Professor David Wraith

When is a product not a product?

Abstract

The answer to the question in the title is: when the product is a Hatcher bundle. The first part of this talk will explore the construction and curious properties of Hatcher bundles. In the second part we will discuss the space of Ricci positive metrics on odd dimensional spheres, and indicate how Hatcher bundles can be used to uncover subtle aspects of the topology of this space. This is joint work with Boris Botvinnik and Mark Walsh.