

Wellhausen's conjecture - what is it trying to tell us?

Samuel James Patterson, Georg-August-Universität zu Göttingen

The problem of describing the coefficients of the metaplectic theta functions remains unsolved except for the cubic case. There are conjectural descriptions in the biquadratic and sextic cases. It was G. Wellhausen who investigated the sextic case and his conjecture is not as precise as one would have hoped for but it can be extended to a more general context where it is unfortunately as yet untested. In this talk I shall discuss the possibility of making the conjecture more precise and of testing it in other cases. It appears that we are reaching our present theoretical and experimental limits.