

Christopher-Lloyd Simon

S. Chowla Assistant Professor

217 McAllister Building
16802, State College
Pennsylvania, USA

✉ cks6029@psu.edu

📄 [christopherlloyd.github.io](https://github.com/christopherlloyd)

ORCID: [0000-0002-8195-2550](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8195-2550)



« *Connaître ce n'est point démontrer, ni expliquer.
C'est accéder à la vision.* » (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)

Education and Positions

- 2022–2025 **S. Chowla Research Assistant Professor**, *Pennsylvania State University*.
- 2019–2022 **Thesis in mathematics**, *Laboratoire Paul Painlevé de Lille*, Linking forms of Fuchsian groups, supervised by Étienne Ghys and Patrick Popescu-Pampu.
- 2016–2018 **Master in mathematics**, *ENS Lyon*, Specialization in groups and geometry.
- 2015–2016 **Licence de mathématiques**, *ENS Lyon*.
- 2013–2015 **Maths-Sup, Maths-Spé**, *Lycée Louis-Le-Grand*, Paris.

Research Interests in keywords

- Curves in Surfaces Curves in hyperbolic surfaces, Fricke polynomials, simple intersection equivalence. Character varieties of surfaces and their compactifications.
- Geometry of groups Hyperbolic groups, Bass-Serre theory, Fuchsian groups acting on trees, cohomology and bounded cohomology, actions on the circle.
- 3-manifold Topology Surgery and cobordism distances between 3-manifolds, linking forms, signatures and characteristic classes, Gordian space of knots.
- Modular arithmetics Integral binary quadratic forms, Gauss composition, conjugacy classes in the modular group, linking numbers of modular geodesics.
- Plane curve singularities Topology of the singularities of real and complex algebraic curves and surfaces. Combinatorics of harmonic loci in the plane.
- Combinatorial Algebra Generating series and analytic combinatorics for the enumeration of structures. Tutte polynomials, partition functions, traces, Euler characteristics and homology.

Languages and Computer skills

- English Native ; fluent *CAE : Grade A, Level C2.*
- French Native ; fluent.
- Spanish Scholar level *Baccalauréat : level B2.*
- Latex Articles, reports and beamer presentations
- Python Algorithms and computations dealing with symmetric groups and generating series ; with continued fractions, the modular group, Fricke polynomials and linking numbers.

Thesis (2019-2022)

- Title Arithmetic and topology of modular knots
Supervisors Étienne Ghys and Patrick Popescu-Pampu
Description The modular group $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ acts on the hyperbolic plane with quotient the modular orbifold, whose unit tangent bundle is a 3-manifold homeomorphic to the complement of the trefoil knot in the 3-sphere, endowed with the geodesic flow. I study the linking numbers of periodic orbits and relate them to the arithmetics of quadratic forms, the special values of Poincaré series, and the bounded cohomology of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

Master thesis (2016-2018)

- Title *Topology and enumeration of real planar algebraic curves*
Supervisor Étienne Ghys
Description The topology of a real planar algebraic curve is described in the neighborhood of a singularity by a combinatorial invariant, namely a chord diagram. Most chord diagrams do not arise as such, we characterize which ones do, and enumerate them. We introduce the concept of *combinatorial curves*, enriching that of combinatorial maps, in order to describe the global topology of connected singular algebraic curves in the real sphere. From there, we count their topological types and deduce a bound on the number of connected singular algebraic curves of a given degree in the real projective plane.

