Algebra/Topology Seminar

Jim Belk
Bard College

Turing Machines, Automata, and the Brin-Thompson Group 2V

Thursday, November 14, 2013
1:15 p.m. in ES-143

Abstract. The torsion problem for a finitely presented group asks whether a given word represents an element of finite order. In this talk, I will present a concrete example of a group with solvable word problem but unsolvable torsion problem. This group is known in the literature as 2V, and was introduced by Matt Brin in 2004 as a variant on Thompson’s group V. As a consequence, I will show that there is no algorithm to determine whether a given asynchronous transducer defines a transformation of finite order. This is joint work with Collin Bleak.