

ISAAC SUNDBERG

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updated

May 2025

Professional Experience

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| Software Engineer — Mathematical Sciences Publishers, Berkely, California | 2025-present |
| Postdoctoral fellow — Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik (MPIM), Bonn, Germany | 2022-2024 |

Education

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| Ph.D. Mathematics — Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA <i>Dissertation:</i> Khovanov homology & uniqueness of surfaces in the 4-ball <i>Advisor:</i> Paul Melvin | 2022 |
| M.A. Mathematics — Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA <i>Thesis:</i> On fibering 3-manifolds | 2018 |
| B.S. Mathematics — University of Wisconsin La Crosse, La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA | 2016 |

Research Interests

Low-dimensional topology: exotic phenomena in 4-dimensions; isotopy of surfaces in 4-manifolds; Khovanov homology; link homology theories; cobordism categories; concordance and sliceness; knots and links.

Publications & Preprints

Seifert surfaces in the 4-ball — with Kyle Hayden, Seungwon Kim, Maggie Miller, and JungHwan Park
To appear in Journal of the European Mathematical Society (2025), featured in [Quanta Magazine](#)

Khovanov homology and exotic surfaces in the 4-ball — with Kyle Hayden
Journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik (Crelle's Journal), 2024-809 (2024), 217-246

Relative Khovanov-Jacobsson classes — with Jonah Swann
Algebraic & Geometric Topology, 22-8 (2022), 3983-4008

Multiplication operators on weighted Banach spaces of a tree — with Robert F. Allen
Bulletin of the Korean Mathematical Society, 54:3 (2017), 747-761

Software

KhNoDe — a program for studying the nontriviality of Khovanov homology classes
Python with SymPy (2023)

Invited Talks

2024 — Pisa Geometry Seminar • European Congress of Mathematics

2023 — MPIM Topology Seminar • Heidelberg Symplectic Topology Seminar • Hamburg Research Seminar on Quantum Topology and Categorification (QTCat)

2022 — MPIM Low-dimensional Topology Seminar (3 talk mini-series) • Rutgers-Newark Colloquium • Philadelphia Area Contact/Symplectic/Topology (PATCH) Seminar • MPIM Low-dimensional Topology Seminar • Algebra and Low-Dimensional Topology Minisymposium, DMV Jahrestagung (Freie Universität Berlin) • Princeton Topology Seminar • Duke Geometry & Topology Seminar

2021 — University of Oregon Topology Seminar • MIT Geometry & Topology Seminar • Columbia Geometric Topology Seminar • Philadelphia Area Contact Topology Seminar (5 talk mini-series) • Nearly Carbon Neutral Geometric Topology Conference • AIM Research Community in 4-dimensional Topology

Teaching Positions

Instructor — Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik

Slice Knots and Knot Concordance (with Arunima Ray) 2023

Instructor — Bryn Mawr College

Math 201: Transitions to Higher Mathematics (with Lisa Traynor) 2022

Math 201: Transitions to Higher Mathematics (with Lisa Traynor) 2021

Math 101: Calculus I 2020

Teaching Assistant — Bryn Mawr College

Math 303: Abstract Algebra I (2 sections) 2019

Math 205: Theory of Probability 2019

Math 312: Topology 2018

Math 304: Abstract Algebra II 2018

Math 303: Abstract Algebra I 2017

Math 295: History of Mathematics 2017

Math 303: Abstract Algebra I (2 sections) 2016

Tutor — University of Wisconsin La Crosse

Murphy Learning Center 2013-2016

Awards & Honors

National Science Foundation

MSPRF proposal recommended for funding (declined for lack of funding) 2023

Bryn Mawr College

Community Building Honor Roll 2019, 2022

Doris Sill Carland Award for Excellence in Teaching 2021

Research Assistantship 2020, 2021

Convocation Speaker Representing the Graduate Student Association 2018

McPherson Graduate Award for Excellence 2018

UW La Crosse

Department of Mathematics: Outstanding Service Award 2016

SIAM Award for Outstanding Efforts & Accomplishments in the Chapter 2016

Supervision & Mentorship

M.A. Advisor — supervised the research and completion of the M.S. thesis, academic well-being, and professional development of the student through regular one-on-one meetings

