Pi Mu Epsilon

the mathematics honors society for university students



Thursday, November 9, 2017 12:15-12:50 PM in Hume 101

Professor Thái Hoàng Lê

The Banach-Tarski Paradox

In 1924 Banach and Tarski proved the following result: any solid ball in the 3dimensional space can be cut into a finite number of pieces and these pieces can be reassembled to yield two identical copies of the original ball. Also, one can cut a solid ball and reassemble the (finitely many) pieces to obtain any other solid ball! In this talk, I will convince you (hopefully) that these paradoxes are not as strange as they sound, and I will show you some ideas behind them.

See you Thursday!