JOHN URSCHEL, Harvard
The Magic of Determinants

The determinant is one of the first and most fundamental polynomials one encounters in mathematics. Discovered over two centuries ago, far before the notion of a matrix was even formalized, these polynomials remain an important part of modern mathematics. In this lecture, we will talk about all things determinant: history, notable results, and connections to modern problems in many areas of mathematics, including complexity theory, numerical analysis, probability, and others.