Speaker: David Galvin
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Friday, April 4, 2014
4:30 PM
231 Hayes-Healy Hall

Title: Stirling numbers of the first and second kinds

Abstract:

Stirling numbers of the second kind count partitions of a set into non-empty blocks. Stirling numbers of the first kind deal with a rather more structured problem: decomposing an element of the symmetric group into cycles. Stirling numbers of both kinds crop up in all kinds of nice algebraic identities, and turn out to be intimately connected with one another. I will use the Stirling numbers of the first & second kinds to introduce some of the concerns of enumerative combinatorics. Towards the end, I will try to fit in some very recent developments.