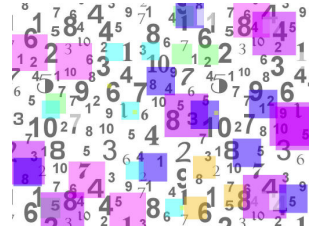


A Random Walk
through Mathematics
and Computing Science:
2012-2013



On calendars, the Mayans, and the 2012 prophecy

Dr Adam Kleczkowski
Lecture Theatre A3
Thursday, December 20th
7-8pm

The schedule of our lives is shaped by the movements of the Earth, Moon, and Sun. Both ancient and modern societies have found ways of organizing their lives: when to plant crops, when to harvest them and when to set up a new appointment. In this talk we will look at how people through the ages constructed their calendars. We will briefly look at the Julian and Gregorian calendars, as well as at the Hebrew and Islamic ones. However, most of the talk will deal with the Mayan civilization of Central America, who founded one of the most famous and most accurate of ancient systems of reckoning time. In their calendar, December 20th 2012 is regarded as the end date of a 5125 years long cycle, with the new cycle starting on the 21st. We will discuss why this date might have been an important celebration for the Mayan civilization and whether it is still important for us.

