Victor Reiner from University of Minnesota

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Loew Hall 113

Factoring cycles

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A classic result of Hurwitz, often credited to Dénes, says that in the symmetric group on $n$ letters, there are $n^{n-2}$ ways to factor an $n$-cycle into $n$-1 transpositions. Recent joint work with J. Lewis and D. Stanton (arXiv:1308.1468) uncovered a finite field $q$-analogue: in the general linear group $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$, there are $(q^n-1)^{n-1}$ ways to factor a Singer cycle into $n$ reflections.

This talk will discuss what this means, and how to prove such things.

Related Links:
Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences

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Event Type:
Colloquia

Event Subcalendar:
UW-PIMS Colloquium

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