

ALGEBRA SEMINAR

Growth functions in algebra: a challenge, I

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ABSTRACT: This series of two talks will deal with various “growth functions” that arise in algebra. The emphasis will be on growth functions for **groups**, but other algebraic structures will also play a role. Despite their elementary combinatorially flavored definition, growth functions of groups have played an important role in algebra and other areas; in fact, they originally arose in geometry and the main theorems about them have been contributed by geometers.

The material of these lectures will be accessible to beginning graduate students – no background in algebra is required beyond the basic definitions of group theory and some experience with linear algebra. The “challenge” in the title will be explained in the first lecture.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014
1:30 – 2:30 PM
ROOM 617, WACHMAN HALL
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS