

Seminari de Geometria Algebraica 2009/2010 (UB-UPC)
Divendres 5 de febrer a les 15h. a l'aula 005 FME-UPC
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Plane curves and Cremona transformations

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This is joint work with Ciro Ciliberto. The problem of classifying plane curves up to Cremona transformations is classical and goes back to Cremona himself and his school. It has been recently attacked also by Iitaka and others, but it was never solved so far. In this talk we will review the history of this problem and we will show how to solve it, by producing, for each plane curve, a Cremona model with minimal degree. Similar results has been obtained independently by Massimiliano Mella and Elena Polastri. If time permits, a few applications will be presented.
