PIMS Distinguished Lecture Series

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## University of Alberta


October 30, 2009
3:30 p.m.
Classroom Building 435 (CL435)

## The Language of Forms

A journey from the Möbius strip, through affine Kac-Moody and superconformal algebras, to children's drawings

One of the most recurrent themes in both Physics and Mathematics, is the study and construction of objects that locally look the same. I will explain, mainly via examples and in non-technical terms, how the concept of "locally look the same" has evolved through time (mostly through some beautiful ideas of Serre and of Grothendieck).

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

Mathematics and Statistics

Pacific Institute FOR THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES