



SPECIAL TALK

By Prof. Egon Schulte

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Boston, Massachusetts*

ABSTRACT POLYTOPES AND SYMMETRY

2:00 – 3:30 pm
10 May 2017 (Wednesday)
SEC A 303

ABSTRACT

Symmetric polyhedra, polytopes, and tessellations have been with us since before recorded history, and a strong strain of mathematics since classical times has centered on them. The most prominent symmetric figures, the regular solids, occur from very early times and are attributed to Plato. Since then, many changes in point of view have occurred. With the arrival of group theory in the 19th century, many of the early approaches were consolidated and the foundations laid for a more rigorous development of the theory. In this vein, higher-dimensional regular polytopes and tessellations were investigated and their symmetry groups explored as reflection groups. The modern abstract theory of polytopes and symmetry started more than 30 years ago, and since then has taken on a vigorous life. We give a gentle introduction to abstract polytopes and their symmetry.

About the Speaker. *Egon Schulte is a Professor of Mathematics at the Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. His research areas include Discrete Geometry, Combinatorics, and Group Theory. He has written over a hundred articles on varying topics on Polytopes, and Polyhedra and co-authored the book Abstract Regular Polytopes (with Peter McMullen). He sits in the Editorial Board of several mathematics and science journals including Ars Mathematica Contemporanea, Contributions to Discrete Mathematics, and the Chinese Journal of Mathematics and Symmetry.*

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