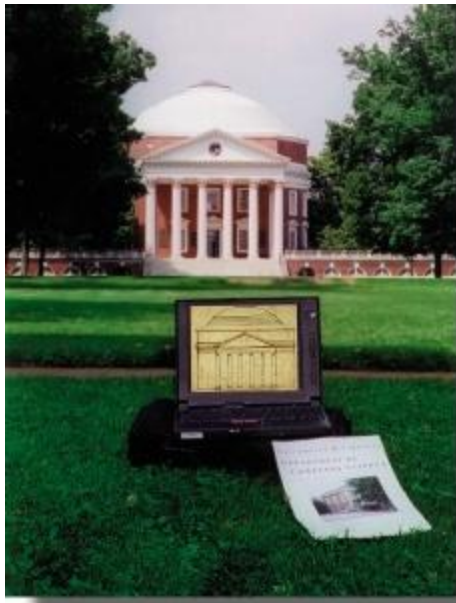


Theory of Computation

CS3102– Spring 2011



Gabriel Robins

Department of
Computer Science

University of Virginia

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/theory



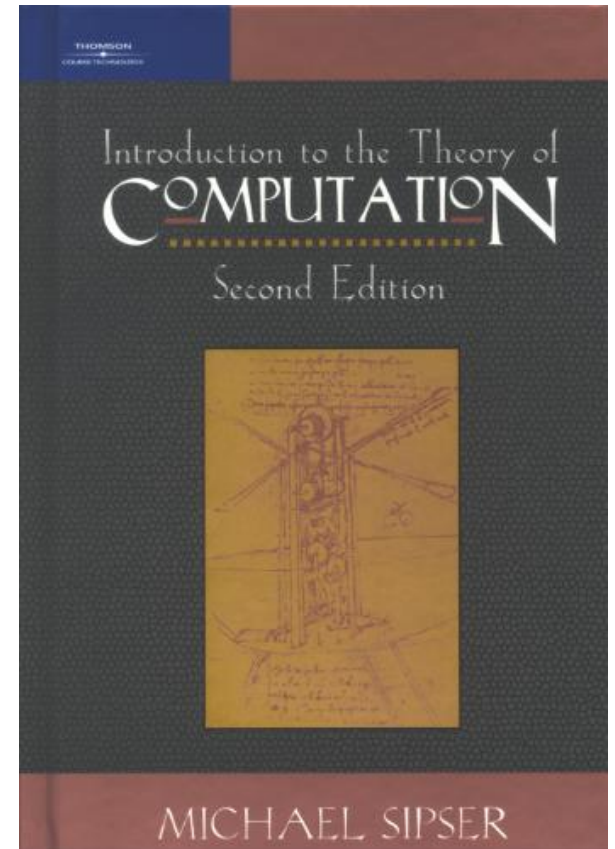
Theory of Computation (CS3102) - Textbook

Textbook:

[Introduction to the Theory of Computation](#), by Michael Sipser (MIT), 2nd Edition, 2006

Good Articles / videos:

www.cs.virginia.edu/~robins/CS_readings.html



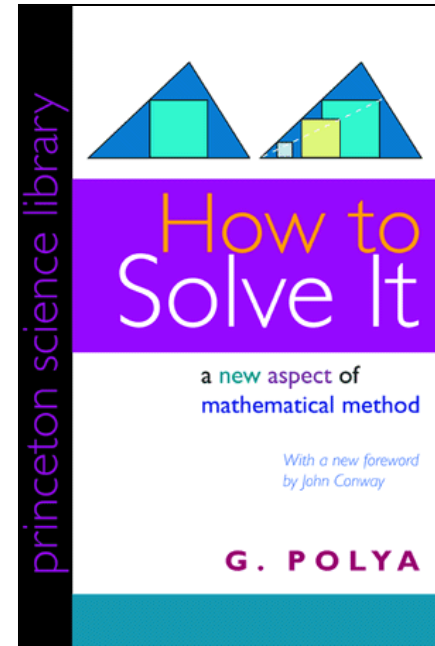
Theory of Computation (CS3102)

Supplemental reading:

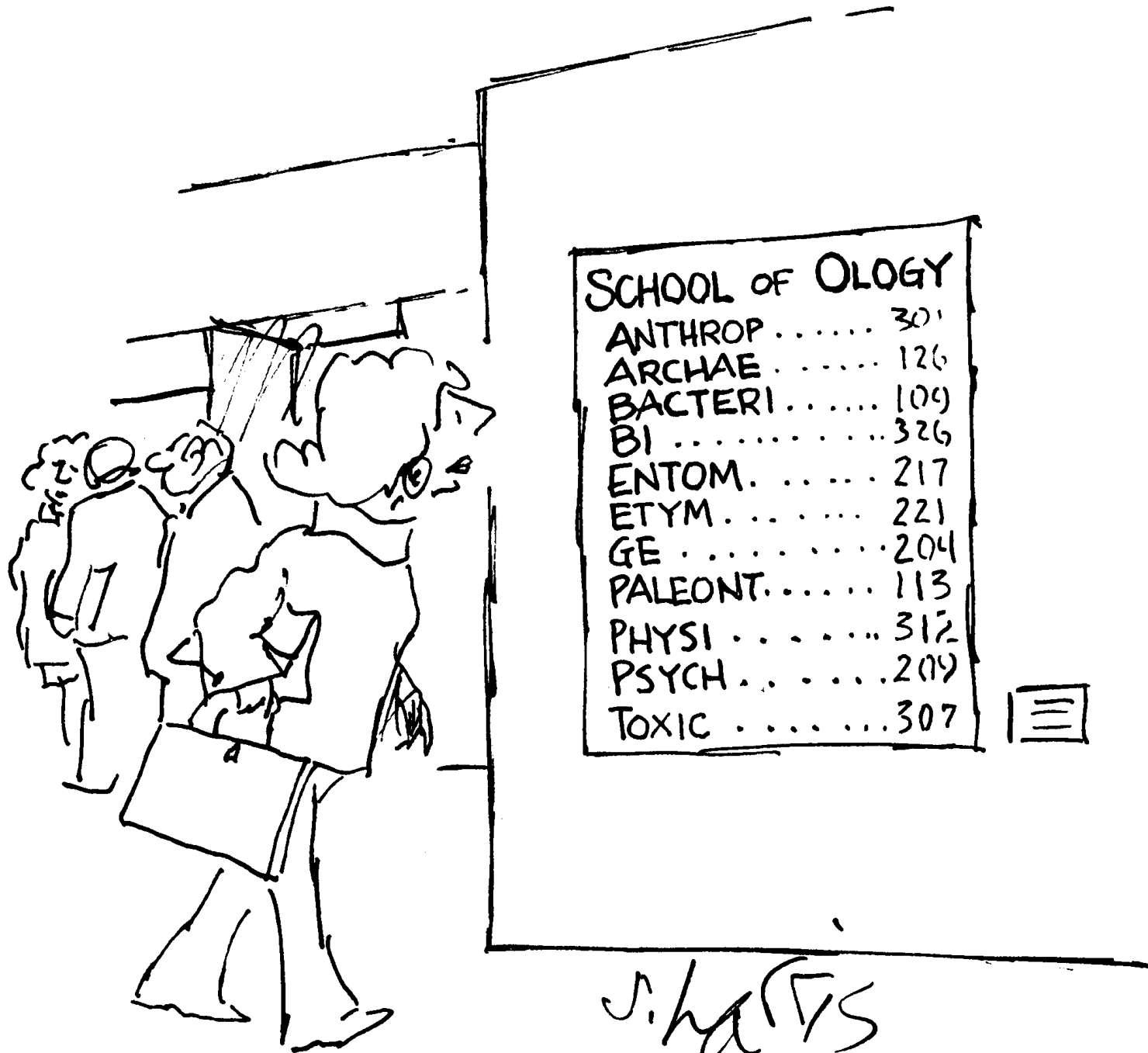
How to Solve It, by George Polya

(MIT), Princeton University Press, 1945

- A classic on **problem solving**



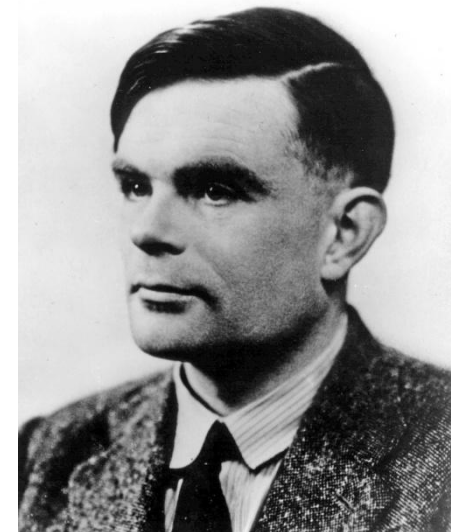
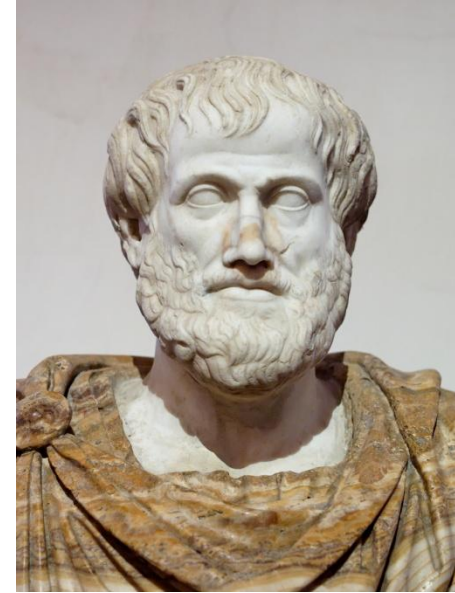
George Polya (1887-1985)



