



The Math/Stats Colloquium
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
San José State University



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What is an elliptic curve?

APRIL 23, 2014, MH320

Abstract: Before attempting an answer, I will first ask an easier question: what is a circle? The different points of view, algebraic, geometric, and analytic are related in various illuminating ways. Each has an analogue in the world of elliptic curves. Time permitting, I would like to explain how the vexing old problem of trying to compute the arc length of an ellipse comes to be related to questions in number theory, like the $n = 3$ case of Fermat's last theorem.

Background: One semester abstract algebra.

About the speaker: Michael Larsen received a Ph.D. from Princeton and is now a Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Indiana University. He is interested in number theory, algebraic geometry, group theory, topology, and combinatorics.

SNACKS IN MH331B AT 2:30 PM
TALKS START AT 3 PM

For more information, see our full schedule at:

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