Supervised Research Experiences as a Visiting student

- Spring 2019 **Julien Marché**, *IMJ-PRG*, 5 months.
Character varieties : compactifications and automorphisms.
(Publication [[MS21](#)] available online.)
- Autumn 2018 **Étienne Ghys**, *ENS Lyon*, 4 months.
Cobordism distances between 3-manifolds.
(Work in slow progress, available some day)
- Summer 2018 **Étienne Ghys**, *UMPA, Lyon and IMPA, Rio-de-Janeiro*, 4 months.
Topology and combinatorics of the singularities of plane real algebraic curves.
(Publication [[Sim22c](#)] and slides in french available on demand.)
- Summer 2017 **Maira Chas and Dennis Sullivan**, *Stony Brook, New York*, 3 months.
Low dimensional topology : equivalencies of curves in hyperbolic surfaces.
(Written report in english available on demand.)
- Summer 2016 **Jean-Pierre Wintenberger**, *IRMA Strasbourg*, 2 months.
Research experience on L-functions and modular forms.
(Written report in french available on demand.)

Organising activities

- Dec. 2019 **Week-end mathématique pour les élèves de l'ENS Lyon**, *Château du Goutelas*, Alain Connes, Calcul différentiel quantique et fonction zeta de Riemann.
Edition d'un compte rendu : <https://jmeenslyon.wordpress.com/hors-serie/>
- Nov. 2019 **Conférence en l'honneur de Bruno Sevennec**, *Château du Goutelas*, 3 jours, Equation de Joanolou, Spectre du Laplacien, Groupe modulaire.
<http://perso.ens-lyon.fr/sevennec/GoutelasNovembre2019/>
- Nov. 2018 **Week-end mathématique pour les élèves de l'ENS Lyon**, *Château du Goutelas*, Nalini Anantharaman, Géométries aléatoires.

Students

- 2023 **Undergraduate Research Experience**, *Independant Studies*, Mayank Yadav, Combinatorics of chord diagrams and their interlace graphs.
<https://github.com/mayankyadavblr>

Teaching activities

- Autumn 2023 **MATH 141, 4 credits**, *Penn. State Univ.*, Calculus with Analytic Geometry II.
Spring 2023 **MATH 311W, 3 credits**, *Pennsylvania State University*, Discrete mathematics.
Autumn 2022 **MATH 141, 4 credits**, *Penn. State Univ.*, Calculus with Analytic Geometry II.
Spring 2021 **TD (exercise sessions) 36h**, *Univ. Lille*, Fonctions de plusieurs variables L2.
Spring 2020 **TD (exercise sessions) 24h**, *Univ. Lille*, Probabilités discrètes L2.
Spring 2020 **TD (exercise sessions) 36h**, *Univ. Lille*, Calcul différentiel L3.
2016-2017 **Colles (exercise sessions) 72h**, *Prépa du Parc de Lyon*, MP*.

Mathematical awareness

- Summer 2021 **Article en ligne**, *Images des mathématiques*, Un rebondissement inattendu.
<https://images.math.cnrs.fr/Un-rebondissement-inattendu>
- Spring 2018 **Conférence**, *Séminaire de la détente mathématique de l'ENS Lyon*, Courbes, cartes et dessins d'enfants.
<https://indico.math.cnrs.fr/event/3142/>
- Spring 2017 **Conférence**, *Prépa du Parc, Lyon*, Topologie et combinatoire des courbes planes.
- Spring 2016 **Conférence**, *Séminaire de la détente mathématique de l'ENS Lyon*, Théorème de Brouwer via le lemme de Sperner.
<https://www.umpa.ens-lyon.fr/seminaires/detente>

