



Algebra/Topology Seminar

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PRIMITIVITY IN FREE GROUPS

Part 1: Thursday, March 22, 2012, 1:15 p.m. in ES-143

Part 2: Thursday, March 29, 2012, 1:15 p.m. in ES-143

ABSTRACT. A set of elements in a free group F is said to be a primitive set if it is a subset of some basis of F . In these talks several theorems about primitive sets are presented. The results are applications of Whitehead's 3-dimensional model for studying automorphism of free groups; Nielsen transformations; and the folding method of labeled graphs initiated by J. Stallings.