Michigan Math Club

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

Tiling Regions with Dominoes

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Abstract for 16 Feb. 2012

An old recreational problem asks: take the 8 x 8 chessboard and remove from it two diagonally opposite corners. Can the resulting board be tiled by dominoes? In this talk, we'll discuss various kinds of tiling problems, which ask to tile a region using copies of a given set of tile shapes. We'll show that some basic notions and theorems in commutative algebra and algebraic geometry come up naturally in trying to answer this question.