Visual and Logical Beauty in Mathematics

László Lovász Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Hungary

Abstract

From the harmony of proportions in Greek buildings, to the mosaics of the Alhambra, to fractals, many visually beautiful objects have a deep mathematical background. But even non-geometric mathematics has a strong aesthetic component. Adjectives like *beautiful* and *elegant* are often used to express the highest appreciation for mathematical work. The lecture will illustrate these two appearances of beauty in mathematics and also their interactions.

Biographical Note: László Lovász is president of the International Mathematical Union and a recipient of the Wolf Prize, the Gödel Prize, the John von Neumann Theory Prize, the Bolyai Prize, and the Széchényi Grand Prize. Lovász will open the 2010 Bridges Pécs Conference as the first plenary speaker.