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Profinite rigidity in low-dimensions I

A finitely generated residually finite group G is called profinitely rigid if whenever a finitely generated residually finite group H has a profinite completion isomorphic to that of G, then H is isomorphic to G. Although by now there are many constructions of groups that are not profinitely rigid, there seems to be a growing sense that when G is a free group, surface group or the fundamental group of a finite volume hyperbolic 3-manifold, things are different and these will be profinitely rigid. The first lecture will describe background and examples.