## My mama always said a matrix was like a box of numbers

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22/11/2022

A short introduction to the correspondence between topological spaces (geometric things) and commutative  $C^*$ -algebras (algebraic things) as well as spectrum of linear operators (space of eigenvalues). This will culminate in the neat tool of continuous functional calculs with which we can, in a sense, treat any normal matrix more or less like a complex number.