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*Metabelian  $SL(n, \mathbb{C})$  representations of knot groups*

In this talk, which is a report on joint work with Stefan Friedl, I will explain why, for  $n$  prime (or more generally  $n$  a prime power), every irreducible metabelian  $SL(n, \mathbb{C})$  representation of a knot group factors through a finite group. It is a consequence that every such representation is conjugate to an  $SU(n)$  representation and that there are only finitely many (up to conjugation). I will present a simple formula for this number in terms of the Alexander polynomial of the knot. This result is the natural  $n > 2$  generalization of a result of Nagasato on metabelian  $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  representations of knot groups.