



Berlin
Mathematical
School

BMS Friday Colloquium

Friday 26 November 2010 at 14:15

Tea before lecture begins at 13:00

BMS Loft, Urania, An der Urania 17, 10787 Berlin

Jean-Benoît Bost

(U Paris-Sud Orsay)

FUNDAMENTA NOVA
THEORIAE
FUNCTIONUM ELLIPTICARUM

AUCTORE
D. CAROLO GUSTAVO IACOBO IACOBI,
PROF. ORD. IN UNIV. REGIOM.



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The work of Jacobi on elliptic functions: an introduction for today's mathematician

Jacobi is well known as one of the founders of the classical theory of elliptic functions. Unfortunately his original contributions have often the reputation of being cryptic or out of fashion.

Jean-Benoît Bost's first aim in the lecture will be to describe some of Jacobi's ideas in modern terms, and to provide an introduction to the reading of his memoir "Fundamenta nova theoriae functionum ellipticarum" which, in his eyes, remains one of most fascinating piece of mathematical literature ever written.

Then he will discuss the posterity of diverse constructions and problems introduced by Jacobi in relation to elliptic functions. During the last decades, after a long period of neglect, several of them have played a central role in the development of modern number theory.

Jean-Benoît Bost studied mathematics at the ENS in Paris where he also taught until 1988. He then was a Research Fellow at the CNRS (Centre National de la recherche scientifique) and became its director in 1993. He was a professor at the Ecole Polytechnique and is a professor at the University of Paris Orsay since 1998.

Jean-Benoît Bost received the Prix Peccot-Vimont des College de France in 1990. In 2002 he was awarded the Prix Elie Cartan of the Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the Institut de France since 2005.