
MICHAEL DAVIS, Ohio State University

The Euler Characteristic Conjecture and the Charney-Davis Conjecture

The Euler Characteristic Conjecture is the following assertion about the sign of the Euler characteristic of any closed aspherical manifold M^{2k} : $(-1)^k \chi(M^{2k}) \geq 0$. In the case of higher dimensional Haken manifolds it is closely related to the Charney-Davis Conjecture on the sign of a quantity attached to flag triangulations of odd dimensional spheres. I will survey work on these conjectures and related topics.