



Pacific Rim Mathematical Association Congress 2022

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Invited Public Speaker

TUESDAY, Dec 6, 5.45PM PT

Minhyong Kim

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



Title

Measurement, Calculation, and History

Abstract

Some of the most remarkable achievements of science are the mind-boggling measurements it has contributed throughout history to our collective understanding of the universe. For example, a simple Google search will reveal that the radius of our galaxy is 52850 light years, and that the Andromeda galaxy is 2.537 million light years away. You can also find out that the mass of an electron is 0.00000000000000000000000000091093837 grams. Sadly, I don't think I will have time to discuss these great numbers in this lecture. However, I will mention a few simpler, but still great measurements in history, and how they involved calculating with precision. I will also reflect on what our knowledge of such matters tells us about the nature of mathematics as a human heritage.