

Department of Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium

So you think you can subtract?

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Abstract: In elementary school we learned how to subtract in positional notation. That's it, right? Well, if you are in the IDLS stream you may have seen one or two more ways. Would you believe there are at least ten different ways of subtracting in positional notation? The aim of this colloquium will be to describe all these different methods, some of their history, and why they work. Time permitting, we will also look at the advantages and disadvantages of other number representations, including balanced notation, fractions, Fibonacci form, and decimals.

Monday, 9 November at 3:45 in Room 103
refreshments at 3:30