Theory of Computation (CS3102) - Syllabus

A brief history of computing:

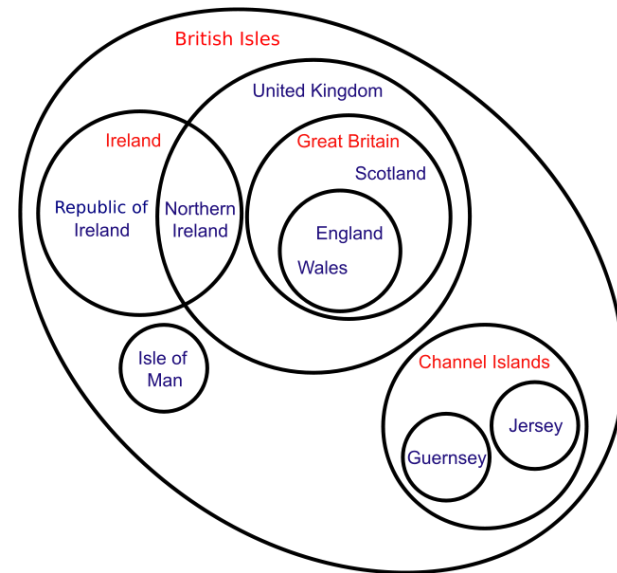
- Aristotle, **Euclid**, Archimedes, Eratosthenes
- Abu Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham
- Fibonacci, Descartes, Fermat, Pascal
- Newton, Euler, Gauss, Hamilton
- **Boole**, **De Morgan**, **Babbage**, Ada Augusta
- Venn, Carroll, **Cantor**, **Hilbert**, **Russell**
- Hardy, Ramanujan, Ramsey
- Godel, **Church**, **Turing**, **von Neumann**
- Shannon, **Kleene**, **Chomsky**



Theory of Computation Syllabus (continued)

Fundamentals:

- Set theory
- Predicate logic
- Formalisms and notation
- Infinities and countability
- Dovetailing / diagonalization
- Proof techniques
- Problem solving
- Asymptotic growth
- Review of graph theory

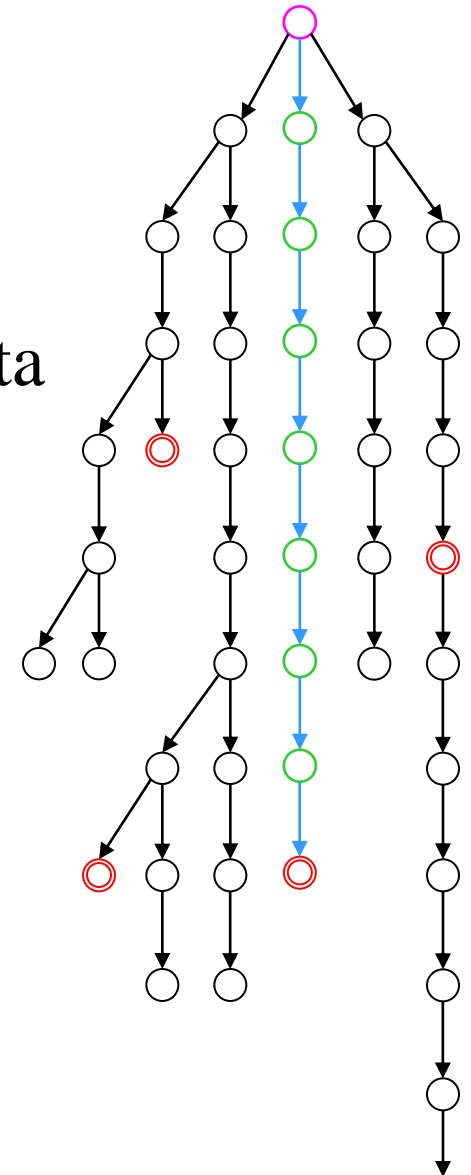


7	$\frac{7}{1}$	$\frac{7}{2}$	$\frac{7}{3}$	$\frac{7}{4}$	$\frac{7}{5}$	$\frac{7}{6}$	$\frac{7}{7}$	$\frac{7}{8}$...
6	$\frac{6}{1}$	$\frac{6}{2}$	$\frac{6}{3}$	$\frac{6}{4}$	$\frac{6}{5}$	$\frac{6}{6}$	$\frac{6}{7}$	$\frac{6}{8}$...
5	$\frac{5}{1}$	$\frac{5}{2}$	$\frac{5}{3}$	$\frac{5}{4}$	$\frac{5}{5}$	$\frac{5}{6}$	$\frac{5}{7}$	$\frac{5}{8}$...
4	$\frac{4}{1}$	$\frac{4}{2}$	$\frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{4}{4}$	$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{4}{6}$	$\frac{4}{7}$	$\frac{4}{8}$...
3	$\frac{3}{1}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{3}{3}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{5}$	$\frac{3}{6}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{3}{8}$...
2	$\frac{2}{1}$	$\frac{2}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{4}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{2}{7}$	$\frac{2}{8}$...
1	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{8}$...
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	...

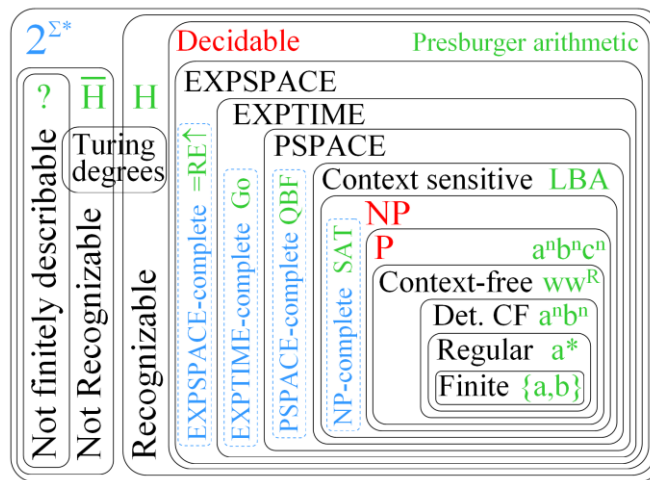
Theory of Computation Syllabus (continued)

Formal languages and machine models:

- The Chomsky hierarchy
- Regular languages / finite automata
- Context-free grammars / pushdown automata
- Unrestricted grammars / Turing machines
- Non-determinism
- Closure operators
- Pumping lemmas
- Non-closures
- Decidable properties



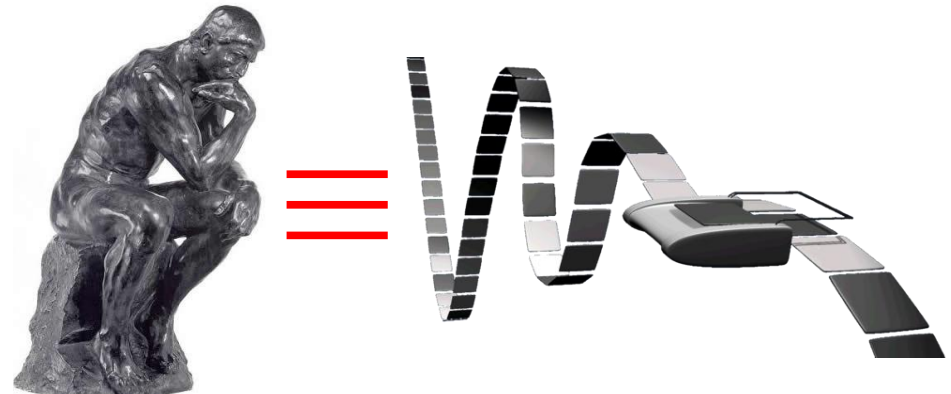
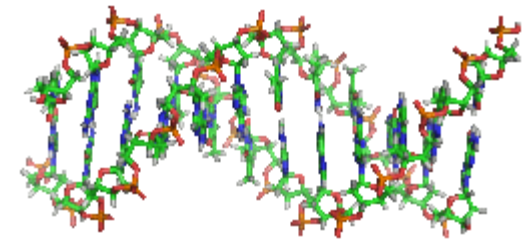
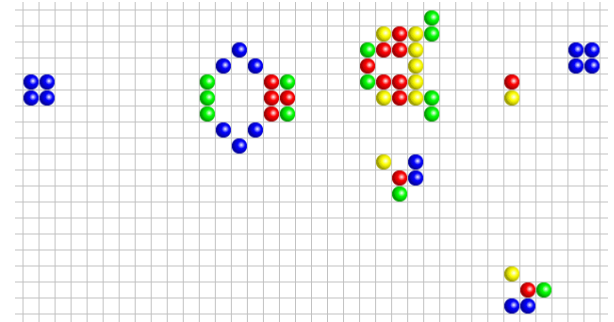
The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy



Theory of Computation Syllabus (continued)

Computability and undecidability:

