

Geometry, Groups and Dynamics/GEAR Seminar
(held at the Illinois hub of GEAR)

12:00 pm, 243 Altgeld Hall, Tuesday, August 29, 2017

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The twisted rabbit problem via the arc complex

Abstract: The twisted rabbit problem is a celebrated problem in complex dynamics. Work of Thurston proves that up to equivalence, there are exactly three branched coverings of the sphere to itself satisfying certain conditions. When one of these branched coverings is modified by a mapping class, a map equivalent to one of the three coverings results. Which one? After remaining open for 25 years, this problem was solved by Bartholdi—Nekrashevych using iterated monodromy groups. In joint work with Lanier and Margalit, we formulate the problem topologically and solve the problem using the arc complex.