



Rambling in Mathematics Lecture Series

How to Bake Pi: making abstract Mathematics tasty

Dr. Eugenia Cheng (鄭樂雋博士)

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Date : December 7, 2018 (Friday)

Time : 5:30 – 6:30 pm*

(Light refreshments from 5:00 pm)

**Book-signing event after the lecture*

Venue : Rayson Huang Theatre, The University of Hong Kong



Abstract

Mathematics can be tasty! It's a way of thinking, and not just about numbers. Through unexpectedly connected examples from music, juggling, and baking, I will show that math can be made fun and intriguing for all, through hands-on activities, examples that everyone can relate to, and funny stories. I will present surprisingly high-level mathematics, including some advanced abstract algebra usually only seen by math majors and graduate students. There will be a distinct emphasis on edible examples. Suitable for all ages including keen children.

Biography

Eugenia Cheng is a mathematician and concert pianist. She is Scientist in Residence at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and won tenure at the University of Sheffield, UK. She has previously taught at the universities of Cambridge, Chicago and Nice and holds a PhD in pure mathematics from the University of Cambridge. Alongside her research in Category Theory and undergraduate teaching her aim is to rid the world of "math phobia". Eugenia was an early pioneer of math on YouTube and her videos have been viewed around 15 million times to date. She has also assisted with mathematics in elementary, middle and high schools for 20 years. Her first popular math book "How to Bake Pi" was featured on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and "Beyond Infinity" was shortlisted for the Royal Society Science Book Prize 2017. She also writes the Everyday Math column for the Wall Street Journal, and recently completed her first mathematical art commission, for Hotel EMC2 in Chicago. She is the founder of the Liederstube, an intimate oasis for art song based in Chicago. Her latest book, "The Art of Logic in an Illogical World" was released in July of 2018.

Organizers:

Department of Mathematics, HKU

Division of Mathematics and Science Education, HKU

Department of Mathematics and Information Technology, EdUHK

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