VCU Discrete Mathematics Seminar

The Traveling Salesman Problem and P vs. NP

Prof Jack Edmonds

Tuesday, Oct. 14
12:30–2:30
4145 Harris Hall

An informal description for a general audience of some basic mathematical theory developed at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), and a bit of reminiscing about important mathematical NBS colleagues, Alan Hoffman, Alan Goldman, and Christoph Witzgall.

The Travelling Salesman Problem (TSP) is to find an optimum way for a stylus or a salesman to move through any prescribed set of points. It turns out to still be algorithmically difficult.

The most famous of unsolved mathematical questions is still whether or not the TSP will forever remain intrinsically difficult. While researching the TSP at NBS, some other seemingly difficult algorithmic problems were nicely solved.

For more information on our fall schedule, see:
`http://www.people.vcu.edu/~dcranston/DM-seminar/`