

SPECIAL SEMINAR

Speaker: Jack Thorne
University of Cambridge

Date: Monday, April 8, 2019

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 129 Hayes-Healy Hall

Lecture Title:

Square values of polynomials

Abstract

Which polynomials $f(x)$ with rational coefficients take square values? I will discuss some classical motivation for this question, which is essentially equivalent to deciding which hyperelliptic curves admit rational points. I will then discuss recent work with Beth Romano in which we use the exceptional Lie group of type E_8 , together with some earlier ideas of Bjorn Poonen and Eric Rains, to show that a positive proportion of degree 5 polynomials take no square values.

