Many Cheerful Facts

Organizer(s): Yael Degany and Jason Ferguson

Friday, 2:10-3:00pm, 939 Evans

March 12 Adam Boocher, UC Berkeley The Weird and Wonderful Chemistry of the Look-and-say Sequence

Consider the sequence: 1,11,21,1211,111221,312221,13113211,... Do you see the pattern? This sequence is a cute one and the defining rule could be explained to children. It's also pretty fun to show your 1B students while doing sequences and series. However it has surprising mathematical results including eigenvalues of large matrices, roots of degree 71 polynomial equations, and something John Conway calls the cosmological theorem. In the spirit of 1B we might even do the ratio test!