closed braids, and the Markov theorem that provides an equivalence relation among braids, reflecting knot isotopy.

We continue with the construction of the Jones polynomial as an application of the above theorems.

We further describe the L -moves, which underpin the Markov moves and have both geometric and algebraic interpretations. The

concept of the L -move enables to formulate braid equivalences for isotopic knots and links in various topological settings, where algebraic structures for braids are not necessarily present (knots in handlebodies, in 3-manifolds as well as for virtual and singular knots, focusing in the end in the theory of knotoids and braidoids).

We finally present the plat closure for braids and the plat equivalence, the theorems of Hilden and Birman, and point to generalisations in other diagrammatic settings.