

BOOK REVIEWS

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Three-dimensional link theory and invariants of plane curve singularities, by David Eisenbud and Walter Neumann. *Annals of Mathematics Studies*, vol. 110, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1985, vii + 171 pp., \$13.95 (paper), \$39.50 (hardback).

A knot is an embedded circle in the three-sphere. The simplest example of a knot is the ordinary overhand knot or trefoil (Figure 1); another is the figure eight knot (Figure 2). The trefoil and figure eight are clearly different (not isotopic), and both are obviously knotted (not isotopic to the unknotted circle or unknot (Figure 3)).

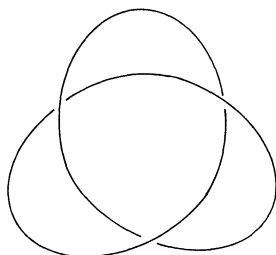


FIGURE 1

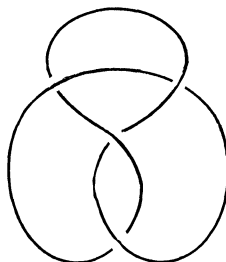


FIGURE 2

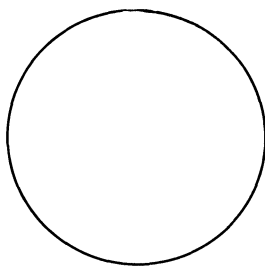


FIGURE 3