OIST Seminar
Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology

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From Knot Theory to Molecular Biology

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Abstract:
A mathematical knot is a circle embedded in three-dimensional space. Roughly speaking, it is what you get by tying an ordinary knot in a piece of rope and then connecting the ends together. Knot theory is the branch of mathematics concerned with the study of knots, links – mainly the classification of these objects up to natural deformations – and some other related topics in low dimensional topology.
In this talk we shall briefly describe some parts of knot theory which are of biological relevance. Then, we will explain how the changes in the topology of the circular DNA are used to characterize the action of certain enzymes on the DNA molecule.

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