MATHEMATICS SEMINAR
of the
UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG
in cooperation with the
LUXEMBOURG MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

December 2008

9 December 2008, at 5 pm   **Room 3.04 bs**

Robert O. Bauer
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Random self-avoiding loops in Riemann surface—a direct construction of Werner's measure

Abstract

In 1999, Oded Schramm introduced the Stochastic Loewner Evolution (SLE) to describe the scaling limit of loop-erased random walk and other random simple curves that arise as the scaling limit of interfaces in various 2 dimensional models of statistical mechanics at criticality, such as the boundaries of clusters in percolation or the Ising model. Since then, our understanding of such random simple curves has advanced significantly—rigorous convergence results linking various discrete models with continuous scaling limits, computation of critical exponents (e.g. Mandelbrot's conjecture), and a probabilistic explanation of (some of the) concepts, constructions, and results in Conformal Field Theory. For his contribution to these advances Wendelin Werner was awarded the Fields medal in 2006.

One of Werner's results is the construction of the unique conformally invariant restriction measure on self-avoiding loops in Riemann surfaces. In this talk I will give a direct construction of this measure based on chordal SLE(8/3). Our construction highlights some of the basic techniques for SLE-type curves—deriving uniqueness from very general properties, and obtaining invariant measures by integrating covariant measures. Throughout this talk, I will emphasize the topological and geometric aspects of the theory.

Mikołaj Rotkiewicz, University of Warsaw

Geometry of affine values

Abstract

In standard Differential Geometry many constructions are based on the algebra $C^\infty(M)$ of smooth functions of a manifold M. In the geometry of affine values, AV-Geometry for short, we replace $C^\infty(M)$ by the space of sections of an affine bundle modelled on $M \times \mathbb{R}$. AV-Geometry turned out to be the proper language for the geometric description of many problems in Theoretical Mechanics. In my talk, I will describe basic objects of AV-Geometry and present new results on "double affine bundles" (joint work with J. Grabowski and P. Urbañski).