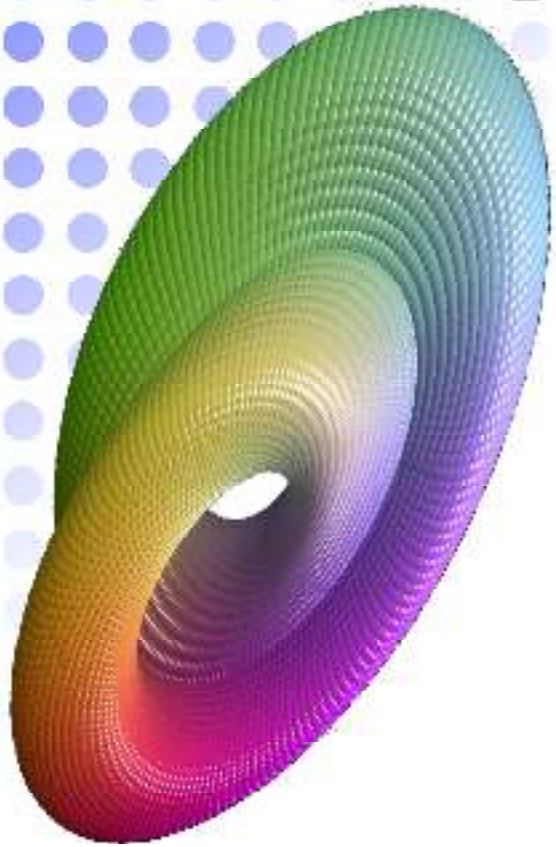
Michigan Math Club

Thursday at 4pm in the Commons

Free Pizza and Pop



Unsolvability of the Quintic Equation

David Speyer

Abstract for 31 Jan 2013

As you may have heard, there is no formula to express the roots of a fifth degree polynomial in terms of its coefficients, using the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and n-th root extraction. By watching how the roots of the polynomial z^5 - z - t move in the complex plane as the parameter t varies, we will be able to see that no such formula exists.