

RICCI FLOW AND GEOMETRIZATION OF 3-MANIFOLDS

organized by

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Workshop Summary

This was an unusual workshop in several respects. It revolved around two recent papers by a single author – papers which are potentially among the most important in Mathematics in the last 50 years – which are currently only partially understood. Accordingly the planning phase was delicate, and required several revisions as new information came to light.

The principal objectives of the meeting were to bring together people who were strongly motivated to read through Perelman’s papers, give a detailed presentation of some key steps in the first part of his program, and facilitate further reading by giving an overview of the rest. Judging by participant feedback the workshop achieved these objectives.

Both before and during the workshop the AIM staff had suggested several tactics for stimulating useful interaction. We experimented with these, and concluded by the end of the week that for this particular meeting the best format seemed to be relatively unstructured discussion in small spontaneously formed groups. As organizers, we were faced with an abundance of topics which people wanted to hear about, and a shortage of speakers who were comfortable addressing them. This was an inherent limitation of our program, but in the end it wasn’t fatal because the level of preparation varied widely, and even the best informed benefited from hearing other people’s take on familiar material.