

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

THE MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

presents

Dr. Jim Hoste

Pitzer College

speaking on

The A-polynomial of knots

Friday, October 22, 2004

2:00PM-3:00PM

LA5-267

Abstract: Associated to every knot is a group called its *fundamental group*. This group is a powerful invariant of the knot and can be studied in a variety of ways. One way is to consider homomorphisms, or *representations*, of the fundamental group into other groups. The A-polynomial is defined by studying representations of the fundamental group into $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$. In this talk I will define the A-polynomial, describe some of its basic properties, and show how to calculate it for a large class of knots.