The Unlikely Friendship of Math and Science

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7pm November 12, 2018, Room P-131

Presented by the Stony Brook Math Club

Abstract

On the one hand, mathematics is a toolkit, crafted to serve real-world purposes. On the other hand, math is a realm of pure logic, ideas pursued for their own sake. My question: How is it that, from knot theory to meta-logic to higher-dimensional geometry, the math that sounds the most fanciful turns out to be the most useful?