From Polynomials to Metric Graphs

Tropical geometry is a recently developed field which associates a piecewise-linear, combinatorial object to an algebraic variety. This process preserves important geometric invariants, such as the genus in the case of curves. One problem which arises is that the tropicalization depends on the embedding of the algebraic variety, and some embeddings will expose the full structure of the tropicalization. In this talk, I will discuss the problem of computing explicitly the abstract tropicalization associated to a curve.