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Field patching, quadratic forms and division algebras

In this talk I will discuss applications of the method of field patching, recently developed by Harbater and Hartmann, towards problems in quadratic forms and division algebras. In particular, I will discuss approaches to the computation of the u -invariant and approaches to the period-index problem for certain fields of the form $K(C)$ where K is a complete discretely valued field and C is a curve over K .

This is joint work with Harbater and Hartmann.