DEARBORN | MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN

Colloquium



MONDAY, NOV 2, 2026

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM | 2048 CB

WHEN AI SOLVES YOUR DREAM PROBLEM

Speaker: Alan Wiggins
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Bio

Alan Wiggins is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Michigan–Dearborn, where he has taught since 2009. He earned his PhD from Texas A&M University in 2007, then completed a postdoctoral appointment at Vanderbilt University.His research focuses on von Neumann algebras, particularly type II_1 factors—infinite-dimensional mathematical structures that generalize square matrices—and subfactors, inclusions of one such structure inside another. He also has interests in operator and Banach spaces, dynamical systems, and quantum computing.

Abstract

The Free Group Factor Isomorphism problem is what got me hooked on my research area. I'll explain what this problem says without assuming any previous familiarity with the terms involved and why I think it is interesting. In their massive problem dump on GitHub, Open AI has claimed a solution. I will talk a bit about why, if correct, their result is surprising, and how mathematicians can react to such news.

Refreshments will be provided!