

Michigan Math Club

Thursday at 4pm in the Nesbitt Room

Free Pizza and Pop

*Seeing the unsolvability of
the quintic*

David Speyer

Abstract for 11 January 2018

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 roots. By watching how the roots of

$$z^5 - z - t$$

vary as t moves around the complex plane, we will be able to see that no such formula exists.

