An Introduction to the Braid Group

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Braids are mathematical objects that have relations to knot theory, a popular research area in topology. Roughly, braids are sets of intertwined strings satisfying some conditions and are studied up to certain deformations. This can sometimes make it hard to tell when two braids are the same or different. Introducing the algebraic notation of braid words helps us understand these topological objects better. In fact, under an operation of braid composition, the set of n-stranded braids form a group (a common algebraic structure). In this talk, I will introduce these notations that connect two different areas of mathematics. No prior knowledge of topology or abstract algebra will be assumed!

Date: November 9, 2022 Time: 7:00 pm Place: Park 245

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