

Department of Mathematics, BGU

Colloquium

On Tuesday, November 3, 2015

At 14:30 – 15:30

In Math 101-

Kobi Peterzil (Hafia)

will talk about

Applications of model theory to diophantine geometry

Abstract: A family of problems in diophantine geometry has the following form: We fix a collection of “special” algebraic varieties where the 0-dimensional are called “special points”. In general, if V is a special variety then the special points are Zariski dense in V , and one would like to prove the converse: If V is an irreducible algebraic variety and the special points are Zariski dense in V then V itself is special. Particular cases of the above are the Manin-Mumford conjecture, the Mordell-Lang conjecture, and others. In the 1990’s Hrushovski showed how model theoretic techniques could be applied to solve certain such problems. In 2008 Pila and Zannier developed a different framework which allows to apply model theory and especially the theory of o-minimal structures, in order to tackle questions of this nature over the complex numbers. Pila himself used these methods to prove some open cases of the Andre-Oort conjecture and since then there was an influx of articles which use similar techniques. At the heart of the

Pila-Zannier method lies a theorem of Pila and Wilkie on rational points on definable sets in o-minimal structures. In this survey-like talk I will describe the basic ingredients of the Pila-Zannier method and its applications, in one or two simple cases.