

Stanford Department of Mathematics Colloquium

Thursday, May 6
4:15 p.m.
Bldg. 380, Room 380-W.

Packing space with regular tetrahedra

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Abstract

The problem of the densest packing of space by congruent regular tetrahedra has a long history, starting with Aristotle's assertion that regular tetrahedra fill space, and continuing through its appearance in Hilbert's 18th Problem. This talk describes its history and many recent results obtained on this problem, including contributions from physicists, chemists, and materials scientists. The current record for packing density (as of January 5, 2010) is held by my graduate student Elizabeth Chen.

<http://math.stanford.edu/coll/0910/>