

Michigan Math Club

Thursday at 4pm in the Commons

Free Pizza and Pop

The Google Search Algorithm

Sam Altschul

Abstract for 9 December 2010

In 1998 two computer science PhD students from Stanford wrote 'The Anatomy of a Search Engine,' outlining both the theoretical and practical basis for what the network of computers sitting in their dorm room was doing. Sergey Brin studied data mining systems, while Larry Page was more interested in evaluating the worth of a citation. Their combined expertise resulted in the fastest, most efficient, and most profitable internet search engine to date. In this talk we are going to focus on Mr. Page's side of the story. Our goal will be to explain the aptly named PageRank algorithm for assigning a value to a webpage based on its place within the internet rather than its actual content.