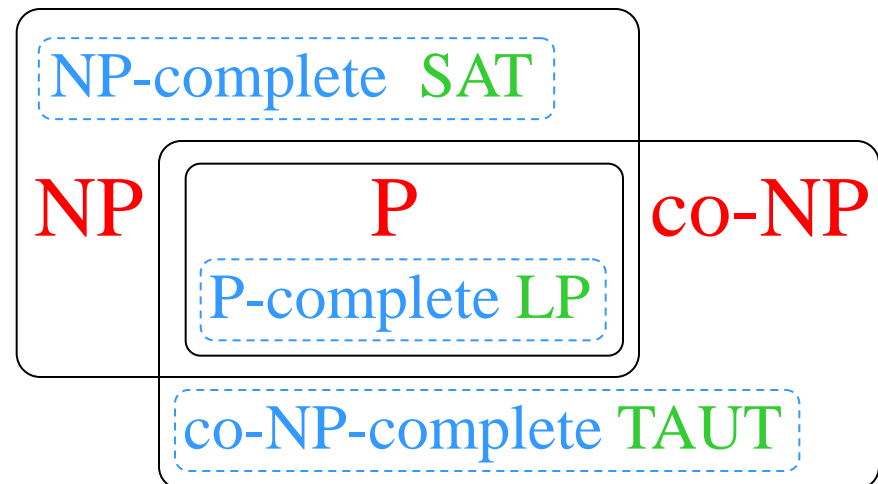
- Basic models
- Modifications and extensions
- Computational universality
- Decidability
- Recognizability
- Undecidability
- Church-Turing thesis
- Rice's theorem



Theory of Computation Syllabus (continued)

NP-completeness:

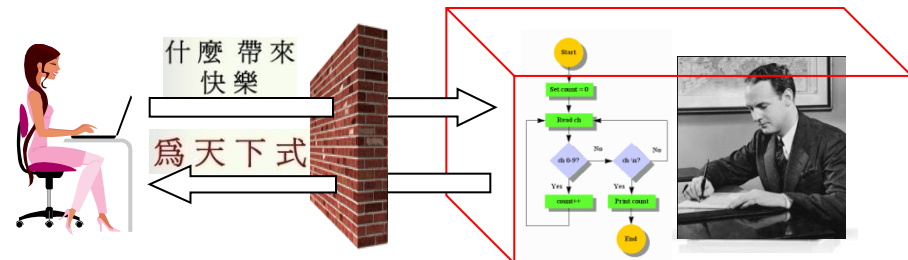
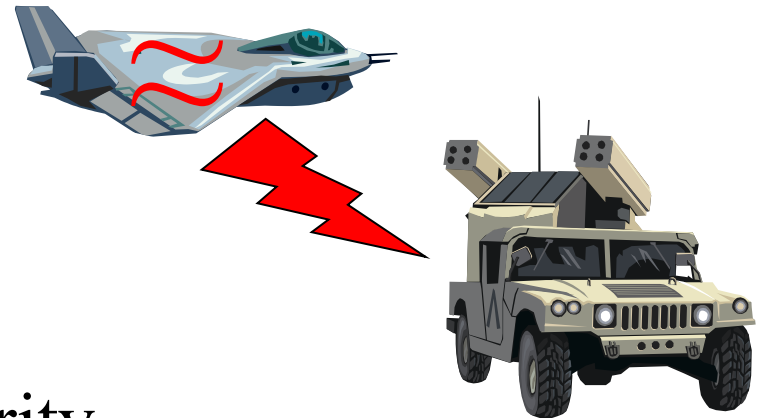
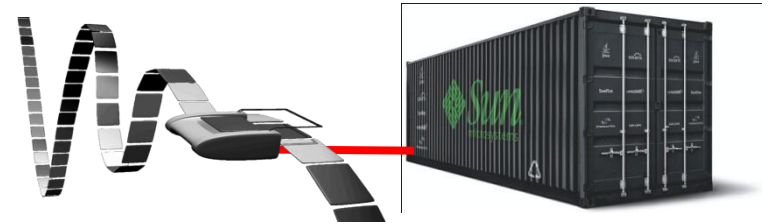
- Resource-constrained computation
- Complexity classes
- Intractability
- Boolean satisfiability
- Cook-Levin theorem
- Transformations
- Graph clique problem
- Independent sets
- Hamiltonian cycles
- Colorability problems
- Heuristics



Theory of Computation Syllabus (continued)

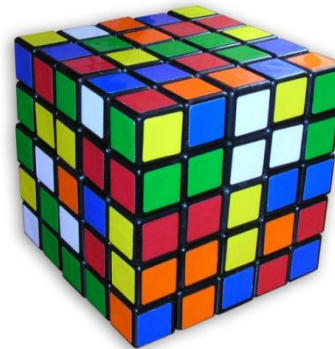
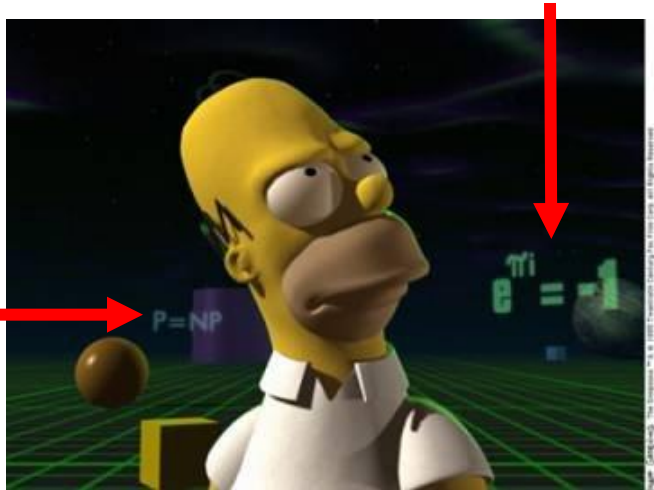
Other topics (as time permits):

- Generalized number systems
- Oracles and relativization
- Zero-knowledge proofs
- Cryptography & mental poker
- The Busy Beaver problem
- Randomness and compressibility
- The Turing test
- AI and the Technological Singularity

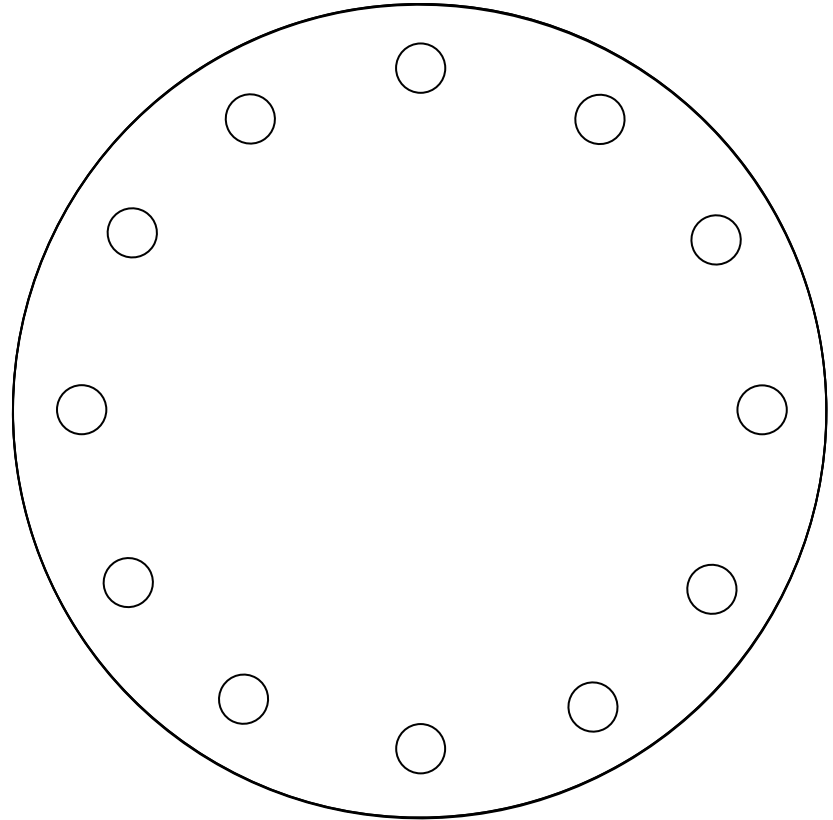


Overarching Philosophy

- Focus on the “big picture” & “scientific method”
- Emphasis on **problem solving** & creativity
- Discuss applications & practice
- A primary objective: have **fun!**



Problem: Can 5 test tubes be spun simultaneously in a 12-hole centrifuge in a balanced way?



- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations

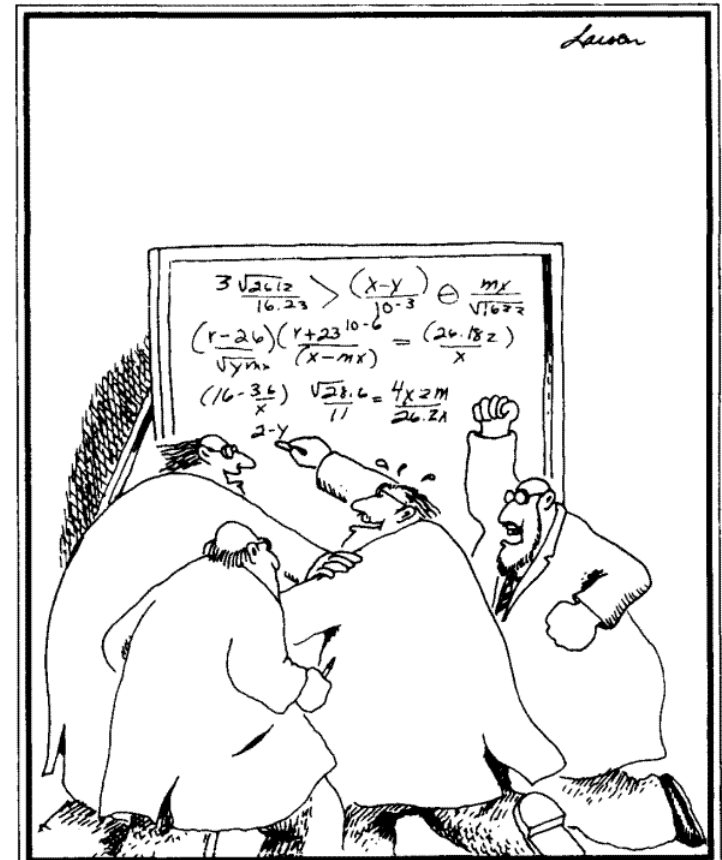
Prerequisites

- Some **discrete math & algorithms** knowledge
- Ideally, should have taken CS2102
- Course will “**bootstrap**” (albeit quickly) from **first principles**
- Critical: **Tenacity**, **patience**



Course Organization

- **Exams:** probably take home
 - Decide by vote
 - Flexible exam schedule
- **Problem sets:**
 - Lots of problem solving
 - **Work in groups!**
 - Not formally graded
 - **Many exam questions will come from homeworks!**
- **Extra credit** problems
 - In class & take-home
 - Find mistakes in slides, handouts, etc.
- Course materials posted on Web site
www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/theory



"Go for it, Sidney! You've got it! You've got it! Good hands! Don't choke!"

Grading Scheme

- Midterm 35%
- Final 35%
- Project 30%
- Extra credit 10%

Best strategy:

- Solve lots of problems!



"Mr. Osborne, may I be excused? My brain is full."

Contact Information

Professor Gabriel Robins

Office: 210 Olsson Hall

Phone: (434) 982-2207

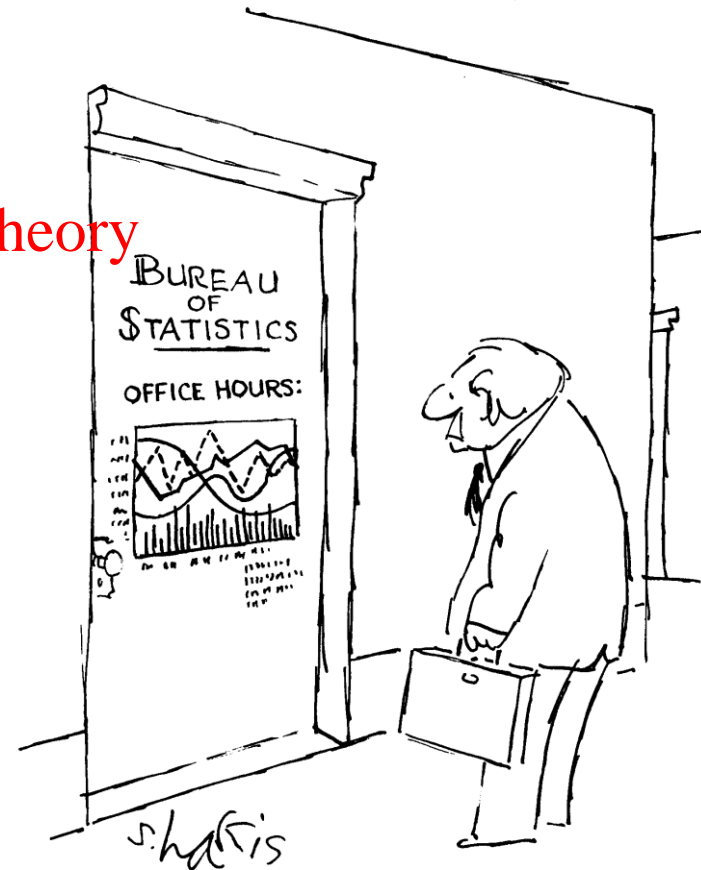
Email: robins@cs.virginia.edu

Web: www.cs.virginia.edu/robins

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/theory

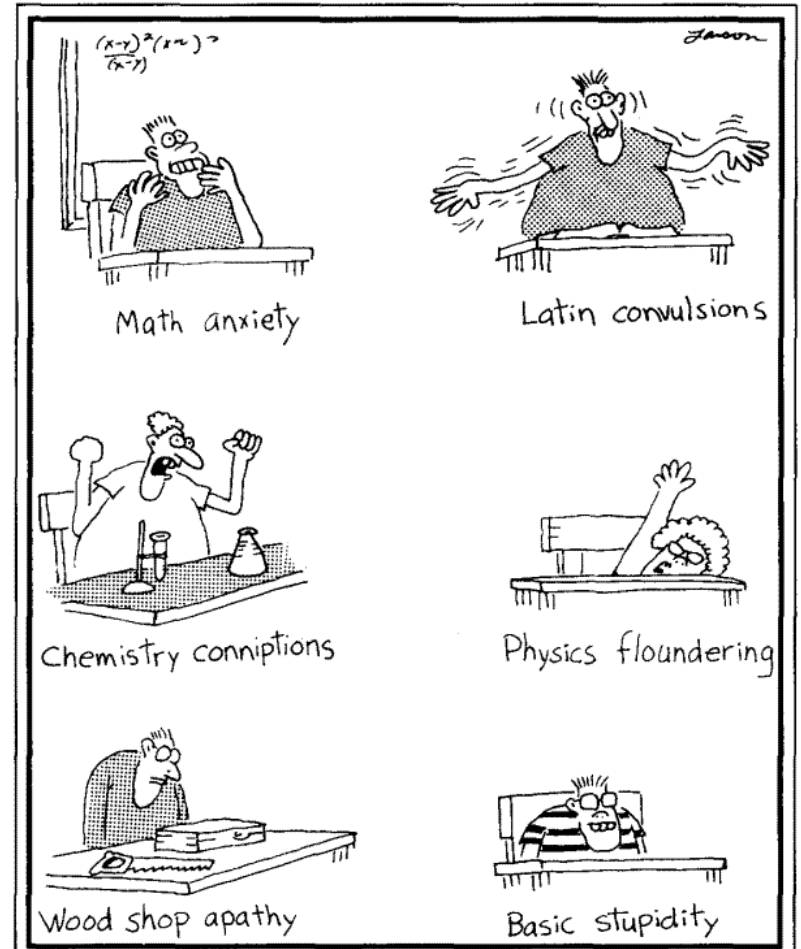
Office hours: after class

- Any other time
- [By email](#) (preferred)
- By appointment
- Q&A blog posted on class Web site



Good Advice

- Ask questions ASAP
- Do homeworks ASAP
- **Work in study groups**
- Do not fall behind
- “Cramming” won’t work
- Start on project early
- Attend every lecture
- Read Email often
- **Solve lots of problems**

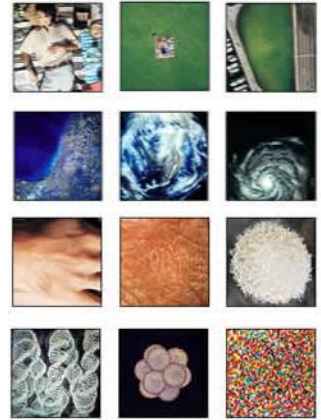


Classroom afflictions

Supplemental Readings

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- Great videos:
 - Randy Pausch's "**Last Lecture**", 2007
 - Randy Pausch's "**Time Management**", 2007
 - "**Powers of Ten**", Charles and Ray Eames, 1977



Supplemental Readings

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- **Theory and Algorithms:**

- **Who Can Name the Bigger Number**, Scott Aaronson, 1999
- The Limits of Reason, Gregory Chaitin, Scientific American, March 2006, pp. 74-81.
- Breaking Intractability, Joseph Traub and Henryk Wozniakowski, Scientific American, January 1994, pp. 102-107.
- Confronting Science's Logical Limits, John Casti, Scientific American, October 1996, pp. 102-105.
- **Go Forth and Replicate**, Moshe Sipper and James Reggia, Scientific American, August 2001, pp. 34-43.
- The Science Behind Sudoku, Jean-Paul Delahaye, Scientific American, June 2006, pp. 80-87.
- The Traveler's Dilemma, Kaushik Basu, Scientific American, June 2007, pp. 90-95.

Supplemental Readings

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- **Biological Computing:**

- Computing with DNA, Leonard Adleman, Scientific American, August 1998, pp. 54-61.
- Bringing DNA Computing to Life, Ehud Shapiro and Yaakov Benenson, Scientific American, May 2006, pp. 44-51.
- Engineering Life: Building a FAB for Biology, David Baker et al., Scientific American, June 2006, pp. 44-51.
- Big Lab on a Tiny Chip, Charles Choi, Scientific American, October 2007, pp. 100-103.
- DNA Computers for Work and Play, Macdonald et al, Scientific American, November 2007, pp. 84-91.

Supplemental Readings

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- **Quantum Computing:**

- Quantum Mechanical Computers, Seth Lloyd, Scientific American, 1997, pp. 98-104.
- Quantum Computing with Molecules, Gershenfeld and Chuang, Scientific American, June 1998, pp. 66-71.
- Black Hole Computers, Seth Lloyd and Jack Ng, Scientific American, November 2004, pp. 52-61.
- Computing with Quantum Knots, Graham Collins, Scientific American, April 2006, pp. 56-63.
- **The Limits of Quantum Computers**, Scott Aaronson, Scientific American, March 2008, pp. 62-69.
- Quantum Computing with Ions, Monroe and Wineland, Scientific American, August 2008, pp. 64-71.

