

*Speaker:*     **Hoste, Jim**

*Title:*        *A Formula for the A-polynomial of Twist Knots*

*Authors:*     Jim Hoste and Patrick D. Shanahan

*Affiliations:* Pitzer College and Loyola Marymount University

*Abstract:* The fundamental group of a 2-bridge knot has a particularly nice presentation, having only two generators and a single relation. For certain families of 2-bridge knots, such as the torus knots, or the twist knots, the relation takes on an especially simple form. Exploiting this form, we derive a formula for the A-polynomial of twist knots. Our methods extend to at least one other infinite family of (non-torus) 2-bridge knots. From these we determine the associated Newton polygons.