

Spring 2020 Undergraduate Seminar

Department of Mathematics



Big numbers matter too!

Derek Orr

Math PhD Student, University of Pittsburgh

Date: Tuesday, February 4

Time: 1:00 - 1:50 pm

Location: Room 703, Thackeray Hall

Derek Orr received his BS in both math and physics from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. As a PhD student, he's received the Elizabeth Baranger Teaching Award in his first year, and he got an MS in number theory in 2019. He currently works under Dr. Bard Ermentrout in math biology, studying oscillatory and excitable neuron interactions. He has been an organizer of the UMS since 2016.



Consider the number 61,917,364,224. What's so special about it? Nothing really comes to mind. But this exact number was crucial towards a two-sentence published paper that gave a counterexample to one of Euler's famous conjectures that tried to generalize Fermat's Last Theorem. I will discuss why we can't just assume conjectures from famous people are "obviously" true. Food and drinks will be provided!

SPEAKER(S) FOR NEXT WEEK:

Professor David Earn



Organized by: Derek Orr, Tom Everest, Jeremiah Morgan, and Jeff Wheeler