

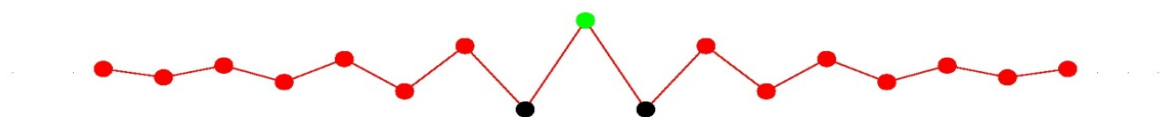
Undergraduate Colloquium

November 7, PGH 646, 4:15pm

Simple models for complex physical phenomena

--- Professor Stephen Shipman ---

Louisiana State University



Abstract

Real physical systems are usually too complicated to describe mathematically in detail. What we try to do instead is to isolate essential features of a system and devise an analytically tractable model system that exhibits those features. I will illustrate this philosophy with a simple chain of beads connected by springs that nicely exhibits the phenomena of wave propagation and inhibition in crystalline materials as well as confinement of energy at defects.

Before the talk: recognition and awards for the UH students who scored in the 2012 Putnam Undergraduate Mathematical Competition

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