

## **Bradford Hovinen**

### **Talk: A nonclassical determinantal formula for the classical discriminant**

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FU-Berlin  
Institut fuer Mathematik  
Arnimallee 3, SR 119  
14195 Berlin

The classical discriminant of degree- $n$  polynomials is a formula which determines whether a polynomial  $f(x)$  of degree  $n$  has a repeated root. Several mathematicians in the 18th and 19th centuries devised ways to represent the discriminant as the determinant of a matrix, however all such classical presentations are equivalent in the sense that they have isomorphic cokernels. In this talk, I will describe a nontrivial determinantal presentation of the discriminant which is not equivalent to the classical ones. It is an explicit construction of the presentation matrix of the so-called "open swallowtail" defined by Arnold as a module over the coordinate ring of the hypersurface defined by the discriminant.

**Contact:**

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin . Institut für Mathematik  
SFB 647 . Unter den Linden 6 . 10099 Berlin  
Tel. +49 30 2093 1804 . Fax. +49 30 2093 2727  
sfb647@math.hu-berlin.de