

BI-CO MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Zack Hamaker
Dartmouth College

"Random Sorting Networks"

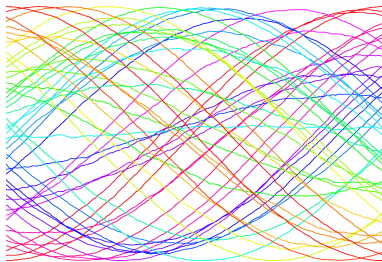
Monday, November 25, 2013

Talk at 4:00 – H109

Tea at 3:30 – KINSC Math Lounge, H208

Abstract:

A sorting network is a way to reverse a list of numbers by swapping adjacent entries in the list using as few swaps as possible. We will discuss what a random sorting network looks like. To do so, we will highlight the role of simulation in mathematics, use combinatorial and probabilistic techniques and explore what it means to describe a random object. There will be open problems. There will be surprising conjectures. We will look at the best pictures. It will be assumed that the audience is familiar with limits.



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