SUMO Speaker Series for Undergraduates

Wednesday, November 12th
4:30-5:30, room 380C (in the basement)

What is a Class Number Formula?
Professor Akshay Venkatesh

Abstract:
How many lattice points lie on a sphere? That is: how many integers \((x,y,z)\) satisfy \(x^2+y^2+z^2 = N\), in terms of the integer \(N\)? We will study some data and then guess our way to the answer (or rather, an amazing exact formula for it). This is a very down-to-earth example of what mathematicians call a "class number formula."

Food provided from Pizza Chicago