Levi L. Conant
LECTURE SERIES

Brian Conrey

Executive Director,
American Institute of Mathematics

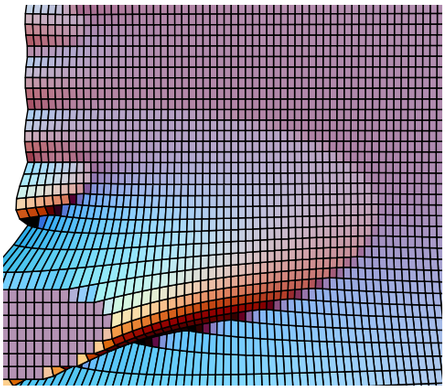
The Riemann Hypothesis

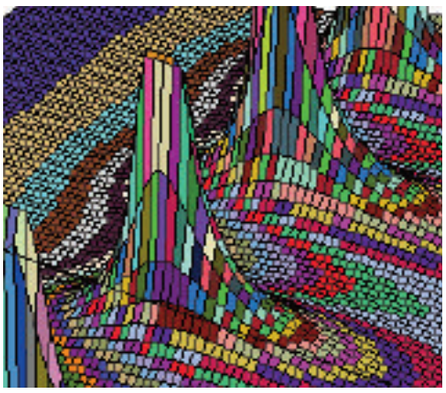
—a million dollar mystery

Monday, 4:00 p.m.
March 30, 2009
Higgins Labs 116

The famous Riemann Hypothesis is nearly 150 years old. It was on Hilbert's list of 23 problems in 1900 and now it's on the Clay list of Millennium Prize Problems—there's a million dollar reward for its solution. Many people regard it as the most important unsolved problem in all of mathematics. In this talk we will explain exactly what the Riemann Hypothesis is and give some of the colorful history that has grown up around efforts to solve it.

J. Brian Conrey is the founding executive director of AIM. He oversees its operations and helps initiate programs that further its goal of solving problems through focused collaborative efforts. • He earned a BS at Santa Clara University in 1976 and a PhD at the University of Michigan in 1980. He conducted postdoctoral studies at the University of Illinois, 1980–82, and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, 1982–83. He was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship in 1986. • A mathematics professor at Oklahoma State, he served as department head, 1991–97. In 2005 he joined the faculty of the University of Bristol. • His mathematical specialty is number theory, with a particular interest in the Riemann Hypothesis. He has published over 50 papers and serves as an editor of the *Journal of Number Theory*.





Graphs, A. M. Odlyzko

Levi Leonard Conant, 1857–1916

Levi Conant was a mathematician and educator who spent most of his career as a faculty member at Worcester Polytechnic Institute; he served as head of the Mathematics Department and as acting president from 1911 to 1913. • Conant was noted as an outstanding teacher, and an active scholar. He published a number of articles in scientific journals and wrote four textbooks: The Number Concept: Its Origins and Development (1896), Original Exercises in Plane and Solid Geometry (1905), Five-Place Logarithmic and Trigonometric Tables (1909), and Plane and Spherical Trigonometry (1909) • Upon his premature death in 1916 he made a large bequest to The American Mathematical Society who established the Levi L. Conant Prize, awarded annually to recognize the best expository paper published in either Notices of the AMS or Bulletin of the AMS during the previous five years.

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Coffee and tea will be availble a half hour before the lecture.
Participation of faculty and students is most welcome.

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