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ON THE JONES POLYNOMIAL

SWISS SEMINAR IN BERNE

by Pierre DE LA HARPE, Michel KERVAIRE and Claude WEBER

These notes are based on the talks given in the seminar mentionned in the title, held at Berne University during the summer term 1986 and organized by the Troisième Cycle Romand de Mathématiques. However, we have made no attempt to follow faithfully the oral expositions. On the contrary, we have tried to reorganize the material in a unified survey with a streamlined point of view and (hopefully) coherent notations.

We thank all the participants who attended the seminar and above all our invited speakers, Vaughan Jones, Louis Kauffman and Hugh Morton. We have also included the results of Kunio Murasugi, although his talks were given the year before at the University of Geneva, when his work had just been completed.

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