

BAMA

School Year 2022—2023
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3

John M. Lee

The Curvature of Space

**Via Zoom at 7:30 pm
December 6, 2022**

<https://scu.zoom.us/j/98440051871?pwd=ZmJ3TXZyYzhvQ00yZjlUQXJVSIFuZz09>

Please join meeting between 7:15 and 7:30 pm

Meeting ID: 984 4005 1871

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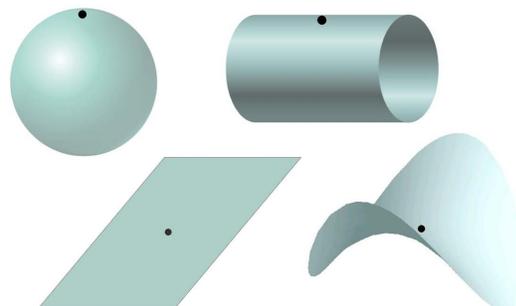
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Was everything there is to know about geometry already discovered ages ago? Not at all. Since the time of Euclid, the history of geometry has been a dramatic saga that high-school geometry courses might not tell you about. It led, more than a century ago, to the mind-bending mathematical discovery that the three-dimensional space we live in might be "curved," in much the same way as the two-dimensional surface of the earth is curved.

We'll talk about what it could possibly mean mathematically for space to be curved, how we can detect it, and the fascinating story of how we got from Euclid to here. Along the way, you'll find out about "proofs" by professional mathematicians that turned out to be wrong, a million-dollar prize for solving a mathematical problem, and a mysterious modern-day Russian mathematician who earned the prize but doesn't want it.

John M. Lee is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the University of Washington in Seattle. For the past forty years, he has conducted research on differential geometry, the field that uses calculus and differential equations to study geometric shapes, usually in high dimensions. In 2016, his research was honored with the Bergman Prize from the American Mathematical Society. In addition, he has taught numerous courses and written several popular graduate textbooks on differential geometry, and one book that explores the deep roots of axiomatic geometry.



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