Sphere Packings and Magical Functions

A talk in pictures on the Fields medal work of Maryna Viazovska

Lecture given by Claire Burrin (UZH)

Thursday, May 2, 2024 - at 17:15 - Y03 G85

Is stacking oranges in a pyramid the most space-efficient way? Proving the sphere packing problem remained one of geometry's tantalizing problems for nearly 400 years and is still very poorly understood in n-dimensional space. This talk, accessible to Bachelor students with a mathematical background, will focus on the history of the problem and the geometric insights leading to Maryna Viazovska's breakthrough in dimension 8. For her work, she became the second woman in history to be awarded the Fields medal in 2022. The talk is part of the May 12 initiatives to 'Celebrate Women in Mathematics'.