Public Lecture

Mathematics Awareness Month

Friday, April 29, 2016

Lionel Levine, Cornell University

The Future of Prediction

Can you predict the next term in this sequence?

0, 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 27, 28, 30, 31, ...

I'll share my experience in a prediction tournament with thousands of players, focusing on the uses (and abuses!) of math in predicting the future. We'll see how randomness can be more predictable than you think, and determinism can be less predictable than you think. Finally, I'll hazard a few predictions with input from the audience: Will we ever know the 10^{100}th digit of pi? Will we discover life on Mars? — and should we hope the answer is yes or no?
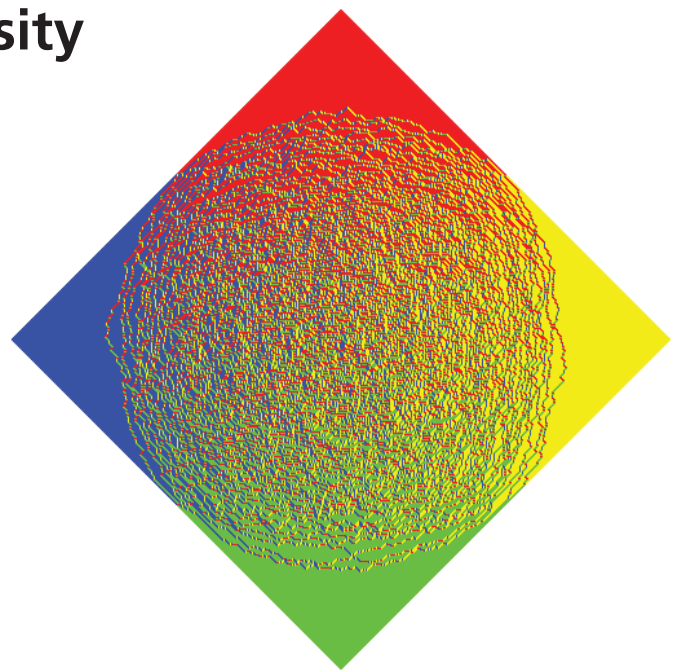
Image courtesy of Cris Moore

4:30 PM – 253 Malott Hall – Cornell University

Join the speaker after the talk in Malott 532 for pizza and conversation, sponsored by the Math Club.