

Discrete Mathematics Seminar

Time: Friday, 19 October 2012, 1:30-2:30 PM
Room: 336 Derrick Hall
Title: Combinatorial Complexity of Words
Speaker: Dr. Steven Widmer, Department of Mathematics, University of North Texas

Abstract:

A *word* is a finite, (right) infinite, or biinfinite sequence of symbols taken from a finite non-empty set, A , called an *alphabet*. The study of combinatorics on words eventually led to the investigation of how complex a word can be. In this talk we will discuss various notions of combinatorial complexity of words.

Bio

Steven Widmer received his B.S. from Texas State University in 2002 and M.S. from Baylor University in 2004, both in mathematics. In August 2006 he started working on his PhD at the University of North Texas and met his thesis adviser, Luca Zamboni. In January 2009 Steve had the opportunity to move to Reykjavík, Iceland to continue working on his thesis research at Reykjavík University. In August 2010 he moved to Lyon, France to finish his thesis due to complications with the Icelandic economy, and in November 2010 he successfully defended his PhD thesis in mathematics at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 in Lyon, France. In the fall term of 2011 Steve was hired as a lecturer with the University of North Texas.