

BAMA

School Year 2014—2015
Join us for a free talk...

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John Stillwell

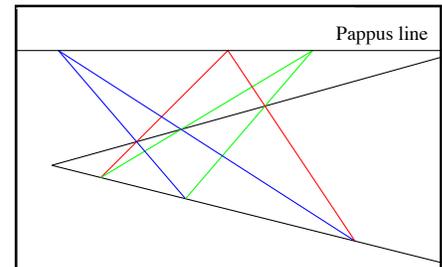
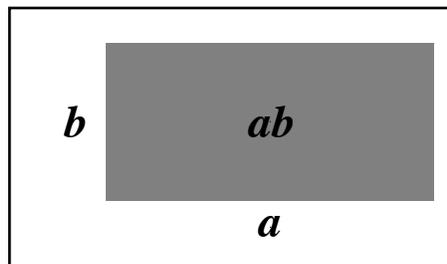
ET Math: How different could it be?



San Jose State University*
Science Building, Rm. 142

7:30 pm
Friday, December 5, 2014

If we hope to detect extraterrestrial intelligence by looking for signals that seem like math, we need to be aware of the different ways in which math may be expressed. Consider the idea that "multiplication is commutative," which we usually express by the equation $ab=ba$. Even this simple idea has been understood in hugely different ways by human mathematicians, as I hope to show in this talk, so ET math may be hard to recognize! For example, geometry gives two very different ways to explain $ab=ba$. There is an easy way (Euclid), which you can probably guess from the picture below, and a hard way (Pappus) which even Pappus did not guess from his picture.

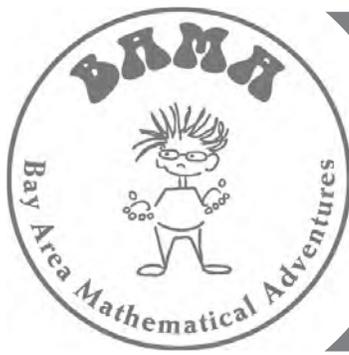


John Stillwell was born in Australia and educated at Melbourne University and MIT. After teaching for 30 years at Monash University in Melbourne, he became Professor of Mathematics at the University of San Francisco in 2002. He has written numerous books on mathematics, the best known of which are "Classical Topology and Combinatorial Group Theory" and "Mathematics and Its History."

* See back for map and directions.

Visit the Bay Area Mathematical Adventures (BAMA) at <http://mathematicaladventures.org>

To receive email notifications about BAMA talks, please contact Frank Farris at ffarris@scu.edu.



BAMA

Bay Area Mathematical Adventures

A series of presentations on diverse topics by remarkable mathematicians. All talks are free and open to the public.

WHY?

BAMA aims to challenge and motivate students to think mathematically. Speakers will present real mathematics, and will share with the audience modern views of mathematics. Some talks will provide students with related problems, or will enable teachers to expand later on the topics with their students.

WHO?

BAMA is aimed at bright high-school age students. However, all are welcome: younger or older students, teachers, parents, and the general public.

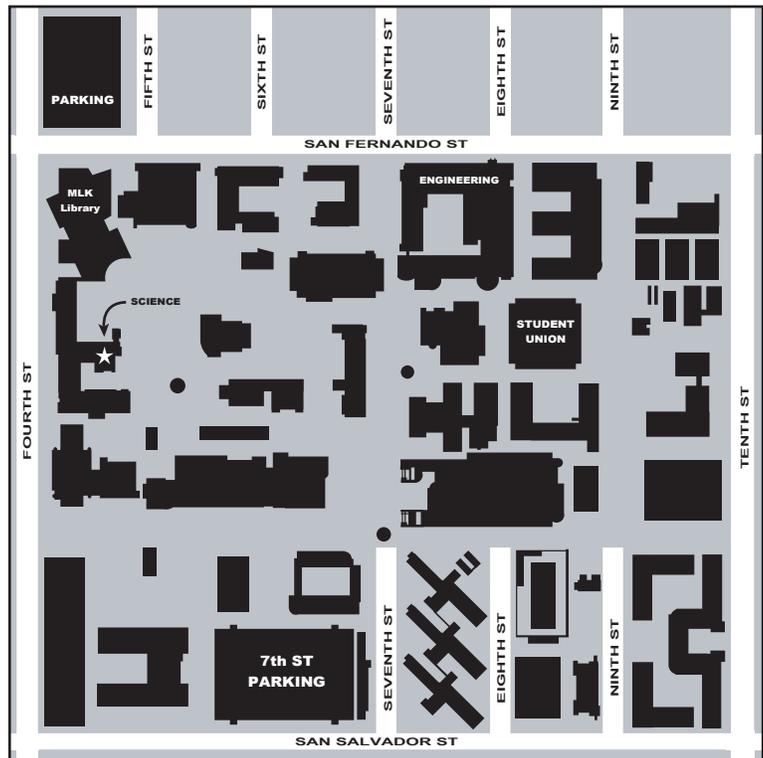
WHEN?

Evening talks will be given approximately once a month between September and April. Each talk will be self-contained (speakers will not assume their audiences have attended previous talks).

WHERE?

San Jose State University Science Building, Rm 142

- From 101 take the First Street or Guadalupe Expressway exit and go to Fourth Street.
- Take Fourth to San Salvador Street; turn left onto San Salvador and park in the South Garage. The automated pay stations located on level 3 and above accept coins, \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills, Visa or Master Cards. Parking is \$1.00 per ½ hour or \$5.00 day pass after 5:30.
- From 280 take the 7th Street exit and turn North on Seventh St. The garage is on the left after 5 or 6 blocks.



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FOR MORE INFO:

<http://www.mathematicaladventures.org>

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