

Ellis R. Kolchin Memorial Lecture

Prof. Jacob Lurie

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY

On the Classification of
Topological Field Theories



In the 1980's, Atiyah introduced a mathematical definition of the notion of a topological quantum field theory. In this talk, Lurie will review Atiyah's definition and explain the motivation for the more elaborate notion of an extended topological field theory. He will then describe a recent result (originally conjectured by Baez and Dolan) which provides a classification for these extended field theories.

Friday, April 10, 2009 at 4 p.m.

312 Mathematics Hall

2990 Broadway at 117th Street

Tea will be served at 3 p.m. in

508 Mathematics Hall