

Manifolds and natural equivalence relations

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Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014
12:00pm
WIL 110

Abstract

A fundamental and deep problem in mathematics is a classification of the objects of study: which objects are the same, which are different. In this talk I will describe manifolds, objects studied in topology and geometry, and their natural equivalence relations. The various equivalence relations have a rich history even for simple examples such as Euclidean space or spheres. I will give an overview of what is known and what is still unsolved.