

BAMA 3

School Year 2007—2008
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Joseph Gallian

The Mathematics of Identification Numbers

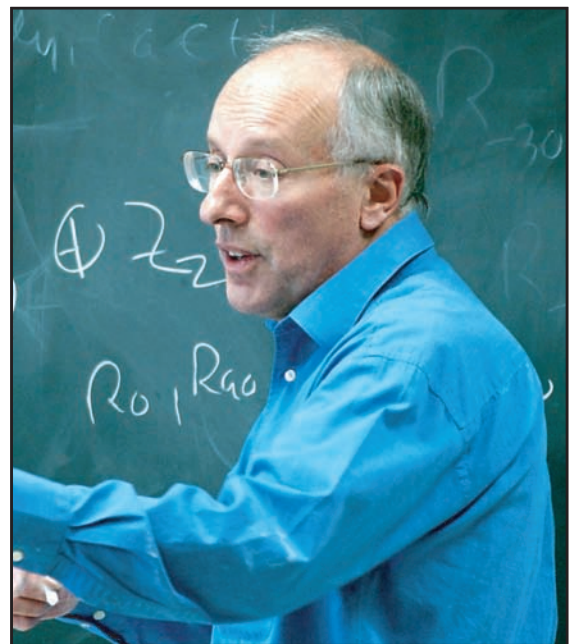


San Jose State University*
Science Building, Rm. 142

7:30 pm
Thursday, November 29

Because of the existence of inexpensive, fast, and reliable technology, consumer products are identified with bar codes and identification numbers that have a built-in "check" to partially ensure that the numbers have been correctly entered into a computer or have been correctly scanned by an optical device. In this talk we examine some of the common bar coding and check digits schemes that you encounter everyday. Among them are the UPC bar code, the ZIP bar code, and the check methods used on credit cards, airline tickets, money orders, travelers' checks, personal checks, pop cans, books and magazines.

Joseph Gallian is a Distinguished Professor of Teaching and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Winner of the Haimo award of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) for distinguished teaching; he has also received the MAA's Allendoerfer and Evans Awards for Expository Writing. In addition, he has served as a Polya Lecturer and Co-Director of Project NExT and is currently President of the Mathematical Association of America. For the past 30 years he has directed a summer undergraduate research program. Besides traditional math courses he also teaches a course on the Beatles.



* See back for map and directions.

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