



MATH HOUR @

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

A MATH LECTURE FOR GRADES 6-10

UW Seattle campus

Mary Gates Hall
Room 389



Piotr Pstrągowski

University of Washington

Hidden cycles

Abstract: What do weekdays, decimals, and error-detecting codes have in common? At first glance, nothing at all. Yet all of them are governed by the same simple idea: keeping track of remainders, which mathematicians refer to as modular arithmetic.

In this talk, we'll explore how modular arithmetic reveals hidden cycles in numbers, allowing us to quickly predict days of the week, explain the periodic patterns in fractions, and spot mistakes in long strings of digits.

May 17, 2026, Sunday, 1-2pm