

# Philadelphia Area Number Theory Seminar

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## Periods of Iterated Rational Functions

**Abstract:** Choose a random polynomial  $f$  uniformly from among the  $q^d(q-1)$  polynomials of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{F}_q[x]$ . Let  $c_k$  be the number of cycles of length  $k$  in the directed graph on  $\mathbb{F}_q$  with edges  $f(v; f(v))$ . In this talk, I will show that if  $d = d(q) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $q \rightarrow \infty$ ; then the numbers  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_b$  are asymptotically independent Poisson( $\lambda=k$ ), just as in the classical theory of random mappings. Furthermore, if  $d = d(q) \rightarrow \infty$  slowly, and  $d = d(q) > \exp\left(\frac{\log q}{7^{1-3}}\right)$ , then for all sufficiently large prime powers  $q$

Thursday, April 7, 2016  
2:40-4:00PM

Bryn Mawr College  
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Park Science Center 328

Tea and refreshments at 2:20PM in Park 355