

BI-CO MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

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"Infinite Series in Ancient India"

Monday, March 21, 2011

Talk at 4:15pm – KINSC H109

Tea at 4:00pm – KINSC Math Lounge, H208

ABSTRACT: We're used to thinking of infinite series as a topic in calculus, developed mostly as a result of the invention of calculus in seventeenth-century Europe. But important results about series and sums were also found and used in some remarkable ways by mathematicians in India centuries earlier. We'll discuss some of the work underlying notable discoveries such as the Madhava-Leibniz series for π , the Madhava-Gregory series for the arctangent, and the Madhava-Newton series for sine and cosine.

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