The Washington Experimental Math Lab, founded and directed by faculty member Jayadev Athreya, is one of a number of labs across the country that form faculty-student groups to advance mathematics through experimentation, visualization, and public engagement. The October issue of the Notices of the American Mathematical Society has an article co-written by Jayadev that describes Geometry Labs United, a network of ten such programs including both WXML and a lab at the University of Illinois that Jayadev established before coming to UW. The article highlights the work of two UW students: Matthew Staples, who participated in research on a recently discovered pentagonal tiling of the plane during WXML’s first quarter, in Spring 2016, and helped develop WXML’s website, and Kristine Hampton, who participated in a project on statistical properties of the discrete logarithm that same quarter. Kristine has remained active in WXML while moving on to be a graduate student in the department, helping to establish and manage a new monthly math circle for elementary and middle school mathematics teachers in the region.
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