Supplemental Readings

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- **History of Computing:**

- **Alan Turing's Forgotten Ideas**, B. Jack Copeland and Diane Proudfoot, *Scientific American*, May 1999, pp. 98-103.
- **Ada and the First Computer**, Eugene Kim and Betty Toole, *Scientific American*, April 1999, pp. 76-81.

- **Security and Privacy:**

- **Malware Goes Mobile**, Mikko Hypponen, *Scientific American*, November 2006, pp. 70-77.
- **RFID Powder**, Tim Hornyak, *Scientific American*, February 2008, pp. 68-71.
- **Can Phishing be Foiled**, Lorrie Cranor, *Scientific American*, December 2008, pp. 104-110.

Supplemental Readings

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- **Future of Computing:**

- **Microprocessors in 2020**, David Patterson, Scientific American, September 1995, pp. 62-67.
- Computing Without Clocks, Ivan Sutherland and Jo Ebergen, Scientific American, August 2002, pp. 62-69.
- Making Silicon Lase, Bahram Jalali, Scientific American, February 2007, pp. 58-65.
- **A Robot in Every Home**, Bill Gates, Scientific Am, January 2007, pp. 58-65.
- Ballbots, Ralph Hollis, Scientific American, October 2006, pp. 72-77.
- Dependable Software by Design, Daniel Jackson, Scientific American, June 2006, pp. 68-75.
- Not Tonight Dear - I Have to Reboot, Charles Choi, Scientific American, March 2008, pp. 94-97.
- Self-Powered Nanotech, Zhong Lin Wang, Scientific American, January 2008, pp. 82-87.

Supplemental Readings

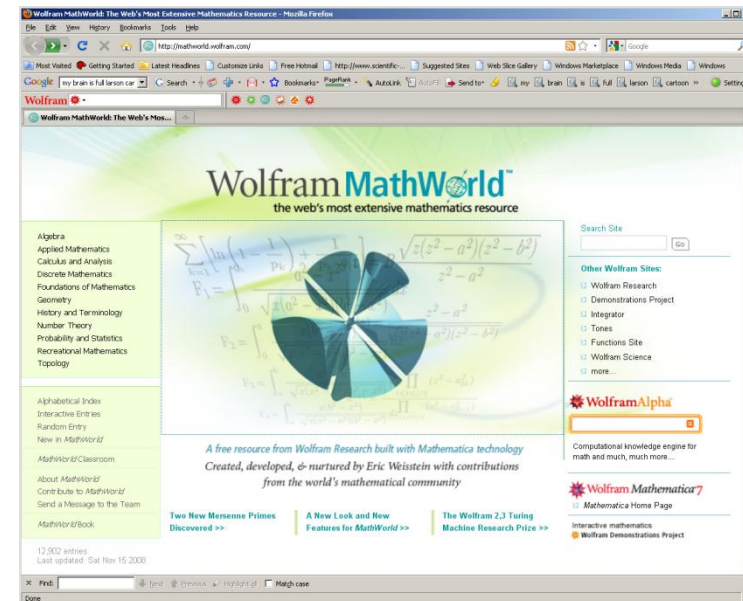
www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- The Wikipedia Math Portal:
 - Problem solving
 - List of Mathematical lists
 - Sets and Infinity
 - Discrete mathematics
 - Proof techniques and list of proofs
 - Information theory & randomness
 - Game theory

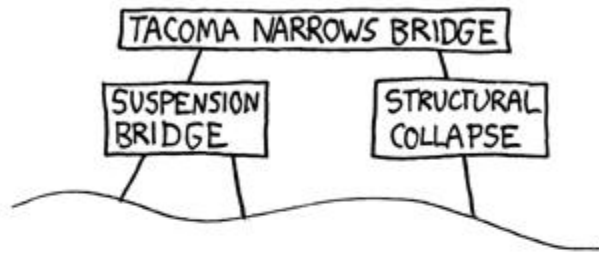
- Mathematica's “Math World”



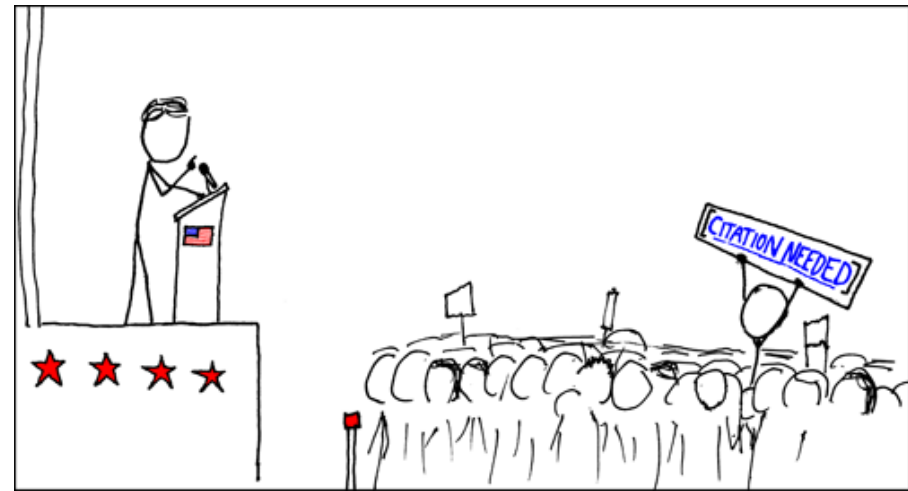
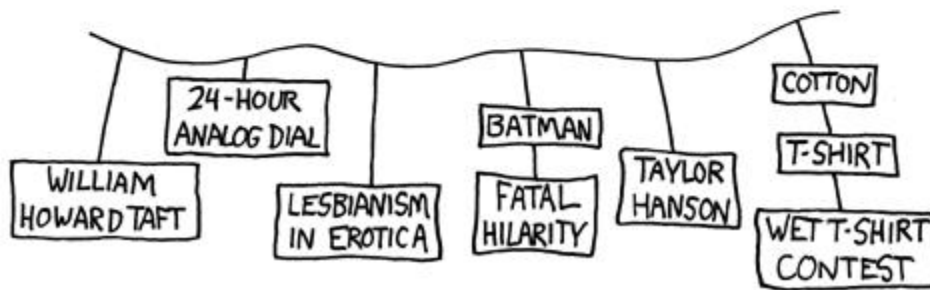
WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



THE PROBLEM WITH WIKIPEDIA:



[THREE HOURS OF
FASCINATED CLICKING]



WIKIFRIENDS:

I REALLY LIKED
THAT MOVIE.

I HATED
THAT MOVIE.

ME TOO.



Historical Perspectives

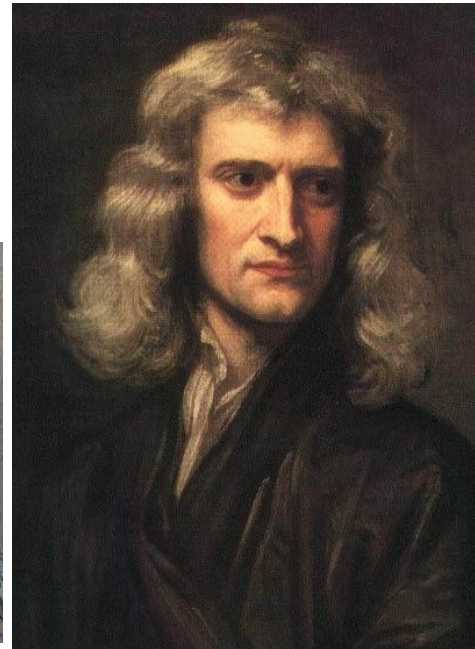


Historical Perspectives

- Science and mathematics **builds heavily** on past
- Often the **simplest** ideas are the most **subtle**
- Most **fundamental progress** was done by a few
- We **learn** much by observing the best minds
- Research benefits from seeing **connections**
- The field of computer science has many “**parents**”
- We get **inspired** and motivated by excellence
- The giants can show us what is **possible to achieve**
- It is **fun** to know these things!

