

Braid normal forms and combinatorics.

mercredi 21 mai 2025 13:30 (30 minutes)

A mathematical braid is a set of threads whose topological structure we wish to study. These objects can also be seen as an equivalence class of words, where each word corresponds to a different way of producing the same braid. A very natural problem is the choice of a single representative word for each braid, in order to be able to compare efficiently and make quick computations on the braids: this is called a normal form. I'm going to present a few classic normal forms and explain their strengths.

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