



Topology Seminar at Texas State

When: 11:00-12:20, Friday, April 3, 2020

Where: Zoom

Speaker: Sean Lawton (George Mason University)

Topic: *What is a Character Variety?*

ABSTRACT

Character varieties are loosely speaking varieties of characters. However, strictly speaking this is not always the case: they are not always varieties, nor do they always parametrize classical characters. Regardless, they naturally arise in geometry and mathematical physics and have been studied explicitly for decades. In this talk we will define the term "character variety", discuss its history, applications, and give illustrative examples. We will also discuss recent work of Lawton-Sikora relating the "classical" notion of a "variety of characters" to the more modern definition of "character variety."