

# Knots so far

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## **Abstract**

Take a jumbled loop of rope. Can you untangle it without cutting it? Can we teach a computer to make this decision? These are the entry-level questions in a branch of manifold theory known as "knot theory". I will describe how the last 100 years of mathematics has given us sometimes unexpected but very fruitful perspectives on questions such as these, relating knotting questions to several other branches of mathematics.