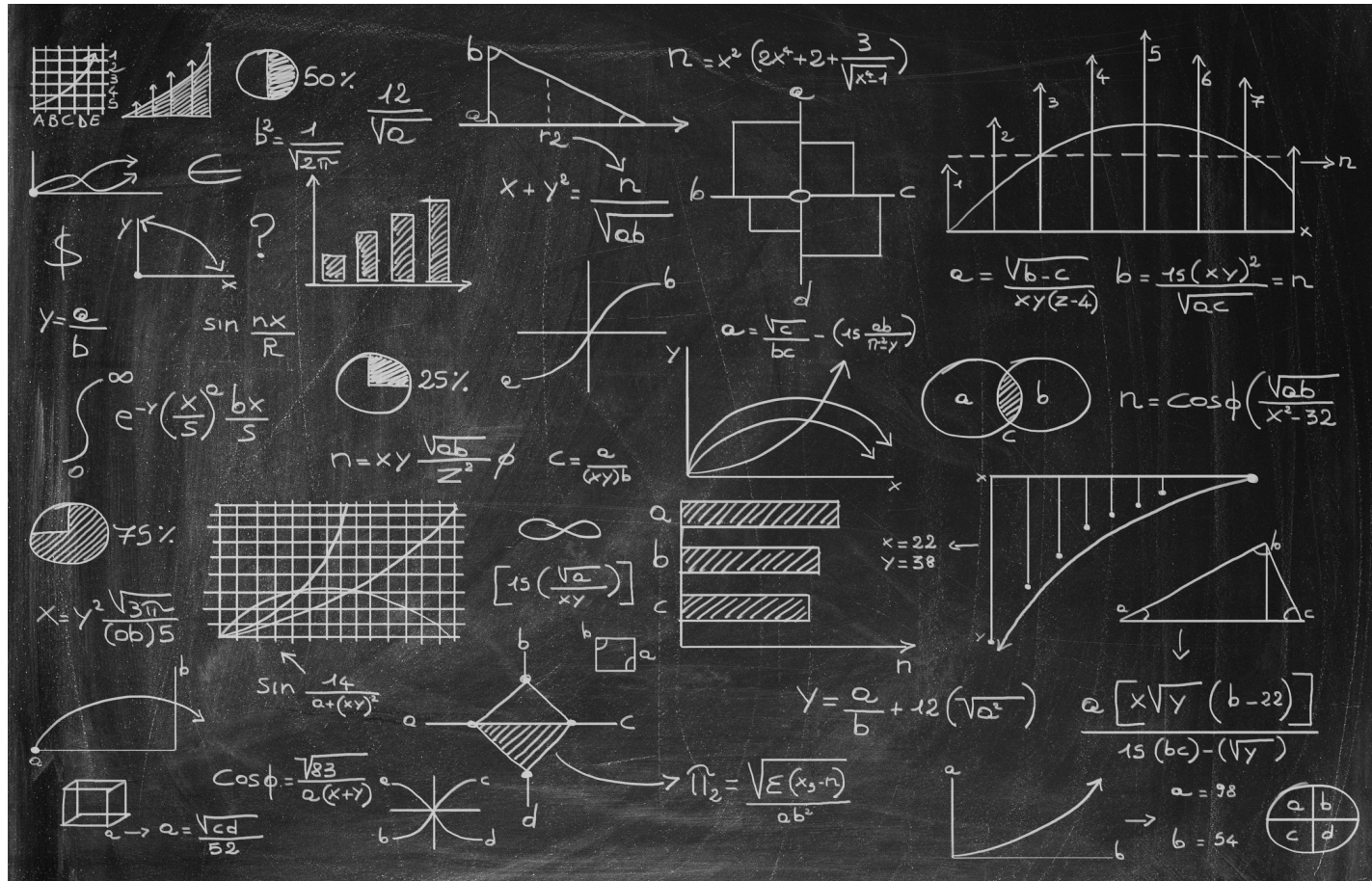


The Aesthetics of Mathematics

How can a mathematical object be beautiful? What even is a mathematical object in the first place? In this talk, we will explore some of the questions that philosophers and mathematicians have contemplated since ancient times. We will draw an analogy between mathematics and art, and pose some potential criteria for mathematical beauty. Along the way, we will look at the perspectives of philosophers Aristotle, Dōgen Zenji, Susanne Langer, and Plato, and explore the distinction between a theoretical world of forms and the world of becoming that is our reality. We will consider examples of mathematical beauty.



MSCS COLLOQUIUM - Monday, Sept. 25 - 3:30 pm - RNS 310
St. Olaf Visiting Professor Erik Mainellis - Everyone Welcome!