Bernoullis Tafelrunde

Graduate Student Seminar

Thursday 5th December 12:15-13:00
Seminarraum 05.002, Spiegelgasse 5

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Classification of simple singularities

Abstract

One of the highlights of early 20th century singularity theory was the classification of simple singularities, into the classes A_k, D_k, E_6, E_7, E_8. A singularity is called "simple" if after small perturbations we can only get finitely many non-equivalent singularities. In the case of surfaces, these are known as Du Val singularities, which in algebraic geometry are canonical singularities. I will give examples of simple and non-simple singularities, and say a few words on the proof of the classification.