

1063-19-113

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*Quillen-Lichtenbaum phenomena in stable representation theory.*

This talk will describe a variety of results and calculations connecting the stable representation theory of discrete groups to cohomology and topological K-theory. Stable representation theory refers to the study of finite dimensional (unitary) representations, after stabilizing with respect to rank. Conjectures of Carlsson relate stable representation theory to the algebraic K-theory of fields, making our results analogous to the Quillen-Lichtenbaum conjectures. In fact, the comparison between stable representation theory and topological K-theory exhibits failure in a low dimensional range precisely analogous to the low dimensional failure of the Quillen-Lichtenbaum conjectures. In the context of stable representation theory, this low-dimensional failure has a geometric explanation, and has applications to gauge theory. Parts of this work are joint with T. Baird. (Received August 11, 2010)