Michigan Math Club

Thursday at 4pm in the Commons
Free Pizza and Pop

Omnisequences and Omnimosaics

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Abstract for 20 January 2011

As proponents of the Bible Code would have you believe, the Book of Genesis encodes events which did not occur until thousands of years after the text was written. But in reality, the same could be said of most sufficiently long texts. For instance, one English translation of Tolstoy's War and Peace contains every string of up to 950 letters and spaces as a subsequence. This raises the question: What is the shortest `word' that contains every `word' of a given length as a substring? We will discuss this problem, a two-dimensional generalization, and the major differences between these two cases.