



Mathematical Sciences Research Institute

MSRI/Evans Talk

Monday, November 5, 2007

4:10pm

60 Evans Hall

University of California, Berkeley

“Discrete groups and Morse theory”

Dr. Mladen Bestvina

University of Utah

In the classical Morse theory one investigates the topology of a manifold M by considering a function $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and then studying the sublevel sets $f^{-1}(-\infty, t)$ and how they change as t increases. I will describe a method involving Morse theory to investigate if a given discrete group is finitely generated (or finitely presented).

Refreshments at a nearby establishment immediately following the talk!

*The purpose of these lectures is to introduce the present year's research programs at MSRI to the mathematical sciences community in Berkeley. The talks will be **expository and nontechnical**, providing some of the flavor of ongoing research at MSRI.*

Graduate students and Postdoctoral Fellows are particularly invited to attend these lectures.

Further information and links to the MSRI program and workshop web pages are available at:

<http://www.msri.org>