



**Berlin
Mathematical
School**

BMS Fridays Colloquium

Friday, Oktober 17, 2008, 2:00 pm

Tea before the lecture starts at 1 pm

BMS Loft, Urania
An der Urania 17, 10787 Berlin

Norbert Schappacher (Strasbourg):
"Political Space Curves"



This talk tells the fate of a remark made by Leopold Kronecker in his Berlin lecture courses, on the number of equations needed to describe algebraic varieties. The remark is followed through more than one hundred years of changing mathematical theories and political upheavals. The story shows that it can be surprisingly difficult to determine the meaning and the truth of a mathematical statement. And if our story has a morale, then it is unreasonable resilience of computations in mathematics.

