## 1060-57-156 Daryl Cooper (cooper@math.ucsb.edu) and David Futer\* (dfuter@temple.edu), Philadelphia, PA 19122, and Jessica S Purcell (jpurcell@math.byu.edu). Knots with long unknotting tunnels.

Given a knot K in  $S^3$ , an unknotting tunnel for K is an arc  $\tau$ , such that the complement of K and  $\tau$  is a handlebody. Unknotting tunnels provide an important insight into the topology of both K and its complement. But how do they look geometrically? Is  $\tau$  a geodesic in the hyperbolic metric, and how long is it? I will describe an explicit construction that gives knots in  $S^3$  whose unknotting tunnels are arbitrarily long. This is joint work with Jessica Purcell and Daryl Cooper. (Received March 29, 2010)