



UCL Undergraduate Mathematics Colloquium

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Is true AI mathematically impossible?

11th February 2026

Speaker: **Dr Wesley Wrigley**

(Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS)

Abstract: Tech companies have recently been pouring money into AI mathematics, often described as an effort to try and “solve math” using computers. But an idea has been circulating for around 75 years that true (or “strong”) AI—a computer programme that is capable of proving all the theorems that are provable by human mathematicians—is mathematically impossible. There are several arguments for this conclusion, all motivated in some way by Gödel’s incompleteness theorems, which are fundamental limitative results from mathematical logic. In this talk, I’ll introduce the incompleteness theorems, and discuss the best argument based on them for the impossibility of AI, put forward by Nobel laureate Roger Penrose.

Location: Room B03, Drayton House, 30 Gordon Street

Time: **4-5pm**

