

“The genius of you Americans is that you never make clear-cut stupid moves, only complicated stupid moves which make the rest of us wonder at the possibility that we might be missing something.”

— Gamal Abdel Nasser

The Trivial Notions Seminar
Proudly Announces

The Emperor and His Money

A talk by
Erick Knight

Abstract

The game of Sylver Coinage is a simple game: two people are in charge of the mint for a new country. They alternately mint positive integer valued coins. However, they may not mint a coin value that is redundant (if 5 and 7 have been minted, then 19 may not be). The game persists until one person is forced to mint the coin of value one (and then loses). This raises some natural questions: How long can this game take? Who wins? What is their strategy? In this talk, I will explain how all of these questions are basically intractable and what partial results are known.

Wednesday, February 3rd, at 12:00 pm
Science Center 222