Alejandro García Rivas, University of Bonn, *Corks and 4-manifolds* 2023-2024

M.A. Mentor — provided guidance on the M.S. thesis, academic well-being, and professional development of the student through regular one-on-one or group meetings

Shun Ming Samuel Lee, University of Bonn, with Peter Teichner 2023-2024

Maximilian David Hans, University of Bonn, with Peter Teichner 2023-2024

Cara Hobohm, University of Bonn, with Arunima Ray 2023-2024

Avalon Vanis, Bryn Mawr College, with Paul Melvin 2022-2023

Xingya Wang, Bryn Mawr College, with Paul Melvin 2017-2018

Research Mentor — supervised short-term reading and research projects through regular meetings

Verochka Lavrova, Summer Student Intern Program at MPIM, with Luciana Basualdo Bonatto 2023

Aisha Mechery, Directed Reading Program at Bryn Mawr College 2020

Service & Outreach

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| Speaker — Pride Math Month, University of Bonn | 2024 |
| Committee Member — Gender Equality Task Force, MPIM | 2022-2024 |
| Referee — Transactions of the American Mathematical Society | 2021-2022 |
| Committee Member — Prelim Restructuring Committee, Bryn Mawr College | 2021-2022 |
| Graduate Student Association — Bryn Mawr College | 2017-2020 |
| Co-chair (2017-2019) • Representative to Graduate Council (2017-2019) • Committee Chair for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (2017-2019) • Departmental Representative (2019-2020) | |
| President — AMS Graduate Student Chapter, Bryn Mawr College | 2018-2020 |
| President — Mathematics & Statistics Club, UW La Crosse | 2015-2016 |
| Tutor/Staff — FastTrack Remedial Mathematics Camp, UW La Crosse | 2015 |
| Staff — Girls in Science Day Camp, UW La Crosse | 2015 |

Organization

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| Co-organizer — Low-Dimensional Topology Seminar, MPIM | 2023-2024 |
| Topic Group Organizer — Nearly Carbon Neutral Geometric Topology, online (with Alex Manchester) | 2023 |
| Founder/Organizer — Graduate Research Seminar, Bryn Mawr College | 2019-2022 |
| Co-founder/Co-organizer — Directed Reading Program, Bryn Mawr College (with Aisha Mechery) | 2019-2020 |
| Organizer — Professional Development Seminar organizer, Bryn Mawr College | 2018-2019 |

Contributed Talks, Conferences, & Workshops

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| 2024 — Invariants in Low-Dimensional Topology (MFO) • Braids Reunion Workshop (ICERM) |
| 2023 — MPIM Open Problem Seminar • Morphisms in Low Dimensions (MFO) |
| 2022 — Topology in Dimension 4.5 (BIRS) • MPIM Topology Seminar • DMV Jahrestagung (Freie Universität Berlin) • Braids in Low-Dimensional Topology (ICERM) |
| 2021 — Tech Topology Summer School on 4-manifolds • Nearly Carbon Neutral Geometric Topology |
| 2020 — Nearly Carbon Neutral Geometric Topology |
| 2019 — Graduate Student Topology and Geometry Conference (UIUC) • EPaDel MAA Section Meeting (King's College) • Graduate Student Conference in Algebra, Geometry, & Topology (Temple) |
| 2018 — MSRI Summer Graduate School on H-Principles (Tambara Institute/University of Tokyo) • Graduate Student Conference in Algebra, Geometry, & Topology (Temple) • Summer Geometry/Topology RTG mini-conference (Princeton) • Topology Student Workshop (Georgia Tech) • EPaDel MAA Section Meeting (Temple) |
| 2016 — AMS Session on Undergraduate Research (JMM Seattle) |

Languages

English — native

French — B1

German — A2