Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Mathematics

LUNCH SEMINAR FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Monday, December 5, 2011
11:00 - 12:00 PM

Room 4-149

Mark Behrens
(MIT)

"Calculus of functors"

Abstract

I will describe what it means for a functor $F$ from topological spaces to topological spaces to be "linear". Basically, it means that $F$ is a homology theory. Then I will describe what it means to be "polynomial of degree $n$", and discuss T. Goodwillie's "Taylor series approximation" to any such functor. One of the most interesting cases is $F(X) = X$.

Followed by pizza in room 2-290