

I constructed two links and one knot out of beads and string. I made the borromean rings, a hopf link, and the trefoil knot.

For both the links, I put each band in a different color to create contrast between them and make them easier to identify as links. For the trefoil knot, I alternated between three colors throughout the entire knot.

As I mentioned while presenting my logo, knots and links have been my favorite topic we've covered in this class. I thought it would be fun if my logo and my project were both based on the same topic. I made the models out of beads because making beaded jewelry like bracelets and necklaces was one of my favorite hobbies when I was in high school. I still have lots of leftover beads and other supplies stored in my closet, and I wanted to put them to good use. I was originally going to make them out of wire so they would hold their shape better, but I found that wire was difficult to tie at the ends. The wire I own is very thin anyway, so it didn't even support the weight of the beads as well as I had hoped, so I used string instead because that is the cord I'm most used to working with when making jewelry and other beaded pieces.

Because the string doesn't hold its shape very well, it can easily be twisted and made into other shapes, which could be a good way to practice Reidemeister moves with a three dimensional object.

I only made three, but if I had more time and motivation I would have made more knots and links. My favorite to make was the trefoil knot, because creating a pattern with the beads was fun, but it was also the most difficult. I struggled to estimate the length the string needed to be in order to create the knot. Twisting it around and creating the overs and unders was also difficult, because I had to hold both ends of the string to make sure no beads fell off.

I have no practical use for these, so if you'd like, Professor Long, you can keep them and use them during lessons about knots and links in future classes.