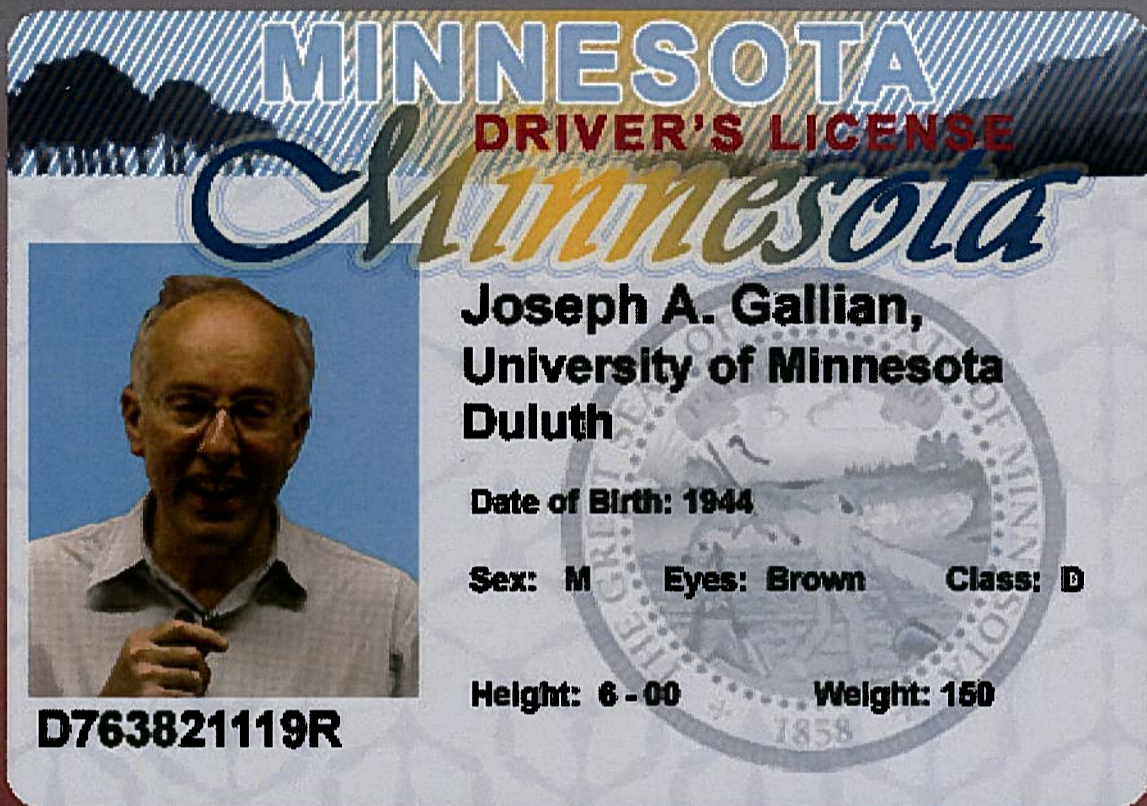


# Breaking Driver's License Codes



Many states use complicated algorithms or formulas to assign driver's license numbers but keep the method confidential. Just for the fun of it, I attempted to figure out how the states code their license numbers. In this talk I will discuss how I was able to break the code for Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri.

The talk illustrates an important problem-solving technique used by scientists but is not emphasized in mathematics classes.

It also teaches the lesson that sometimes things done just for the sake of curiosity can have applications.

Joe Gallian received a Ph. D. from Notre Dame in 1971, and has been at the University of Minnesota Duluth since 1972. He is the author of the book "Contemporary Abstract Algebra" and coauthor of the book "For All Practical Purposes". His research interests include groups, graphs and combinatorics. He has published more than 100 articles and given over 250 invited lectures at colleges, universities and conferences, and has directed summer research programs for undergraduate students since 1977. He has received teaching awards from the Mathematical Association of America, the Carnegie Foundation and the University of Minnesota. Besides the usual math courses, he teaches a Humanities course called the "The Lives and Music of the Beatles" and a liberal arts course on math and sports. He is a past President of the MAA.

**Free and Open to the Public**

**6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday  
March 21, 2013**

**Middleton Auditorium  
Strickler Hall 101**

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