

The Tau of Ramanujan

The sequence of numbers $1, -24, 252, -1472, 4830, \dots$ was extensively studied by the great Indian mathematician Ramanujan almost a century ago. These numbers – the values of Ramanujan's tau-function – have been the guiding force behind several themes in Number Theory. They continue to tantalize us with easy-to-understand problems some of which are still open today. This talk will be a relaxed introduction to these numbers and will lead up to some of our own results about them.



EKNATH GHATE

is a Professor at the School of Mathematics at the TIFR in Mumbai. His research is in Number Theory, a branch of Pure Mathematics. He has a BA in Mathematics, summa cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph D from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr Ghate has taught and lectured on his discoveries at many of the leading universities in the US, including Berkeley and Princeton, as well as in Europe, e.g., at the Max Planck Institute in Bonn and the University of Paris. He has more than 35 publications, has organised several high level conferences and exchange programs, and serves on several national science committees and editorial boards. He was awarded one of the the highest awards for inter-disciplinary science in India, the Bhatnagar Award, for Mathematical Sciences in 2013. He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

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Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, Bengaluru

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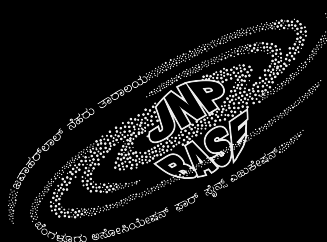
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