



The Trivial Notions Seminar Proudly Announces

One-celled critters and two-element fields

A talk by
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Abstract

Stichotrichous ciliates are an ancient type of one-celled organisms, which must “reassemble” their genes when they reproduce. Biologists and computer scientists recently took an interest in this basic form of bio-computation, and noticed some intriguing structure and invariants. Some of their conjectures become completely transparent when reformulated in terms of bilinear forms on vector spaces over $\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}$. I will tell this story, and mention some of the combinatorial puzzles that remain to be solved.

Thursday November 21st, at 1:30 pm
Science Center 507