

## APPLIED MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Date: Monday, February 1, 2016

Time: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Western Science Centre Room 248

### **What and Where are Branch Cuts?**

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#### **Abstract:**

From the point of view of the serious complex function theorist, branch cuts are a rather sordid subject that have to be mentioned briefly in lectures but don't really concern us, as all our theorems are true in a suitable simply connected open region of the complex plane. From the point of view of the person writing a numerical library, branch cuts are something you look up in a handbook, and curse at while using as a black box. But what happens if the function isn't in the handbook? This talk attempts to demystify branch cuts.