

## Florian Frick (Cornell)

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### Intersections of Finite Sets: Geometry and Topology

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#### Abstract for the Combinatorics Seminar 2017 February 20

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Given a collection of finite sets, Kneser-type problems aim to partition this collection into parts with a well-understood intersection pattern, such as that in each part any two sets intersect. Since Lovász' solution of Kneser's conjecture concerning intersections of all  $k$ -subsets of an  $n$ -set, topological methods have been a central tool in understanding intersection patterns of finite sets. We will develop a method that in addition to using topological machinery takes the topology of the collection of finite sets into account via a translation to a problem in Euclidean geometry. This leads to simple proofs of old and new results.

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