

March 5: Bertram Kostant (MIT), “On some of the mathematics in Garrett Lisi’s ‘ E_8 Theory of Everything’.”

The physicist Garrett Lisi has released a highly controversial but fascinating paper, purporting to go beyond the standard model in that it unifies all four forces of nature by using as gauge group the exceptional Lie group E_8 . My talk, strictly mathematical, will be about an elaboration of the mathematics of E_8 which Lisi relies on to construct his theory.