

Public lecture :

Michael Hutchings

Title: The mysterious geometry of soap bubbles

Abstract: Why are soap bubbles spherical? Why do double soap bubbles have the shape that they do (three spherical caps meeting along a circle at 120 degree angles)? The single bubble problem was solved in the 19th century, and the double bubble problem was solved a few years ago. The analogous problem for triple soap bubbles remains a mystery. We will give an introduction to these problems and their solutions (when known).