

Cascade Topology Seminar

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This workshop was a meeting of the Cascade Topology Seminar. This is a semi-annual gathering of the region's topologists which began in 1987, overseen by Steve Bleiler (Portland State University) and Dale Rolfsen (UBC). It is designed to foster contacts between workers, as well as graduate students, in similar fields across the region. It provides a venue for local topologists to showcase their own work, and also an opportunity to bring in speakers from outside the region, helping local topologists to keep abreast of recent developments.

In all these respects, the BIRS meeting of the Cascade Topology Seminar was a great success. This meeting had 25 participants from various schools in western Canada and the Pacific Northwestern US; a few participants also came from the east (Ontario and the midwestern US). The group included established researchers, early career mathematicians and quite a few graduate students from various schools.

There were 6 one-hour lectures given during the meeting. True to the spirit of the Seminar, the speakers included a mix of established mathematicians (Ralph Cohen, Stanford U; Tony Elmendorf, Purdue U at Calumet; and John Palmieri, U Washington) and early career topologists (Ryan Budney, U Oregon; Keir Lockridge, U Washington; and Jens von Bergmann, U Calgary). The talks ranged from pure homotopy theory (stable homotopy and A_∞ algebras) to more geometric topology (spaces of graphs and knots) and symplectic geometry (contact homology). Details on the titles and abstracts for individual talks can be found at

<http://www.pims.math.ca/birs/workshops/2005/05w2612/Schedule05w2612.pdf>

In addition to displaying the range of recent work being done by the region's topologists, the workshop was also a valuable opportunity for personal contact between the members of our various departments. In the times provided for informal discussion, current research projects were discussed, and recent advances such as the new book by Dave Morris (University of Lethbridge) were advertised. PIMS and NSF funding was extended to a number of graduate students to attend the event, and they had the opportunity to meet both each other and the more senior topologists. In addition, plans for upcoming area topology events such as expected visitors to the area and the special Topology sessions at the AMS meeting in Oregon and the CMS winter meeting in Victoria were discussed. Overall, the opportunity for the region's topologists to meet and discuss items of mutual interest face-to-face contributed to the sense of community which is so valuable for its members' research.

The BIRS setting provided a beautiful and congenial environment for this workshop, and the organizers wish to thank PIMS for giving us this opportunity.