

Math Coffee

The Cubic and Quartic Formulas (cubic and quartic lite)

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The cubic formula may be understood as an application of Galois theory. This will NOT be treated in the present talk. The cubic formula may also be understood as a tool of abstract algebra to elicit the structure of groups of automorphisms. This too will be totally avoided. Finally the cubic formula may be understood as a simple consequence of two clever tricks. THAT is what this talk is about. And, whatever effort is required to understand the cubic formula, fifty percent more effort nails the quartic formula. The cute tricks presented do for third and fourth degree polynomial equations what the quadratic formula does for quadratics.

Thursday, March 4th 3:15-4:15
Coffee and cookies in 102 Cowley,
followed by the talk in room 151.