ALGEBRA SEMINAR

Bourdon's building and complexes of groups

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ABSTRACT: Bourdon's building is a certain highly symmetric, negatively curved 2-complex built out of right-angled polygons. Its automorphism group is large (uncountable) and remarkably rich. We study, and mostly answer, the question of when there is a discrete subgroup of the automorphism group such that the quotient is a closed surface of genus g. This involves some fun elementary combinatorics, but quickly leads to open questions in group theory and number theory. This is joint work with Anne Thomas.

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010
1:40 – 2:30 PM
ROOM 617, WACHMAN HALL
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS