

The Oregon Distinguished Math Lectures for Students

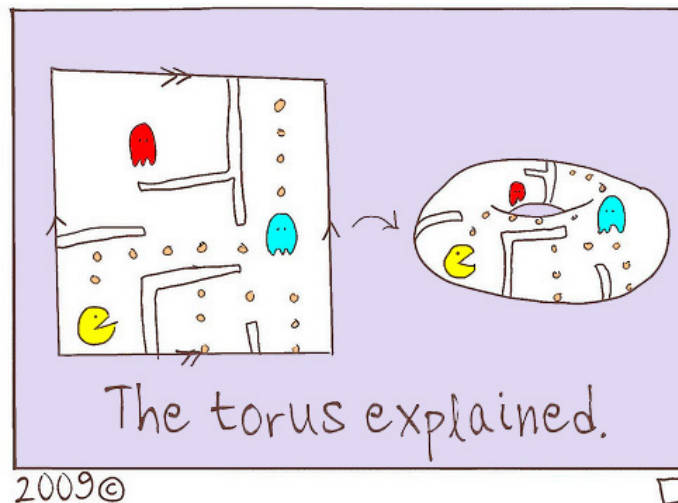
Lectures by mathematicians for undergraduates

(and anyone else who wants to have fun learning math)

FROM BILLIARDS (OR LASERS) TO PAC-MAN

Monday, Nov. 14, 2016, 5:15- 6:15 PM, 245 Straub

Speaker: Jayadev Athreya (University of Washington)



We start by trying to understand how a billiard ball bounces around a square table, or equivalently, how a laser beam can illuminate a mirrored room. We show how this relates to playing Pac-Man, and how this picture generalizes to rooms of other shapes. This is a story that mathematicians have been thinking about for a long time, and it's recently been a big part of the work of Maryam Mirzakhani, recent winner of the Fields Medal.

For details about this and other upcoming talks, see <http://blogs.uoregon.edu/mathisawesome>