Church-Oswald Models for Set Theory

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Church’s back-burner interest in set theory with a universal set resulted in a late paper in 1974. His motivation seems to have been to make the point that the universe (unlike the Russell class, whose nonexistence can be proved in first-order logic with no set-theoretic assumptions) is not a paradoxical object.

Church’s construction is simple (it was discovered at about the same time by Oswald - hence title), elegant and effective, but it has never attracted much attention (three Ph.D. theses in 57 years), so we don’t yet really know what limits there are on what can be done with it.

This will be an introductory talk intended for an audience that knows its way around ZF

Time: Thursday, 04/7/2011, 2:40-3:30pm
Location: MG 108
Refreshments: at 2:10pm in MG 226