

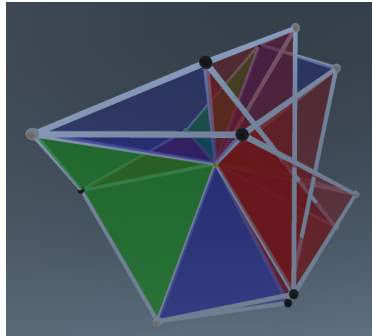
Student Research Talks (StReeTs)

George Mason University

A Visual Introduction to Buildings

Bram Bekker

Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands



Abstract

Although group theory is often described as the theory of symmetries, the geometry and exciting images that comes with it are often missing from standard expositions of the theory. In this talk, we will go beyond the algebra, breaking the chains of boring formulas and taking a closer look at geometric objects called buildings. Even for those not familiar with group theory, this talk will provide an alternative view on the inner workings of groups using a multitude of examples and images. We will gain some intuition about how buildings bridge the gap between group theory and geometry. If time allows, we will look at more technical, algebraic results and discuss how the theory of buildings gives us a criterion for a group to be simple.

Date: Friday, November 8, 2019

Time: 2:30pm–3:20pm

Place: Exploratory Hall 4106

Pizza and soda will be served at the presentation.

For further information or for special accommodations (including dietary restrictions), please contact Tracey Oellerich or Cigole Thomas via email at toelleri@gmu.edu or cthoma40@gmu.edu by Thursday.