

# CURRICULUM VITA

LAWRENCE ROBERTS

## Contact Information:

Department of Mathematics  
The University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, Al 35487

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## Professional Preparation:

May 1997	B.A. Summa Cum Laude	Washington University in St. Louis
Dec 2004	Ph.D. Mathematics	University of California, Berkeley

## Appointments:

Associate Professor, The University of Alabama, Aug. 2015 –  
Assistant Professor, The University of Alabama, Aug. 2009 – 2015  
Research Member, Homology theory of knots and links program, MSRI Jan 2010 – May 2010  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Michigan State University, Aug. 2008 – Aug. 2009  
Visiting Research Instructor, RTG program in Geometry/Topology  
Michigan State University, Aug. 2005 - Aug. 2008

## Grants Received:

Simon's Foundation Collaboration Grant for Mathematicians, Fl 2017 – Sp 2022 (\$42,000)

## Awards and Honors:

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, 1998 - 2001  
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley, 2003  
Arthur Holly Compton Fellowship, Washington University, St. Louis, 1993-1997

**Research Interests:** Differential topology, low dimensional topology, knot theory, gauge theory, Heegaard-Floer homology, Khovanov homology

**Dissertation:** “Heegaard-Floer homology and based links in three manifolds”, written under Robion Kirby, University of California, Berkeley

## Papers published and accepted:

“Graphical discovery of a new identity for Jacobi polynomials” w. Brian Gerard,

- American Mathematical Monthly*, vol. 105, no. 2. Feb 1998, p. 163-166.
- “Rational blow downs in Heegaard-Floer homology”, *Communications in Contemporary Mathematics*. Vol 10, No. 4, (2008) 491-522. [32 pgs]  
DOI: 10.1142/S0219199708002880
- “Heegaard-Floer homology and string links”, *Algebraic & Geometric Topology* 9 (2009) 29-102. [74 pgs] DOI: 10.2140/agt.2009.9.29
- “Extending Van Cott’s bounds for the  $\tau$ -invariant of satellite knots”, *Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications*. Vol. 20, No. 9 (2011) 1237-1245. [9 pgs]  
DOI: 10.1142/S0218216511009200
- “Some bounds for the knot-Floer  $\tau$ -invariant of satellite knots”, *Algebraic & Geometric Topology* 12 (2012) 449-467. [19 pgs] DOI: 10.2140/agt.2012.12.449
- “On knot Floer homology for some fibered knots”, *Communications in Contemporary Mathematics*. Vol. 15, No. 1, January 2013 [38 pages]  
DOI: 10.1142/S0219199712500538
- “On knot Floer homology in double branched covers”, *Geometry & Topology* 17 (2013) 413-467 [55 pgs] DOI: 10.2140/gt.2013.17.413
- “On non-isotopic spanning surfaces for a class of arborescent knots”, *Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications*. Vol. 22, No. 13 (2013) 1350075 [16 pages]  
DOI: 10.1142/S0218216513500752
- “Totally twisted Khovanov homology”, *Geometry & Topology* 19 (2015) 1-59 [59 pgs] DOI: 10.2140/gt.2015.19.1
- “Twisted Skein Homology”, w/ N. Duong, *Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications*. Vol. 23, 1450027 (2014) [43 pages] DOI:10.1142/S0218216514500278
- “The decategorification of bordered Khovanov homology”, *Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications*. 1450078 (2014) [33 pgs] DOI: 10.1142/S0218216514500783
- “A type D structure in Khovanov Homology”, *Advances in Mathematics* 293 (2016) 81-145 [64 pages] DOI: 10.1016/j.aim.2016.02.007
- “A type A structure in Khovanov Homology”, *Algebraic & Geometric Topology* 16-6 (2016), 3653-3719. [50 pages] DOI: 10.2140/agt.2016.16.3653
- “Planar algebras and the decategorification of bordered Khovanov homology”, *Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications*. 1750023 (2017) [23 pages] DOI: 10.1142/S0218216517500237

### Papers submitted:

‘Planar compositions in bordered Khovanov Homology,’ submitted *Pacific Journal of Mathematics*

### Pre-prints and papers in preparation:

“Notes on the Heegaard-Floer link surgery spectral sequence”, math.GT/0808.2817, [53 pages]  
“Planar compositions in totally twisted Khovanov Homology,” in preparation

### Invited Talks:

Several talks in the topology/geometry seminar at Michigan State University, 2005-2008  
Georgia Topology Conference, May 2008  
Rice University Topology Seminar, October 2008  
Gauge Theory and Topology Seminar, Harvard University, November 2008

Louisiana State University Topology Seminar, November 2008  
 University of Virginia Topology Seminar, November 2009  
 Special Session on Gauge Theory, Eastern Sectional Meeting of the  
 American Mathematical Society, September 2011  
 Low Dimensional Topology, Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, May 2013  
 Georgia Institute of Technology, Topology Seminar, September 2013  
 CalTech-UCLA-USC Joint topology seminar, October 2013

### Advising:

Graduate (Ph.D.):

Dissertation advisor for Timothy Homan, Fall 2016 –  
 Dissertation advisor for Nguyen Duong, Fall 2011 – Spring 2015  
 Dissertation committee for Anne Duffee, Spring 2016

