MATH ENCOUNTERS

BOUNCING around: *the* LANGUAGE *of* BILLIARDS *in* POLYGONS

Speaker: Jayadev Athreya

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Special introduction by Fields Medalist and Institute for Advanced Study mathematician Akshay Venkatesh.

Afternoon Presentation 4:00 pm ET (New York)

Evening Presentation 7:00 pm ET (New York) How many ways can a billiard ball bounce around a polygonal table? This seemingly simple question opens the door to some surprisingly deep mathematics. It turns out we don't know much about mathematical billiards in polygons, even though they are very simple models of Newtonian mechanics. Join Jayadev Athreya, Professor of Mathematics and the Comparative History of Ideas at the University of Washington, who will share some very new mathematics as we explore the intriguing dynamics at the intersection of geometry and motion.

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