

**CAT(0) GEOMETRY OF COMPLEX CURVE
COMPLEMENTS AND
FAMILIES**

Speaker: Kejia Zhu
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Abstract: Motivated by the question of whether braid groups are CAT(0), we investigate the CAT(0) behavior of fundamental groups of plane curve complements and certain universal families. If C is the branch locus of a generic projection of a smooth, complete intersection surface to P^2 , we show that the fundamental group of $P^2 \setminus C$ is CAT(0). In the other direction, we prove that the fundamental group of the universal family associated with the singularities of type E_6 , E_7 , and E_8 is not CAT(0). This is joint work with C. Bregman and A. Libgober.