Dustin Ross

SFSU

Curves, strings, and singularities:
A tale of how theoretical physics revolutionized
enumerative geometry

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018, MH320

Abstract: Enumerative geometry has been around for centuries, and asks questions about counting geometric objects: How many conics pass through five points in the plane? How many lines intersect four given lines in space? Starting about 25 years ago, the influence of string theory initiated a flurry of activity that led to the solution of several important enumerative questions. In this talk, I'll survey of some of these ideas, and hint at some more recent work to understand how enumerative questions interact with singularities.

Background: Students should have a basic knowledge of calculus and linear algebra, but no other background is required.

About the speaker: Dustin Ross received his PhD at Colorado State and is an assistant professor at San Francisco State University. His research is in algebraic geometry, with a special emphasis on moduli spaces and enumerative questions that are motivated by theoretical physics.

SNACKS IN MH331B AT 2:30 PM
TALK STARTS AT 3:00 PM

For more information, see our full schedule at:

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