



The Math Colloquium
Department of Mathematics
San José State University



Brian Conrad

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The ABC Conjecture

OCTOBER 17, 2012, MH320



Abstract: The ABC Conjecture, formulated in the mid-1980's by Oesterle and Masser, is one of the most important conjectures in number theory. It has many deep consequences, but its basic formulation can be given in entirely elementary terms. Earlier this month, a 500-page solution was announced by Shinichi Mochizuki (building on several thousand pages of work he has carried out over the last 20 years). In this talk, I will explain what the conjecture asserts, some evidence that supports it, and a few of its corollaries.

Background: Most of this talk can be understood using only pre-calculus (integer and rational solutions of equations), though students who have seen some number theory or abstract algebra will get more out of the talk.

About the speaker: Brian Conrad received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in the mid-1990's. After a few years as a postdoc, he joined the University of Michigan math department, where he enjoyed his time for 7 years until the pull of California brought him out to Stanford in 2008. His recent interests have been in the area of algebraic groups.

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/>