MATH ENCOUNTERS

FROM *volcanoes to* ROBOTS:
the HIDDEN *geometric* PATTERN *shaping* OUR *world*

Speaker: Noah Giansiracusa

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Afternoon Presentation
4:00 pm ET (New York)

Evening Presentation
7:00 pm ET (New York)

National Museum of Mathematics
635 Sixth Avenue
New York, NY

On the northern coast of Ireland, nearly perfect pentagons and hexagons rise up from the sea in stone columns. The shapes in this remarkable natural formation, called the Giant's Causeway, have had a remarkable impact through history. In the 18th century, these forms helped geologists discover our planet's volcanic origins. In the 19th century, the same geometric pattern helped Darwin shore up a gap in his theory of evolution and also helped end a cholera outbreak. In the 20th century, this same pattern helped telecom engineers design efficient cell phone networks. And today, the pattern helps autonomous robots navigate through the world. How can one pattern connect volcanoes, viruses, evolution, and robots? Join mathematician Noah Giansiracusa as we explore the surprising mathematics behind it all.

Register now at mathencounters.org to reserve your place!

MATH ENCOUNTERS

A public presentation series celebrating the spectacular world of mathematics

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