Math (Enthusiast) Series

Oct 25 Joy 113 @ 3:05





Everyone interested in mathematics is welcome to attend TMath 350's presentations every Tuesday of Autumn quarter (and some Thursdays!)

10/25/16 Dr. Erik Tou (UWT, math historian & number theorist)

The Mathematics of Juggling

Juggling has a long history, with the oldest known depictions appearing in one of the ancient Egyptian temples at Beni Hasan (c. 1994–1781 BCE). During most of this long history, juggling was the avocation of entertainers and artists. Only in

the 1980s was a method developed to keep track of different juggling patterns using a numerical code, now known as a siteswap. This numerical shorthand leads to a set of integer-like objects that has some interesting properties. One surprising property is that the average of all numbers in the siteswap will always equal the number of balls being juggled. We'll look at this and some other fundamental results in this field, ending with a few intriguing open questions.

