

**B I - C O M A T H E M A T I C S
C O L L O Q U I U M**

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*“Group Cohomology and Free
Actions on Products of Spheres”*

Monday, September 17, 2007

Talk at 4:15 – Park 338
Tea at 3:45 – Park 355, Math Lounge

Abstract:

In 1978, Madsen, Thomas, and Wall proved that a finite group can act freely on a CW complex homotopy equivalent to a sphere if and only if it has periodic cohomology. Since this decades-old conjecture was proved, much work has been done to extend the result and find a classification of groups which can act freely on products of spheres. I will discuss recent progress in this area and some connections to representation theory and commutative algebra.

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