
ANDREW RECHNITZER, UBC

Some numerical experiments on a very combinatorial group

Richard Thompson's group F is a widely studied group which has provided examples of and counter-examples to a variety of conjectures in group theory. It is also an extremely combinatorially appealing object which has a beautiful description in terms of binary trees.

In this talk I will describe some combinatorial problems associated with F . One of these problems is directly related to the very open problem of the amenability of the group. I will explore this problem using some simple numerical methods that are usually applied to problems in statistical physics.

Joint work with Murray Elder, Eric Fusy, Buks van Rensburg and Thomas Wong will appear in this talk.