Graduate (M.A.):

Masters advisor:

Jake Sundberg, “Khovanov homology of knots and links”, Spring 2014  
 Jeff Davis, “Persistent homology and data analysis”, Spring 2015  
 Madeline LeBeouf, “Embedding Curves in Space”, Fall 2017  
 Alex Mathers, “Algebraic Geometry of Adic Spaces”, Spring 2018

Masters committee:

Jason Duke, “The Weierstrass Approximation Theorem”, Spring 2012  
 LaBeausha Holt, “Probability generating functions for random walks on  
 graphs and digraphs”, Spring 2014

Undergraduate Research:

Yifan Liu, Readings on Knots and Braids, Fall 2011  
 Trent Faris, Visual Cryptography and Captchas, Emerging Scholars Program,  
 Spring 2011 – Fall 2012  
 Harrison Brown, Khovanov Homology and Category Theory, Aug 2012 – Dec 2012  
 Chris Popovich, Alexander invariants of links, Emerging Scholars Program,  
 Nov 2012 – Spring 2015.  
 David Mildebrath, Quantum Computing, Spring 2015 – Spring 2016  
 Alex Mathers, Khovanov homology and tangles, Fall 2015 –  
 Aaron Tharsius, Algorithms and Khovanov Homology, Sp 2017 –

### Teaching at the University of Alabama:

Math 125 Calculus I	Fl 2009, Fl 2010, Fl 2011, Fl 2013, Sp 2014, Fl 2015
Math 126: Calculus II	Sp 2011, Sp 2012, Sp 2013, Sp 2015
Math 145: Honors Calculus I	Fl 2012, Fl 2014
Math 146: Honors Calculus II	Sp 2016, Sp 2017
Math 227: Calculus III	Fl 2016
Math 237: Intro. to Linear Algebra	Fl 2014
Math 238: Applied Differential Equations	Sp 2013
Math 247: Honors Calculus III	Fl 2017, Sp 2018

Math 460/560: Intro. to Differential Geometry	Sp 2017
Math 465/565: Intro. to General Topology	F1 2009, F1 2010, F1 2012, F1 2015, F1 2017
Math 466/566: Intro to Algebraic Topology	Sp 2011, Sp 2012, Sp 2014, Sp 2016, Sp 2018
Math 474/574: Cryptography	F1 2011
Math 486/586: Real Analysis I	F1 2013, F1 2014
Math 499: Undergraduate Rsch experience	Sp 2016
Math 537: Reading course on knot theory	F1 2012
Math 598: Non Thesis Rsch	Sp 2014, Sp 2015
Math 661: Algebraic Topology I	F1 2016
Math 669: Topics in topology	Sp 2013
Math 698: Non-dissertation research	Sp 2016, F1 2016
Math 699: Dissertation research	F1 2012, Sp 2013, F1 2013, Sp, 2014, F1 2014, Sp 2015

### Teaching at Michigan State University:

Spring 2009	Math 320: Analysis I
Fall 2008	Math 254H: Honors Multi-Variable Calculus
Spring 2008	Math 864: Geometric Topology (graduate)
Fall 2007	Math 461: Metric and Topological Spaces
Spring 2007	Math 153H: Honors Calculus II
Fall 2007	Math 152H: Honors Calculus I
Spring 2006	Math 234: Multi-Variable Calculus
Fall 2005	Math 132: Calculus I

### Teaching at the University of California, Berkeley:

Summer 2002	Math 16B: Applied Calculus II
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### Service:

- Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee  
College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2014 –
- Tenure and Promotion Committee  
College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2015 - Spring 2017
- Member, Executive Planning Committee  
UA Dept. of Mathematics, Fall 2017–
- Member, Graduate Admissions and Scholarship Committee  
UA Dept. of Mathematics, Fall 2015–
- Member, Honors Calculus Committee,  
UA Dept. of Mathematics, Fall 2016– Spring 2018
- Member, search committee for tenure track position in topology  
UA Dept. of Mathematics, Fall 2015–Spring 2016
- Member, Ainsworth Memorial Scholarship committee  
UA Dept. of Mathematics, Summer 2014, 2015
- Member, search committee for tenure track positions in computational  
mathematics and statistics, UA Dept. of Mathematics, Fall 2013–Spring 2014

Member, CLTF Search committee, Dept. of Mathematics, Spring 2013  
Graduate Course Committee, Fall-Spring 2013  
Teaching Instructor retention committee, Dept. of Mathematics, Spring 2012  
Member, search committee for tenure track position in computational  
mathematics, UA Dept. of Mathematics, Fall 2010–Spring 2011

**Referee for:**

*Geometry & Topology, Journal of Differential Geometry, Compositio Mathematica,  
Algebraic & Geometric Topology, Mathematics Research Letters, Journal of Knot  
Theory and its Ramifications, New York Journal of Mathematics*

**Grant Application Reviewer for:**

NSF Grant Review Panel member  
Grant Application Reviewer for the Swiss National Science Foundation

**Other:**

Judge for the University of Alabama undergraduate research conference, Spring 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Gave survey talks to Pi Mu Epsilon math honors society, Spring 2013  
Judge and emcee for ciphering round of state mathematics competition, Spring 2011