“Standing on the Shoulders of Giants”

- Aristotle, Euclid, Archimedes, Eratosthenes
- Abu Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham
- Fibonacci, Descartes, Fermat, Pascal
- Newton, Euler, Gauss, Hamilton
- **Boole, De Morgan**
- **Babbage, Ada Augusta**
- Venn, Carroll

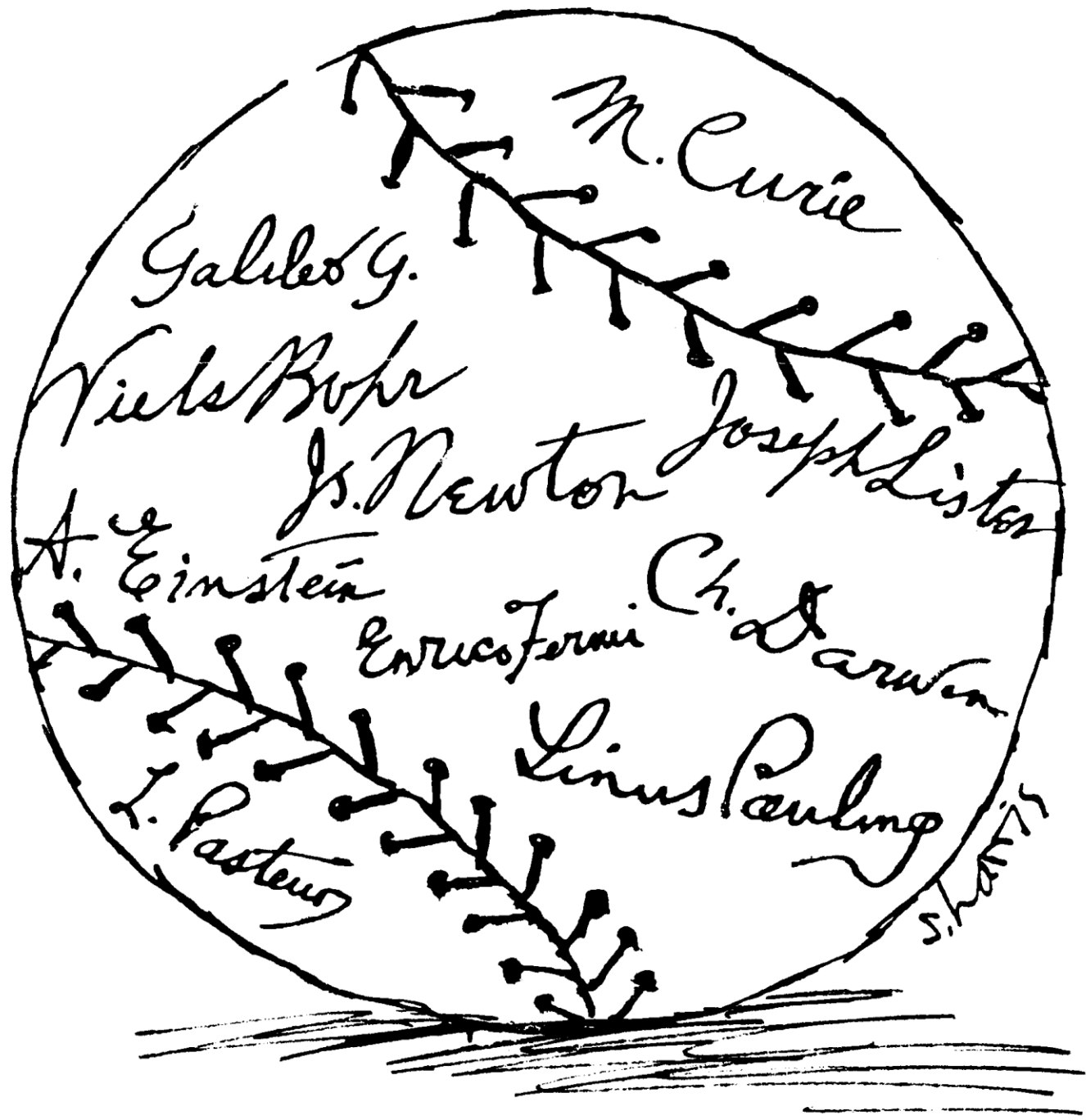


“Standing on the Shoulders of Giants”

- Cantor, Hilbert, Russell
- Hardy, Ramanujan, Ramsey
- Godel, Church, **Turing**
- **von Neumann**, Shannon
- Kleene, **Chomsky**
- Hoare, McCarthy, Erdos
- Knuth, Backus, Dijkstra

Many others...





M. Curie

Galileo G.

Niels Bohr

J. Newton Joseph Lister

A. Einstein

Enrico Fermi Ch. Darwin

I. Pasteur

Linus Pauling

S. HART

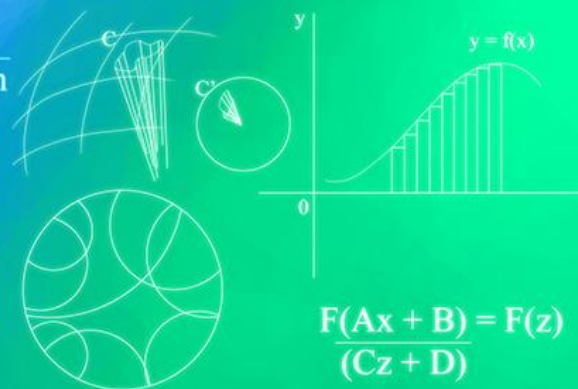
Gauss
 Newton
 Archimedes
 Euler
 Cauchy
 Poincare
 Riemann
 Cantor
 Cayley
 Hamilton
 Eisenstein
 Pascal
 Abel
 Hilbert
 Klein
 Leibniz
 Descartes
 Galois
 Mobius
 Jacob
 Johann Bernoulli
 Daniel Bernoulli
 Dirichlet
 Fermat
 Pythagoras
 Laplace
 Lagrange
 Kronecker
 Jacobi
 Bolyai
 Lobatchewsky
 Noether
 Germain
 Euclid
 Legendre

$$(p/q)(q/p) = -1^{(p-1)(q-1)/4}$$

$$\text{num} = \Delta + \Delta + \Delta$$

$$\pi(n) = \frac{n}{\ln n}$$

$$(a/p) = -1^{\eta(p,a)}$$



$$(a+b)^n = a^n + na^{n-1}b + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!}a^{n-2}b^2 + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{3!}a^{n-3}b^3 + \dots$$

$$\int_b^a f(x)dx = F(b) - F(a); \quad x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$$

