

Tropical Mathematics

First Kemeny Lecture

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7-8 PM on Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Arvo J. Oopik 1978 Auditorium (Room 100)

Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center

(Tea 3:30 pm 300 Kemeny Hall)

Abstract

In tropical arithmetic, the sum of two numbers is their maximum and the product of two numbers is their usual sum. Many results familiar from algebra and geometry, including the Quadratic Formula, the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, and Bezout's Theorem, continue to hold in the tropical world. In this lecture we learn how to draw tropical curves and why evolutionary biologists might care about this.

This talk will be accessible to general public