"A 'man of respect', as you people say around here, comes by one day and has a little talk with Salvatore Colasberna: a talk that says some things and doesn't say other things, full of allusions, indecipherable like the underside of a piece of stitching: a mess of string and knots, but if you flip it over, you can make out the shape."

—Leonardo Sciascia, Il giorno della civetta

The Trivial Notions Seminar
Proudly Announces

Strangely Symmetric Curves

A talk by

Andrew Dittmer

Abstract

The quartic plane curve $x^3y + y^3z + z^3x = 0$ has such complicated geometry that a whole book was written about it, one of the chapters of which was written by Noam Elkies. The curve is nonsingular and has a symmetry group isomorphic to the simple group of order 168, realized by one of the irreducible degree 3 representations of that group. But are there other (possibly singular) plane embeddings of that curve that are symmetric in the same way? This question leads to the Chevalley-Weil theorem, an old, useful, but not very widely known result.

Thursday November 4$^{\text{th}}$, at 3:00 pm
Science Center 507