



MATH HOUR @ UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

A MATH LECTURE FOR GRADES 6-10

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

UW Seattle campus

Savery Hall 260



Professor Emily M. Bender

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The Mathematics of Language

Abstract: Mathematics can be used to model how language works and to measure the similarities and differences between different languages. From this, we can build computer software that will automatically process speech and text, for applications such as machine translation, voice activated computer interfaces, and autocorrect. In this talk, we will explore how mathematical objects called trees and feature structures, together with an operation called unification can be used to model English sentences (and also pizza preferences!). We will also learn about how computers are better at finding ambiguity in natural language than people are, but worse at resolving it.

March 12, 2017
Sunday, 1-2pm