

The SUMO Speaker Series for Undergraduates

Wednesday, February 4th
5:15-6:15, room 380C

Where Parallel Lines Meet

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ABSTRACT:

No, it's not Nevernever land, but the Projective Plane. What is such a creature? Some might argue it's just barely more than an ordinary plane, with an extra "line at infinity", while others say that it's a sphere where pairs of antipodal points are forced to be the same point, and yet others says it is a disc for which the boundary has been glued to itself in a special way. Fancy-pants people say it is a "moduli space" of lines. We'll see why everyone is right, and make a quick incursion into the geometry of this fascinating object which, by the way, was not discovered by mathematicians but rather by Italian painters in the Renaissance (but this might have to be a story for another day...)

Food from Pizza Chicago

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