



Speaker: Thomas Parker
Michigan State University

Thursday, December 6, 2012
2:00 PM
258 Hurley Hall

Title: Concentrating Eigenfunctions and Spin Hurwitz numbers

Abstract:

The classical Hurwitz numbers count branched covers of a Riemann surface C . When C has a spin structure there is an analytically-defined parity, the Atiyah-Mumford invariant, associated to C and to each cover, counting covers with parity gives "spin Hurwitz numbers". In this talk I will describe a new viewpoint on the Atiyah-Mumford invariant based on concentrating eigenfunctions, and then outline the proof of a formula that gives a recursion formula for spin Hurwitz numbers. This is joint work with Junho Lee.