



MATH HOUR @

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

A MATH LECTURE FOR GRADES 6-10

UW Seattle campus

Savery Hall 260

www.math.washington.edu/~mathcircle/mathhour



Professor Jack Lee

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Mathematics*

The Curvature of Space

Abstract: Since the time of Euclid, the history of geometry has been a dramatic saga that your middle school teachers probably won't tell you about. It led, more than a century ago, to the mind-bending mathematical discovery that the three-dimensional space we live in might be "curved," in much the same way as the two-dimensional surface of the earth is curved.

In this talk you'll have a chance to learn what it could possibly mean for space to be curved, along with the fascinating story of how we got from Euclid to here. You'll find out about "proofs" by professional mathematicians that turned out to be wrong, bitter personal battles over who was right and who was wrong, a million-dollar prize for solving a mathematical problem, and a mysterious modern-day Russian mathematician who earned it but didn't want it.

March 16, 2014

Sunday, 1-2pm