

The Humboldt State University

Department of Mathematics

Presents:

The 58th Harry S. Kieval Lecture**

Sunday, October 16, 2011

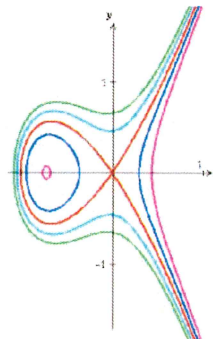
7:30 P.M.

Science B 135

Kenneth Ribet

Professor of Mathematics

University of California, Berkeley



“Fermat’s Last Theorem and the Modularity of Elliptic Curves”

Fermat's Last Theorem states that no three positive integers a , b , and c can satisfy the equation $a^n + b^n = c^n$ for any integer value of n greater than two.

Professor Ribet's lecture on Fermat's Last Theorem will center on a conjecture about cubic equations that was formulated in the 1950s and 1960s and then proved in the 1990s, beginning with the path-breaking work that Andrew Wiles announced in 1993. This conjecture had been linked to Fermat's Last Theorem through earlier work of the speaker, which was motivated by observations of Gerhard Frey. Frey's first observation was that any solution to Fermat's equation would produce a cubic equation with dubious properties.

**A lecture on some popular and/or broad aspects of mathematics attractive to undergraduates and the public

For more information go to: <http://www.humboldt.edu/math/kieval/index.html>

HSU is an AA/EQ institution.

Disability accommodations may be available from event sponsor at 826-5347