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## Math Club talk:

Title: *The Brouwer fixed point theorem and an introduction to algebraic topology*

Speaker: Will Kazez

Time: 5:30-6:30pm, Thursday, December 4

Place: Room 304, Boyd Graduate Studies. There will be pizza and soft drinks after the talk.

Start with a rectangle's worth of dots. Repeatedly deform and fold, but do not tear, the rectangle. Finally press the crumpled page so that it sits within the boundaries of the original. You will have succeeded in changing the original position of many of the dots, but the Brouwer fixed point theorem guarantees that there is at least one point that ends up at its starting position.

I will use this theorem, and related results, to introduce some of the basic goals of algebraic topology. I won't assume any background beyond an intuitive notion of continuity.