

Department of Mathematics, BGU

Excellence Day 2026

- 13:00-14:00 Lunch buffet on site
- 14:05 Greetings by Prof. Gaby Lemcoff, Dean of Natural Sciences.
- 14:10 Opening remarks: Michael Lin, Daniel Sternheimer,
- 14:20 Award of Excellence certificates to Ph.D. students Guy Shtotland and Liran Ron by Prof. Orna Braun-Lewensohn, Dean of Kreitman school of advanced studies and Dean Lemcoff .
- 14:30 Honorary lecture: *Prof. Benjy Weiss*, (Hebrew University) **The isomorphism problem in ergodic theory**
- 15:40 Prof. Yair Hartman will present the prizes for the 2026 Mathematics video competition to Itamar Har Even (first place) and Shahar Khudadadi (second place).
- 15:45 Presentation by Itamar Har Even of the winning video.
- 15:50 Prof. Tom Meyerovitch, Introducing the recipient of the Noriko Sakurai prize for excellent Post-Doc. Prize presented by Prof. Sternheimer.
- 15:55 Lecture by the 2026 Noriko Sakurai prize recipient Dr. Aidan Young
Title: Covering radii and games on graphs

Abstract: The covering radius of a shift space is a quantity arising from the study of error-correcting codes in information theory. We will describe how these quantities can be computed by game-theoretic methods, translating the quantity into the payout of a two-player zero-sum game on graphs. Based on joint work with Tom Meyerovitch

- 16:20 Prof. Gili Golan, introducing Mr. Eitan Sapir, the recipient of the Zabey- Harzfeld Prize for excellent Master thesis. Prize presented by Prof. Lin.
- 16:25 Professor Inna Entova- Eizenbod will present recognition certificates by the department to the BGU team to the 2025 International Math. Competition for students. *Gilad Ofek* (won third prize), *Yarden Gur Arie*, *Roei Sharfi* and *Iftah Nave* (received a commendation).
- 16:30 Prof. Inna Entova- Eizenbod and Mrs. Adaya Cohen will present the Mia Cohen prize for high-school student in the department to *Yasmin Ifrah*

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV
P.O.B. 653, BEER-SHEVA 84105, ISRAEL

Professor Michael Lin

Director, Center for Advanced Studies in
Mathematics
Department of Mathematics
Tel. 972-8-6461621 Fax. 972-8-6477648



<https://www.math.bgu.ac.il/research/center>

E-Mail: lin@bgu.ac.il

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
ת.ד. 653 באר-שבע 84105

פרופ' מיכאל לין

ראש המרכז ללימודים מתקדמים במתמטיקה
המחלקה למתמטיקה
טלפון: 08-6461621 פקס: 08-6477648

**The Department of Mathematics
and the Center of Advanced Studies in Mathematics
announce the 2026 Miriam Cohen Mathematics Excellence Day**

**Honorary guest lecturer: Prof. Benjy Weiss,
2026 Mathematics Israel Prize recipient**

Awards of the Noriko Sakurai prize and the Zabey- Harzfeld prize

***Tuesday, June 30 at 13:00, at the Deichmann building for Mathematics (58),
Seminar room -101***

Program

13:00-14:00 Lunch buffet on site

14:05 Greetings by Prof. Gaby Lemcoff, Dean of Natural Sciences.

14:10 Opening remarks:

Prof. Michael Lin,

Director of the Center of Advanced Studies in Mathematics

Prof. Daniel Sternheimer,

Universities of Rikkyo (Japan) and Bourgogne (France)

14:20 Award of **Excellence certificates to Ph.D. students Guy Shtotland and Liran Ron by Prof. Orna Braun-Lewensohn, Dean of Kreitman school of advanced studies and Dean Lemcoff.**

- 14:30 **Honorary lecture:**
Prof. Benjy Weiss, (Hebrew University)
 Title: *The isomorphism problem in ergodic theory*
 Abstract: Ergodic theory is mainly the study of measure preserving transformations of a measure space.
 The isomorphism problem is the problem of determining when two such transformations are isomorphic.
 I will give some highlights of its history which goes back to a fundamental paper of J. von Neumann in 1932. Recent results, which show in a rigorous fashion why the problem is so difficult will also be described.
- 15:40 Prof. Yair Hartman will present the prizes for the 2026 Mathematics video competition to Itamar Har Even (first place) and Shahar Khudadadi (second place).
- 15:45 Presentation by Itamar Har Even of the winning video.
- 15:50 Prof. Tom Meyerovitch, Introducing **the recipient of the Noriko Sakurai prize for excellent Post-Doc**. Prize presented by Prof. Sternheimer.
- 15:55 Lecture by the **2026 Noriko Sakurai prize recipient Dr. Aidan Young**
 Title: *Covering radii and games on graphs*
 Abstract: The covering radius of a shift space is a quantity arising from the study of error-correcting codes in information theory. We will describe how these quantities can be computed by game-theoretic methods, translating the quantity into the payout of a two-player zero-sum game on graphs. Based on joint work with Tom Meyerovitch.
- 16:20 Prof. Gili Golan, introducing **Mr. Eitan Sapir, the recipient of the Zabey- Harzfeld Prize for excellent Master thesis**. Prize presented by Prof. Lin.
- 16:25 Professor Inna Entova- Eizenbod will **present recognition certificates by the department to the BGU team to the 2025 International Math**. Competition for students. Gilad Ofek (won third prize), Yarden Gur Arie, Roei Sharif and Ifrah Nave (received a commendation).
- 16:30 Prof. Inna Entova- Eizenbod and Mrs. Adaya Cohen will present **the Mia Cohen prize for high-school student in the department to Yasmin Ifrah**

You are cordially invited

Professor Michael Lin and Professor Ariel Yadin

Time: *Jun ,30 ,17:00—13:00 2026*

Location: *101-*

Web: *<https://www.math.bgu.ac.il/research/events/excellence-day-2026>*