

The Combinatorics Seminar

Organizers: [Laura Anderson](#), [Vaidy Sivaraman](#), and [Thomas Zaslavsky](#).

Previous talks

Fall 2014

▪ Tuesday, September 2

Speaker: Matthias Beck (San Francisco State)

Title: [Permutation Descent Statistics via Polyhedral Geometry](#)

Time: 1:15 - 2:15

Room: TBD

Permutations are some of the most fundamental objects of mathematics. A basic combinatorial statistic of a permutation $\pi \in S_n$ is the number of descents, $\text{des}(\pi) := \#\{j: \pi(j) > \pi(j+1)\}$. Euler realized that $\sum_{k \geq 0} (k+1)^n t^k = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} t^{\text{des}(\pi)} / (1-t)^{n+1}$ and there have been various generalizations of this identity, most notably when S_n gets replaced by another Coxeter group.

I will illustrate how one can view Euler's identity (and its generalizations) geometrically through enumerating integer points in certain polyhedra. This gives rise to "short" proofs of known theorems, as well as new identities.

This is joint work with Ben Braun (Kentucky).

▪ Tuesday, September 9

Speaker: ??? ??? (??? Institute)

Title: [Some Title](#)

Time: 1:15 - 2:15

Room: TBD

▪ Tuesday, September 16

Speaker: ??? ??? (??? Institute)

Title: [Some Title](#)

Time: 1:15 - 2:15

Room: TBD

▪ Tuesday, September 23

Speaker: ??? ??? (??? Institute)

Title: [Some Title](#)

Time: 1:15 - 2:15

Room: TBD

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Last update: **2017/01/05 23:20**

