

“Manners are not taught in lessons,” said Alice. “Lessons teach you to do sums, and things of that sort.”

“And you do Addition?” the White Queen asked. “What’s one and one and one and one and one and one and one and one and one and one and one?”

“I don’t know,” said Alice. “I lost count.”

– Lewis Carroll, ‘Through the Looking-glass.’

The Trivial Notions Seminar Proudly Announces

ASM, DPP, 6V DWBC and what all these
letters mean

A talk by
Konstantin Matveev

Abstract

This talk will contain not only a quote by Lewis Carroll, but also a piece of mathematics by him - a way of computing determinants devised one hundred and fifty years ago. A generalization of this procedure will lead us to more modern topics, such as combinatorics of alternating sign matrices, descending plane partitions and the six-vertex model with domain wall boundary conditions from two dimensional statistical physics. Algebraic structure behind these models makes them integrable in a sense that one can explicitly compute certain weighted sums over their configurations (and hopefully we will not lose count).

Friday April 24th, at 1:00 pm
Science Center 222