$$\frac{dF(x)}{dx} = f(x)$$

$$F(s) = s^{-2}$$

$$(abcdef) = (ab)(ac)(ad)(ae)(af)$$

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$$

$$|a \cdot b| \leq |a||b|$$

$$\text{Gal}(E/F);$$

$$E_H = \{x \in E \mid \phi(x) = x \forall \phi \in H\}$$

$$f'(c)(b-a) = f(b) - f(a)$$

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}; \quad 0 < x < 1$$

$$u(0,t) = 0 = u(1,t)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

$$D = R[x]$$



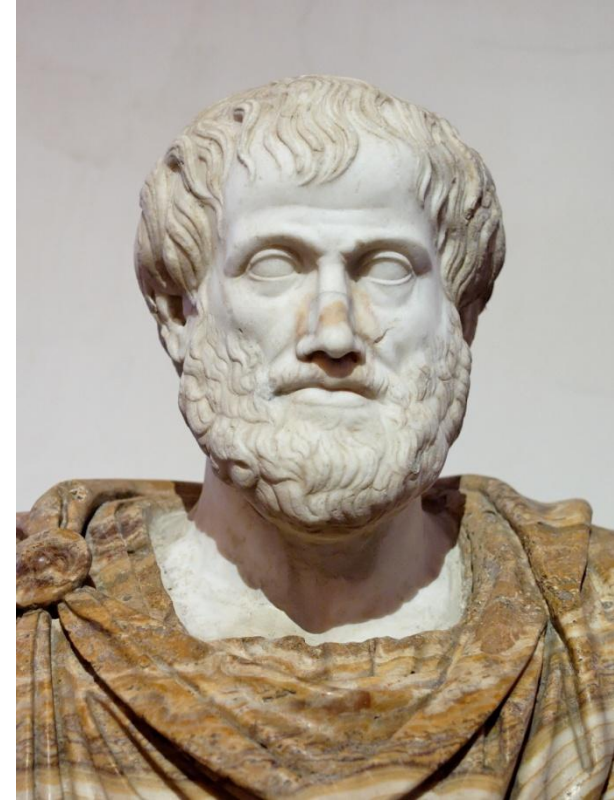
MAKING PHILOSOPHY ACCESSIBLE: POP-UP PLATO

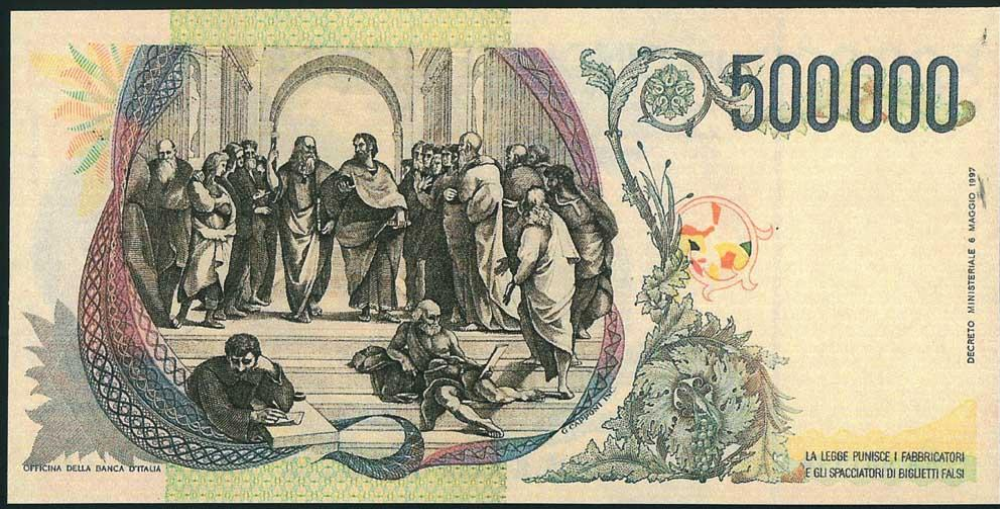


Historical Perspectives

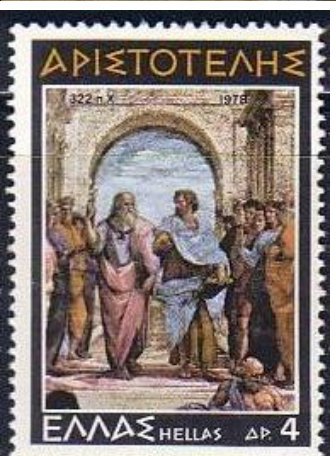
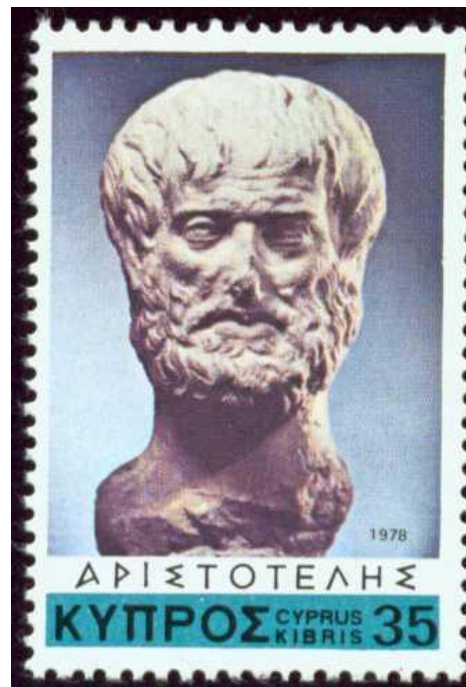
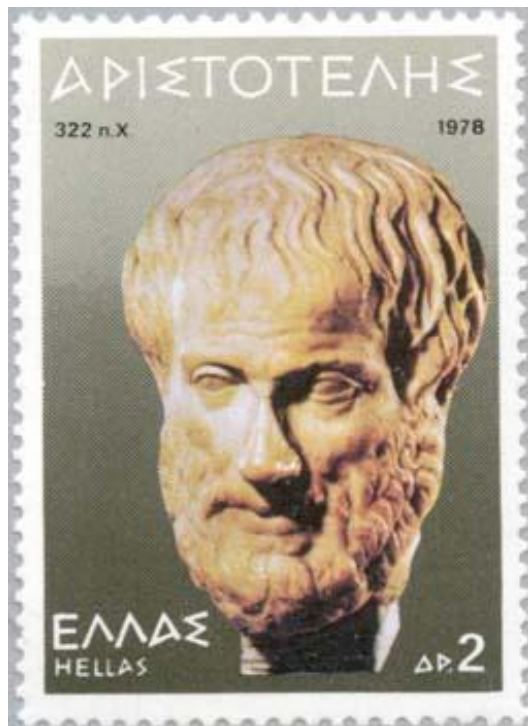
Aristotle (384BC-322BC)

- Founded Western philosophy
 - Student of Plato
 - Taught Alexander the Great
 - “Aristotelianism”
 - Developed the “scientific method”
 - One of the most influential people ever
 - Wrote on physics, theatre, poetry, music, logic, rhetoric, politics, government, ethics, biology, zoology, morality, optics, science, aesthetics, psychology, metaphysics, ...
 - Last person to know everything known in his own time!
- “Almost every serious intellectual advance has had to begin with an attack on some Aristotelian doctrine.” – Bertrand Russell





“Wit is educated insolence.”
- Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)





ARISTOTELES

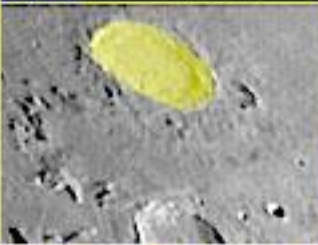
87 km

97 / 10 / 09

D=254mm FD=10



"LIGIA"
Moon



© Antonio J. Cidadão

8

B/W QuickCam

a.cidadao@mail.telepac.pt



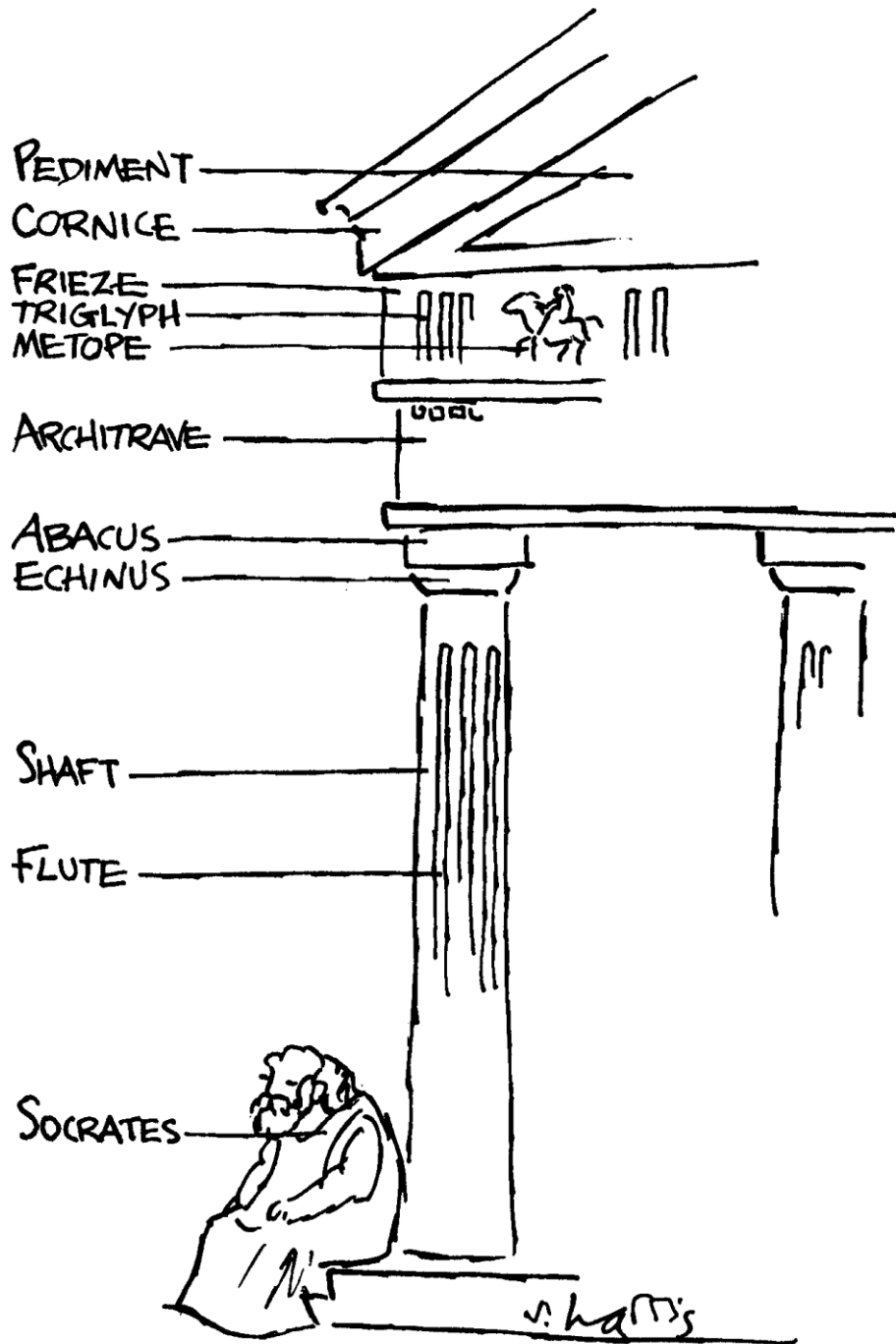
Birds fly because they're lighter than air.
Some trees have different fruits each year.
At night, clouds rest on the ground.

Are you sure he's Aristotle?





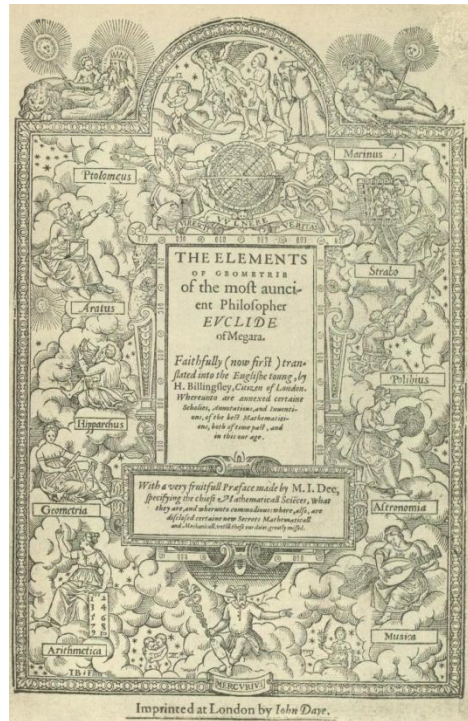
“What I especially like about being a philosopher-scientist is that I don’t have to get my hands dirty.”

