

The SUMO Speaker Series for Undergraduates

Tuesday, May 2nd

5:30 – 6:20PM, Manzanita Multipurpose Room (661 Escondido Road)

NOTE: NEW LOCATION AT CASPER DINING! Talks will be held at the Manzanita Multipurpose Room at Casper Dining starting May 2nd.

Low-degree polynomials and error-correcting codes



Mary Wootters

Abstract

Low degree polynomials don't have too many roots. For example, a quadratic polynomial has at most two roots, a cubic polynomial has at most three, and so on. While this fact may not seem so exciting, in fact it's at the root (pun totally intended) of many constructions of error correcting codes, which are a fundamental tool for applications in communication, storage, and experimental design. In this talk, we'll see why it's a really good thing that low-degree polynomials don't have too many roots!

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