



Bio Sketch for Charles Semple

What area of maths do you mostly work in?

Discrete mathematics.

Tell us a bit more...

This is the mathematics that underpins computer science, but don't ask me to program, I haven't a clue. Two particular areas of discrete mathematics that I work in are phylogenetics and matroid theory. Phylogenetics is the reconstruction and analysis of phylogenetic (evolutionary) trees and networks based on inherited characteristics, while matroid theory is the study of the structures that underlie the solution of many combinatorial optimization problems.

What areas of maths do you follow from a purely interest standpoint?

Combinatorics, computational biology, and computational complexity.

What were your best and worst subjects at school?

Mathematics (best), French (worst)

When you decided you wanted to be a mathematician and why

While taking a year off teaching and travelling in East Africa, I thought about returning to university and it snowballed from there.

What training (degrees and subjects) you've done

BSc(Hons) (Massey University), Diploma of Teaching (Auckland College of Education), MSc, PhD (Victoria University of Wellington)

Most interesting place you've travelled with your research

Six weeks in southern France was pretty good.

If you follow sport, what sport, and which team - if not, why not!?

Hawkes Bay, Hurricanes, and Central Districts