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**Speaker:** Andrei Jorza  
University of Notre Dame

Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
3:00 PM  
258 Hurley Hall

**Title:** The commutative algebra of Fermat's last theorem

**Abstract:**

The proof of Fermat's last theorem uses wide ranging results from number theory, algebraic geometry, arithmetic geometry, analysis and commutative algebra. It is precisely the commutative algebra part that was most innovative and exactly the ingredient that was missing in Wiles' initial, incorrect, proof. In this expository talk I will describe how one proves Fermat's last theorem by explaining the strategy in terms of commutative algebra. The talk is aimed at the usual audience of the seminar so I will describe clearly as a black box anything I won't explain.