(Pre)Publications

- [GS20] Étienne Ghys and Christopher-Lloyd Simon. On the topology of a real analytic curve in the neighborhood of a singular point. *Astérisque*, Some aspects of the theory of dynamical systems : a tribute to Jean-Christophe Yoccoz. Vol. I(415) :1–33, 2020. [HAL version](#).
- [MS21] Julien Marché and Christopher-Lloyd Simon. Automorphisms of character varieties. *Ann. H. Lebesgue*, 4 :591–603, 2021. [arxiv version](#).
- [MS24] Julien Marché and Christopher-Lloyd Simon. Valuations on the character variety : Newton polytopes and residual poisson bracket. *Geometry and Topology*, to appear :X–Y, 2024. [arxiv version](#).
- [Sim22a] Christopher-Lloyd Simon. *Arithmetic and Topology of Modular knots*. Thèse, Université de Lille, June 2022. [HAL version](#).
- [Sim22b] Christopher-Lloyd Simon. Linking numbers of modular knots, 2022. Submitted for publication, [arxiv version](#).
- [Sim22c] Christopher-Lloyd Simon. Topologie et dénombrement des courbes algébriques réelles. *Ann. Fac. Sci. Toulouse Math. (6)*, 31(2) :383–422, 2022. [arxiv version](#).
- [Sim23a] Christopher-Lloyd Simon. Conjugacy classes in $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{K})$. *Mathematics Research Reports*, 4 :23–45, 2023. [arxiv version](#).
- [Sim23b] Christopher-Lloyd Simon. Loops in surfaces, chord diagrams, interlace graphs : operad factorisations and generating grammars, 2023. Submitted for publication, [arxiv version](#).

Invited talks in conferences and seminars

- Dec. 2023 **Monodromy and its Applications, Conference in honor of Nicholas Katz**, *IAS, Princeton*, Short talk, Quasicharacters of the modular group from linking numbers of modular knots.
<https://sites.google.com/princeton.edu/katz80>
- Aug. 2023 **Algebraic, Asymptotic and Enumerative Combinatorics**, *Summer School in Bedlewo, Poland*, Short talk, Combinatorics and enumeration of chord diagrams.
<https://sites.google.com/impan.pl/23-summeralgcom/home>
- June 2023 **Geometric group theory, low-dimensional geometry and topology**, *ICMAT, Madrid*, Arithmetic and topology of modular knots.
<https://www.icmat.es/RT/2023/GGTLDT/index.php>
- April 2023 **Dynamical Systems Seminar**, *Pennsylvania State University*, Linking forms and quasi-morphisms of Fuchsian groups.
<https://math-cal.cloud.science.psu.edu/events/seminar/439>
- April 2023 **GAP Seminar**, *Pennsylvania State University*, Valuations on the character variety : Newton Polygons and residual Poisson brackets.
<https://math-cal.cloud.science.psu.edu/events/seminar/408>
- Dec. 2022 **Le séminaire virtuel francophone Groupes et Géométrie**, *Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble*, Arithmétique et topologie des noeuds modulaires.
<https://www-fourier.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/seminaire-gg/?q=node/84>
- Oct. 2022 **Algebra and Number Theory Seminar**, *Pennsylvania State University*, Conjugacy classes in $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{K})$ and genera of binary quadratic forms.
<https://math-cal.cloud.science.psu.edu/events/seminar/372>
- Nov. 2022 **Geometry/Topology Seminar**, *Brown University*, Linking numbers of modular knots.
<https://www.math.brown.edu/reschwar/seminar.html>
- Oct. 2022 **Dynamical Systems Working Seminar**, *Pennsylvania State University*, Linking numbers of modular knots.
<https://math-cal.cloud.science.psu.edu/events/seminar/400>
- Oct. 2022 **Department of Mathematics Colloquium**, *Pennsylvania State University*, Arithmetic and Topology of Modular Knots.
<https://math-cal.cloud.science.psu.edu/events/seminar/377>
- June 2022 **Séminaire de Géométrie des Espaces Singuliers**, *Laboratoire Painlevé, Lille*, Arithmétique et topologie des noeuds modulaires.
<https://pro.univ-lille.fr/patrick-popescu-pampu/responsabilites/>
- June 2022 **Conference in enumerative, real and birational geometry**, *1 week in Le Croisic*, Topology and enumeration of real planar algebraic curves.
<https://math.univ-angers.fr/~zimmermann/Croisic/Croisic.html>
- May 2022 **Séminaire de Géométrie des Espaces Singuliers**, *Laboratoire Painlevé, Lille*, Valuations on the character variety : Newton polygons and residual Poisson bracket.
<https://pro.univ-lille.fr/patrick-popescu-pampu/responsabilites/>

