The SUMO Speaker Series for Undergraduates

Thursday, October 17th

4:15-5:05, room 380C

(Food Provided)

The projective plane

Professor Brian Conrad



ABSTRACT:

In Euclidean geometry, notions of distance and angle play an essential role. There is an alternative framework, projective geometry, in which the concept of distance and angle are abandoned yet something substantial remains (as was known in a rudimentary form to Renaissance artists). In fact, projective geometry even simplifies the analysis of some questions in Euclidean geometry. We will discuss a bit of the history behind this important branch of geometry, and illustrate some of its interesting applications by focusing on the 2-dimensional case, where it is already quite interesting.

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