

Stanford Department of Mathematics SUMO Speaker Series

Tuesday, January 10th

5:30 – 6:20PM, Ricker Dining Green Room (238 Santa Teresa St.)

Please feel free to bring in dinner from Ricker Dining before the talk.

The ABC Conjecture



Brian Conrad

Abstract

The ABC Conjecture, formulated in the mid-1980's by Oesterle and Masser, is one of the most important conjectures in number theory. It has many deep consequences, but its basic formulation can be given in entirely elementary terms. In September 2012, a 500-page solution was announced by Shinichi Mochizuki (building on several thousand pages of work he has carried out over the last 20 years).

I will explain what the conjecture asserts, illustrate why it is important, and discuss the surreal and unprecedented circumstances that have engulfed the process of dissemination of the ideas to the wider mathematical community.

<http://sumo.stanford.edu/speakers.html>