
HANS BODEN, McMaster University

Splitting the difference in the ribbon-slice conjecture

Some time ago, Ralph Fox asked whether every slice knot is ribbon. This innocent question morphed into the ribbon-slice conjecture, despite the fact no one seems to believe it is true. I will discuss two ways to divide Fox's question into two open problems using (a) virtual knots (b) ribbon 2-knots. This approach has been an effective method for converting an intractable problem into several intractable problems.