



The next *What-Is Seminar* talk will be held on

Tuesday, 29/11/11, 13:10—14:30
in **Neiman Library, room 107**

The speaker is

Dror Speiser (TAU)

What are Elliptic Curves?

Upon request, the lecture will be given in English.
There will be some snacks and drinks (outside, before the talk).

You are all invited!

Abstract

It started with trying to calculate arc lengths on ellipses. These calculations introduced integrals never seen before – the elliptic integrals. They had the disturbing knack to be impossibly reducible to known integrals. But these integrals also had a geometric interpretation. This geometry, not as simple as that of an ellipse, but not as complex as that of a 10-dimensional lie group underlying our universe, was quickly recognized as fundamental.

Over two hundred years later, these so-called elliptic curves, have justly made a name for them, most famously in the solution of Fermat's last theorem, and most currently in modern day cryptography.

The lecture will touch on the calculus, geometry, arithmetic, and computability of elliptic curves.

For more information visit: <http://www.math.tau.ac.il/~pelegm/whatis>