

Distinguished Lecture Series

The "P vs. NP" problem: efficient computation, Internet security, and the limits to human knowledge

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Abstract: The "P vs. NP" problem, formulated by computer theorists in the 1970s, quickly became a central outstanding problem of science and mathematics. In this talk I will attempt to describe its mathematical, scientific and philosophical content. I will discuss its status, and the implications of its resolution on science and technology (making clear that the \$1M prize on solving it pales in comparison with these implications).

No special background will be assumed.

Wednesday, October 15 at 4:00 PM in 2LCC C6