

\*\*\* Please note this talk has been changed to Friday, 9:00-10:00 AM. \*\*\*

## Discrete Mathematics Seminar

Time: Friday, April 16, 2021, 9:00 - 10:00 AM (Central Time)  
Title: On Covering number of Groups with trivial Fitting subgroup  
Speaker: Dr. Yang Liu, Tianjin Normal University, China  
Zoom Link: Meeting ID: 999 2462 8868, Password: 753321

### Abstract:

Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $S$  be a subset of  $\text{Irr}(G)$ . If for every prime divisor  $p$  of  $|G|$  there is a character  $\chi$  in  $S$  such that  $p$  divides  $\chi(1)$ ,  $S$  is called a covering set of  $G$ . The covering number of  $G$ , denoted by  $cn(G)$ , is defined as the minimal number of  $\text{Card}(S)$ , where  $S$  is a covering set of  $G$  and  $\text{Card}(S)$  is the cardinality of set  $S$ . The concept of covering number was introduced by Alvis and Barry when they considered the Hupperts  $\rho - \sigma$  conjecture for simple groups and they proved that if  $G$  is a nonabelian simple group, then  $cn(G) \leq 2$  unless  $G \cong J_1$  or  $\text{PSL}(2, q)$  whose covering number equal to 3. Now we show that if  $G$  is a finite group with  $F(G) = 1$ , then the covering number  $cn(G) \leq 3$ . Especially, if  $\text{PSL}_2(q)$  or  $J_1$  is not involved in  $G$ , then  $cn(G) \leq 2$ .