

Graeco-Latin Squares and a Mistaken Conjecture of Euler

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Thursday, October 17, 2002
102 Bradley Hall, 4:00 pm
(Tea 3:30 pm Math Lounge)

Abstract

Euler once conjectured that Graeco-Latin squares of order $4n+2$ do not exist. We discuss the history of this problem and repeated attempts at proof and disproof. In addition, we survey a variety of mathematical techniques that were developed as a result during the following 200 years, culminating in a complete refutation of Euler's conjecture.