



*(Photo by Adena Stevens)*

**Prof. Alexander Logunov**  
University of Geneva

## NODAL GEOMETRY

In the beginning of 19th century Napoleon set a prize for the best mathematical explanation of mysterious curves appearing in Chladni's resonance experiments. Nodal geometry studies the zeroes of solutions to elliptic differential equations such as the visible curves that appear in these physical experiments. We will discuss geometrical and analytic properties of zero sets of harmonic functions and eigenfunctions of the Laplace operator. For harmonic functions on the plane there is an interesting relation between local length of the zero set and the growth of harmonic functions. The larger the zero set is, the faster the growth of harmonic function should be and vice versa. Zero sets of Laplace eigenfunctions on surfaces are unions of smooth curves with equiangular intersections. Topology of the zero set could be quite complicated, but Yau conjectured that the total length of the zero set is comparable to the square root of the eigenvalue for all eigenfunctions.

Nov 15, 2023  
14:15 – 15:15

Lecture hall B,  
Technikerstraße 25a