



The Math Colloquium
Department of Mathematics
San José State University



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University of Southern California

*Continued fractions, the Farey tessellation,
and contact topology*

FEBRUARY 10, 2010, MH320

Abstract: The goal of this talk is to highlight some aspects of the topology of the torus (e.g., the surface of a donut). One way to distinguish the torus from the sphere (e.g., the surface of the earth), is to study curves on them. I will explain how to organize the data of curves on a torus via the Farey tessellation, and how the Farey tessellation relates to continued fractions and contact topology (my area of specialty).

Background: A first course in linear algebra.

About the speaker: Ko Honda received his Ph.D. from Princeton University and is a Professor of Mathematics at USC. He is spending this academic year at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in Berkeley. He is a recipient of the 2009 Geometry Prize of the Mathematical Society of Japan.

SNACKS IN MH331B AT 2:30 PM

TALK STARTS AT 3 PM

For more information, see our full schedule at:

<http://www.math.sjsu.edu/~hsu/colloq/>