Ricci flow: techniques and applications

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ABSTRACT

This talk is an introduction to the techniques that are used to study the Ricci flow. We start with discussing certain metrics which evolve paticularly simple under it. We introduce Perelman's entropies and explain why the Ricci flow cannot form loops in the space of metrics modulo diffeomorphisms. Finally, we will discuss how the Ricci flow can be used to classify compact three-manifolds with positive Ricci curvature.