The Department of Mathematics & Computer Science

Dr. Arno Berger
University of Alberta

Wednesday – 20 Nov 2013
12:00 to 12:50 p.m.
C630

TITLE: Digits and dynamics -- A tour of Benford's Law

ABSTRACT: Benford's Law, a notorious gem of mathematics folklore, asserts that leading digits of numerical data are usually not equidistributed, as might be expected, but rather follow one particular logarithmic distribution.

Ever since first recorded by Newcomb in 1881, this apparently counter-intuitive phenomenon has attracted much interest from scientists and mathematicians alike. This talk will describe in elementary terms some of the intriguing aspects of Benford's Law, and relate them to problems in probability and number theory and, above all, dynamics.

EVERYONE WELCOME!