

Michigan Math Club

Thursday at 4pm in the Commons
Free Pizza and Pop



The Mathematics of Clock Making

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Abstract for 19 November 2009



During the mid 19th-century, Moritz Stern, a number theorist from Germany, and Achille Brocot, a French clockmaker, independently discovered a new way to enumerate the rational numbers using a combinatorial object called a binary tree. We will see how they did this, and also see how this structure is useful in setting up the gears and pinions in clocks.