

# Proposal for Special Session for the 2021 AMS-SMF-EMS Joint International Mathematics Meeting in Grenoble

## 1 Organizers

**First organizer :** ?????

**Second organizer :** Saul Schleimer, University of Warwick, s.schleimer@warwick.ac.uk

**Third organizer/contact :** Greg McShane, Université Grenoble-Alpes,  
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## 2 Session description

**Title :** Combinatorial and computational aspects in Topology

Our session will be composed of 12 talks : 3 long/plenary talks 12 short exposés for a total of 9h.

### 2.1 Context

The mathematical focus of the session includes all aspects of the topology and geometry of low-dimensional manifolds and some geometric group theory. It has been understood for over a century that these subjects are tightly connected, but the connections have become even deeper as the subjects have matured. Recent advances have given dramatic evidence of this. The session aims to provide a forum young and senior researchers from the USA and Europe an occasion to discuss these exciting recent results.

Algorithms have been an important and consistent feature of all of these mathematical areas from the beginning. This includes both questions about the existence of algorithms and the development of practical algorithms for computing natural invariants. More recently, computer experiments and rigorous computer-assisted proofs have had a significant impact. It is natural to expect experimental and computational methods to play an expanding role in the theory of low dimensional spaces. Additional goals of the session are to present the development of new computational tools and implementations of new algorithms, and to provide opportunities for researchers to become more familiar with existing tools and how they can be applied in research.

## 2.2 Important progress

The longer talks (see table in Section 3) will be on the the following topics which we consider to be of particular importance :

- Lackenby’s proof of polynomial bounds for the number of Reidemeister moves for unknot diagrams [1] (and extensions to knot isotopy problems [2]).
- Work of Burton et al. on the census of manifold [3, 4].
- Work of Wagner et al. [5, 6] on the complexity of the Embedding problem : Deciding if a simplicial complex embeds into  $\mathbb{R}^d$  or, for that matter, some other simplicial complex.

## 3 Speakers suggestions

In view of the prevailing uncertainty due to the COVID crisis we have tried to avoid speakers located in America or Australia.

Name	Institution	Talk type
Marc Lackenby	University of Oxford	Long
Sergei Matveev	Chelyabinsk and Novosibirsk State Universities, Russia	Long
Uli Wagner	Institut of Science and Technology (IST), Austria	Long
Mark Bell	University of Warwick	Short
Sergio Cabello	University of Ljubljana	Short
Ivan Dynnikov	St. Petersburg State University	Short
Radoslav Fulek	University of Arizona	Short
Elise Goujard	Université de Bordeaux	Short
Kristóf Huszár	Institut of Science and Technology (IST), Austria	Short
Luke Jeffreys	University of Glasgow	Short
Clément Maria	INRIA, Sophia Antipolis	Short
Arnaud de Mesmay	CNRS, Université de Marne-la-Vallée	Short
Aleksandra Skripchenko	Skoltech Faculty, Moscow	Short
Martin Tancer	Charles University, Prague	Short
Mehdi Yazdi	University of Oxford	Short

## Références

- [1] A polynomial upper bound on Reidemeister moves *Annals Math.* 182 (2015) 491-564
- [2] The computational complexity of determining knot genus in a fixed 3-manifold. <http://people.maths.ox.ac.uk/lackenby/KnotGenusComplexity2April2020.pdf>
- [3] Benjamin A. Burton, Sergio Cabello, Stefan Kratsch, William Pettersson : The Parameterized Complexity of Finding a 2-Sphere in a Simplicial Complex. *SIAM J. Discret. Math.* 33(4) : 2092-2110 (2019)

- [4] Benjamin A. Burton, Alexander He : On the hardness of finding normal surfaces. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.09051>
- [5] M. Filakovský, U. Wagner, S.Y. Zhechev : Embeddability of simplicial complexes is undecidable, Proceedings of the Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms, SIAM, 2020, pp. 767–785.
- [6] Matoušek J, Sedgwick E, Tancer M, Wagner U. Embeddability in the 3-Sphere is decidable. Journal of the ACM. 2018 ;65(1) :5. doi :10.1145/3078632