Seminar on Combinatorial Computing
October 18, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Room 8404, Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue, New York

Pancakes, parallel computation and genome rearrangement

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Abstract

In 1975 Jacob E. Goodman raised the problem of how many "flips" might be required to arrange any stack of n pancakes of unequal size into size order. This seemingly simple question has inspired many results and variants. In this talk a survey will be given of problems and results inspired by Goodman's question. Like many other elegant problems it turns out this question also has applications. Some of these applications will also be explored.

For further information contact Janos Pach at pach@cims.nyu.edu, or visit our website: http://math.gc.cuny.edu/Seminars/Combinatorics.html