K-Theory, Quadratic Forms and Number Theory Seminar

Title: The Pfister Factor Conjecture

Speaker: Dr Karim Johannes Becher (Universitaet Konstanz)

Date: Wed 26th September 2007 at 4:00PM

Location: Mathematical Sciences Seminar Room

Abstract: The characteristic properties of Pfister forms in quadratic form theory suggest several possibilities to define 'Pfister involutions' in the more general setting of central simple algebras with involution. It will be explained why these different notions coincide at least in the split case (i.e., for matrix algebras). This confirms a conjecture, originally formulated by Daniel Shapiro in the context of compositions of quadratic forms.