

Colloquium

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Friday, February 6, 2015 at 3pm in Bell Hall 143

Can associativity force commutativity?

This seemingly trivial question stems from a formidable proof of Bernau and Huijsmans that every archimedean almost f -algebra is commutative – a proof independent on associativity of the algebra. Moreover, every archimedean f -algebra is automatically associative and commutative, so in these classes of algebras associativity definitely does not force commutativity. Can associativity force commutativity at all? We will scratch the surface of this problem by giving several positive, several negative and several undecided answers. The research in this area is new and practically endless and can be conducted at various levels.