

Seminarium geometrów

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Some new invariants of manifolds

Abstract: An old paper of Milnor and Thurston defines the simplicial volume in a special situation and promises some new invariants of three manifolds. I don't think I have invariants they had in mind, but there is an approach to invariants of manifolds, which is somewhat in their spirit. I plan to discuss some almost philosophical issues about complexity of spaces and manifolds, especially related to the mapping degree, and show how this leads to some new invariants of manifolds, which as of today do not lead to a solution of any big unsolved problem.