

Karoly Bezdek: *Contact numbers for sphere packings*
(Universities of Calgary and of Pannonia)

In discrete geometry, the contact number of a given finite number of non-overlapping spheres was introduced as a generalization of Newton's kissing number. This notion has not only led to interesting mathematics, but has also found applications in the science of self-assembling materials, such as colloidal matter. The talk is survey type focusing on the latest developments and listing a number of (new) conjectures.