

Title: A brief tour of zeta functions
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Abstract: (This talk is accessible to all graduate students.) In its most raw form, number theorists are interested in counting things. The buzz word for this is "zeta function", which is number theory jargon for counting. Our story will begin with counting prime numbers, or in number theory jargon, the Riemann zeta function, of which the elusive and conjectural Riemann hypothesis looms. We then move on to discuss various natural generalizations of this function and their related elusive and conjectural statements.