The SUMO Speaker Series for Undergraduates
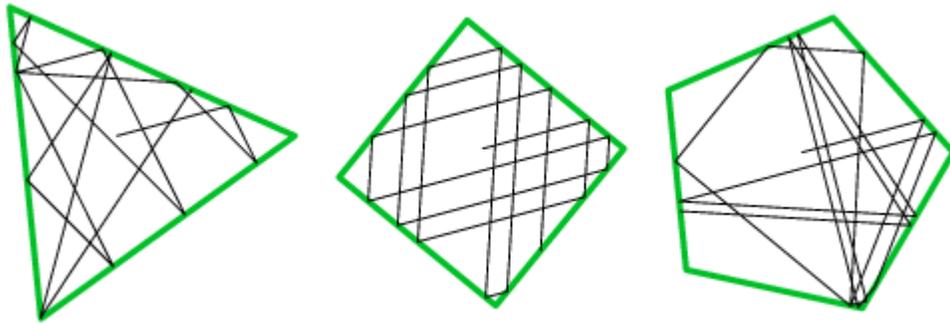
(food from Pizza Chicago)
Wednesday, May 20th
5:15-6:05, room 380C

Polygonal Billiards

Professor Steven Kerckhoff

ABSTRACT:

Bored playing billiards on a rectangular table? Ever wonder what would happen if the table was triangular or L-shaped? Billiards on polygonal tables has become a mathematical topic of particular interest in recent years. We'll discuss ways of thinking about them, particularly when all of the angles are rational multiples of π. Then one looks at geodesics on a surface constructed from copies of the table.

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