Slobodan Simić

SJSU

Topology and Physics (and SQUIDs)

May 11, 2016, MH320

Abstract: Topology is sometimes jokingly described as that branch of mathematics which is unable to tell between a doughnut and a coffee mug. But topology is not some esoteric abstract game with coffee mugs made out of play dough. In fact, topology plays a crucial and subtle role in our understanding of many physical phenomena! In this talk I will try to explain this statement through an example (or two, time permitting).

Background: Some familiarity with vector calculus would be helpful, but no prior knowledge of physics will be assumed.

About the speaker: Slobodan Simić has been at SJSU since 2004, prior to which he worked and studied at the University of Belgrade, UC Berkeley, University of Southern California, and University of Illinois. He likes all things geometric and topological (as well as analytical), but has mostly worked in dynamical systems and "nearby" fields. In recent years he has been getting increasingly interested in physics and he invites students to his Math 285 in Fall 2016, the goal of which will be to try to understand the geometry of Einstein's general relativity.

Snacks in MH331B at 2:30 pm
Talks start at 3 pm

For more information, see our full schedule at:

http://www.math.sjsu.edu/~hsu/colloq/