

**BI-CO MATHEMATICS
COLLOQUIUM**

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“Grid Diagrams And Knot Invariants”

Monday, September 14, 2009

Talk at 4:15 – KINSC H109

Tea at 4:00 – KINSC Math Lounge, H208

Abstract: In this talk I'll begin by introducing grid diagrams as a simple combinatorial tool for presenting knots in three-dimensional space. The Alexander polynomial is a classical knot invariant, and I'll show how to compute this polynomial from a grid diagram. The last part of the talk will introduce the Heegaard Floer knot invariant as a categorification of the Alexander polynomial.

Haverford College