

Title: Subshifts of finite symbolic rank

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Abstract: Inspired by the cutting and stacking process for constructing measure preserving transformations, we define a symbolic rank for topological subshifts that are generated by certain infinite words. In this talk I will report some results concerning subshifts of finite symbolic rank and their topological factors. For example, any minimal Cantor system of finite topological rank is either an odometer or conjugate to a subshift of finite symbolic rank. While an infinite odometer cannot be conjugate to any subshift, there exist subshifts of symbolic rank two whose maximal equicontinuous factor is conjugate to the given odometer. This is joint work with Ruiwen Li, which is based on some earlier joint work with Ruiwen Li, Cesar Silva, and his students.