Michigan Math Club

Thursday at 4pm in East Hall 2851
(Nesbitt Room) Free Pizza and Pop

Slaying the Hydra

Scott Schneider

Abstract for 3 Nov. 2011

The Lernean Hydra was a mythological creature, which, when one of its many heads was cut off, immediately grew two more. One of the ten labors of Hercules was to slay the Hydra. In order to help Hercules slay a mathematical version of the Hydra, we will introduce transfinite ordinal numbers, to do what Peano arithmetic cannot. Bring swords, helmets and spears, and a willingness to count past infinity!