Positive Curvature in 4 Dimensions

It is classically known which closed surfaces can be formed so that their curvature is positive everywhere: this is possible only for the sphere. For 3–dimensional spaces this question was answered by R. Hamilton in 1982 – again the 3–sphere is essentially the only example.

For 4–dimensional spaces, this question is still open. On the one hand, only two examples are known to admit positive curvature metrics; on the other hand, there are several other candidates where no such metric is known, but no currently available methods can rule this out. In his talk, Bär will explain the relevant notions, he will sketch the historical development, and also present some new results in dimension 4.

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