Undergraduate Math Club Fall 2005 2nd floor Nesbitt Common Room Oct. 13, 4:10-5:00pm (free pizza and pop, as always)

Hex and the Brouwer fixed-point theorem

Professor S. DeBacker

Abstract

Suppose a sheet is taken from a pad of paper, crumpled up, and placed back on the pad. Ignoring real-world complications (atoms, etc.), a remarkable theorem of Brouwer tells us that at least one point in the crumpled-up piece of paper lies directly above the point where it started. Using little more than the basic notion of continuity, we shall present a proof of Brouwer's theorem based on the fact that the twoperson game of Hex does not allow ties.