

Abstract

This introductory talk will survey the recent development of the monstrous moonshine. Conjectured by McKay-Thompson-Conway-Norton and proved by Borcherds, the moonshine conjecture reveals a deep connection between the largest sporadic finite simple group Monster and genus zero functions. From the point of view of vertex operator algebra, moonshine is a connection among finite groups, vertex operator algebras and modular forms. This talk will explain how the moonshine phenomenon can be understood in terms of orbifold theory.