

SEMINAR

Curvature through Cubes

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Abstract: Everyone knows the shortest distance between two points in Euclidean space is a straight line, but what about in more exotic spaces? Mathematicians have been studying paths on curved spaces for as long as we have known we lived on one. More recently the work of Gromov showed that notions of curvature can be extended to spaces that seem to have no curves at all: complexes made from ordinary cubes glued together. We will look at applications of these spaces from robotics to chemistry to recent advances in topology.

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