

On Characters, Character Degrees, and a Conjecture by Huppert

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Abstract:

In the late 1990s, Bertram Huppert conjectured that if G is a finite group and H a finite nonabelian simple group such that the sets of character degrees of G and H are the same, then G is the direct product of H and an abelian group.

We will define and examine the major results in character theory with the goal of discussing Huppert's Conjecture and the progress towards its verification.

About the speaker:

Tom Wakefield is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Youngstown State University. He received his Ph.D in pure mathematics from Kent State University in August 2008 and spent a year teaching at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include the representation theory of simple groups, particularly with regards to character theory. He is also interested in actuarial science and applications of mathematics to finance and economics.

Refreshments at 2:30 PM in Science Center 313

Talk at 3:00 PM in Science Center 323