- Jan. 2022 **Séminaire de Géométrie des Espaces Singuliers**, *Laboratoire Painlevé, Lille*, Arithmetic equivalence of modular geodesics, (Series of two talks).
<https://pro.univ-lille.fr/patrick-popescu-pampu/responsabilites/>
- April 2020 **Séminaire de Géométrie complexe**, *Nancy*, online, Automorphismes des variétés de caractères.
<https://iecl.univ-lorraine.fr/events/categories/geometrie/>
- 2019–2020 **Séminaire de Géométrie des Espaces Singuliers**, *Laboratoire Painlevé, Lille*, (Series of talks : Nov, Dec, Jan), Conjugacy classes in the modular group.
<https://math.univ-lille1.fr/d7/sgeoessing>
- Nov. 2019 **Conférence Géométrie et Dynamique**, *Goutelas*, en l'honneur de B. Sevennec, Distances pour le cobordisme entre les 3-variétés.
<http://perso.ens-lyon.fr/sevennec/GoutelasNovembre2019/>
- April 2019 **Séminaire Géométrie et Topologie**, *IMJ-PRG, Paris*, Topologie et combinatoire des courbes algébriques réelles singulières.
<https://www.imj-prg.fr/gestion/evenement/affSeance/6486>
- Dec. 2018 **Séminaire de Combinatoire**, *ENS Lyon*, Topologie et combinatoire des courbes algébriques réelles.
<https://indico.math.cnrs.fr/event/3370/>
- Nov. 2018 **Séminaire de Géométrie des Espaces Singuliers**, *Laboratoire Painlevé, Lille*, Topologie et dénombrement des courbes algébriques réelles singulières.
<https://math.univ-lille1.fr/d7/sgeoessing>

Participation in Thematic Schools and Conferences

Dec. 2023 **Monodromy and its Applications, Conference in honor of Nicholas Katz, IAS, Princeton.**

<https://sites.google.com/princeton.edu/katz80>

August 2023 **Algebraic, Asymptotic and Enumerative Combinatorics, Summer School in Będlewo, Poland, Combinatorics and enumeration of chord diagrams.**

<https://sites.google.com/impan.pl/23-summeralgcom/home>

Jully 2023 **Group actions and low-dimensional topology, Conference in El Barco de Avila.**

<https://www.icmat.es/RT/2023/GGTLDGT/week4.php>

June 2023 **Geometric group theory, low-dimensional geometry and topology, ICMAT, Madrid, Workshop on Orderings and Groups; Workshop on Profinite Rigidity.**

<https://www.icmat.es/RT/2023/GGTLDGT/index.php>

June 2022 **Conference in enumerative, real and birational geometry, 1 week in Le Croisic.**

<https://math.univ-angers.fr/~zimmermann/Croisic/Croisic.html>

Nov. 2019 **Géométrie & Dynamique, Goutelas, week-end in honor of Bruno Sevennec.**

<http://perso.ens-lyon.fr/sevennec/GoutelasNovembre2019/>

May 2019 **Geometry and Topology of singularities, Budapest, 1 week conference in honor of András Némethi.**

<https://ap60.sciencesconf.org/>

April 2019 **Singularités réelles et complexes à Cargèse, Cargèse, 1 week conference in honor of Adam Parusiński.**

www.renyi.hu/conferences/nemethi60

Jan 2019 **Groups and geometries, CIRM, 1 week master class.**

<https://mcgg.sciencesconf.org/>

Aug. 2018 **ICM, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.**

www.icm2018.org

June 2018 **Teichmüller dynamics, mapping class groups and applications, Institut Fourier, Grenoble, France, 3 week Summer school.**

<https://if-summer2018.sciencesconf.org/>