

Linking descriptive set theory to symbolic dynamics

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During my first visit to the CRM, over twenty years ago, I was interested to learn that Professor Alsedà's group at the UAB were studying problems in symbolic dynamics that involved ordinals, and I found over the subsequent decade that ideas from descriptive set theory could be used to solve these problems. More recently, my colleague Christian Delhommé has shown that my results in Baire space can be transferred efficiently to the dynamics of Cantor space.

The aim of this talk is to describe the original problems, to sketch the ideas used so far, to list some open questions arising and to seek other problems in symbolic dynamics that might be amenable to similar treatment.