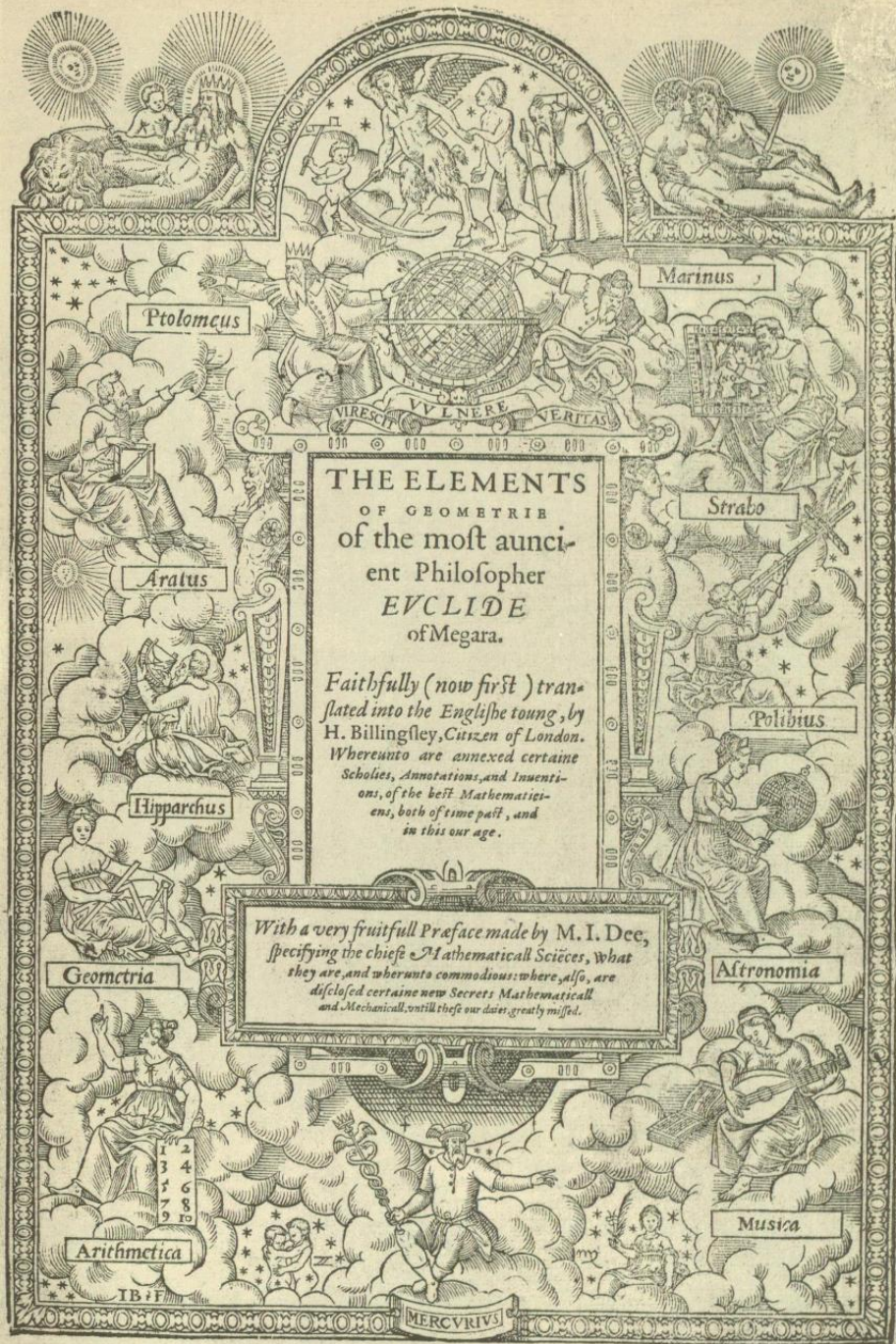


Historical Perspectives

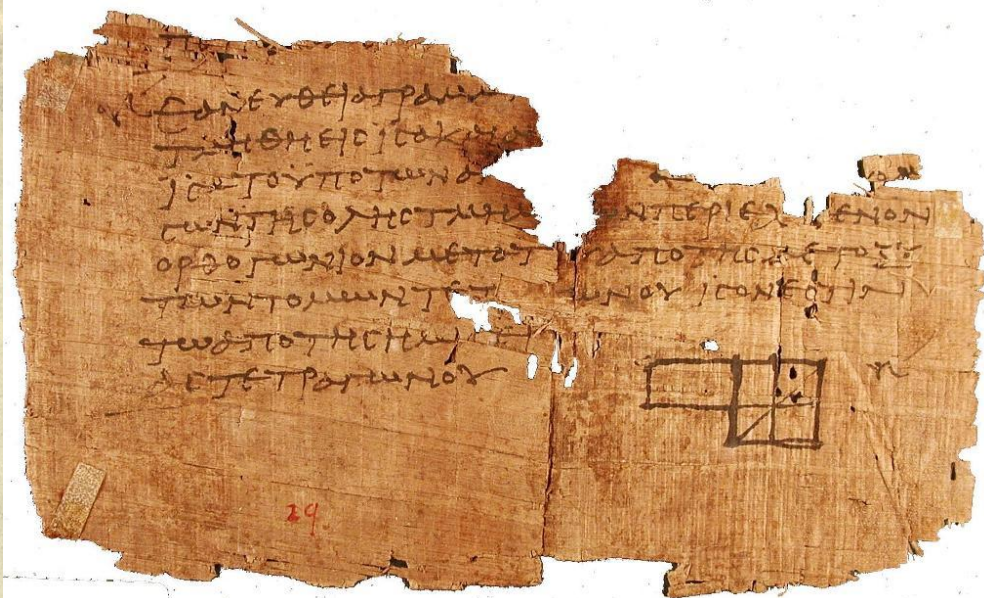
Euclid (325BC-265BC)

- Founder of geometry & the **axiomatic method**
- “**Elements**” – oldest and most impactful textbook
- Unified logic & math
- Introduced rigor and “**Euclidean**” geometry
- Influenced all other fields of science: Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Russell, Lincoln, Einstein & many others

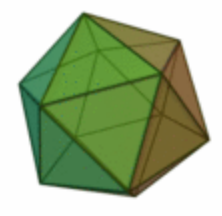
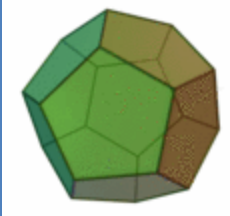
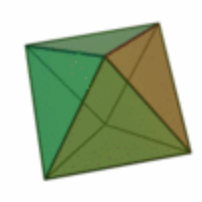
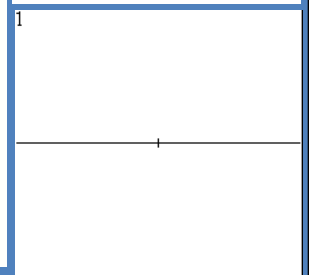
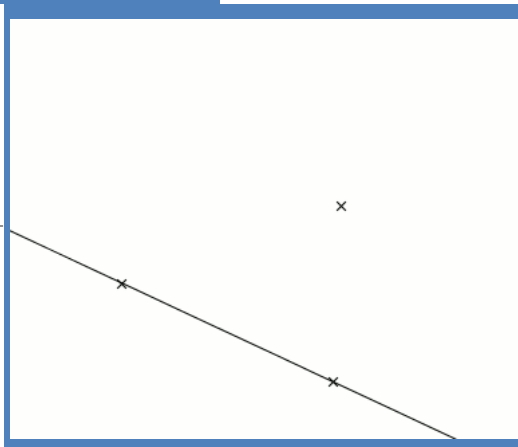
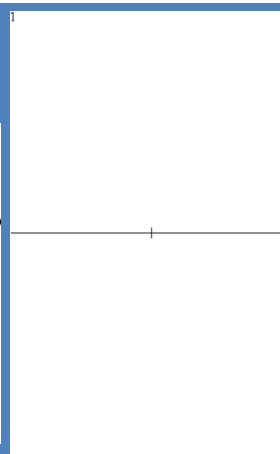
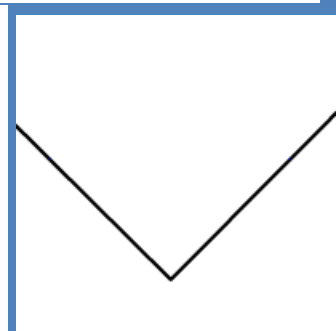
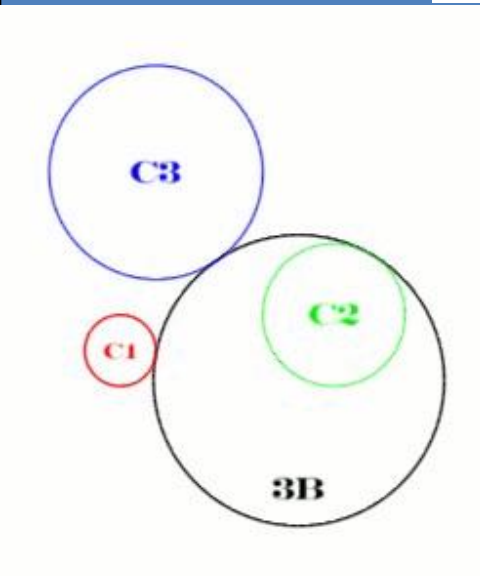
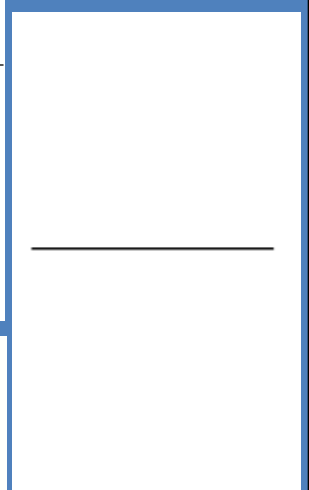
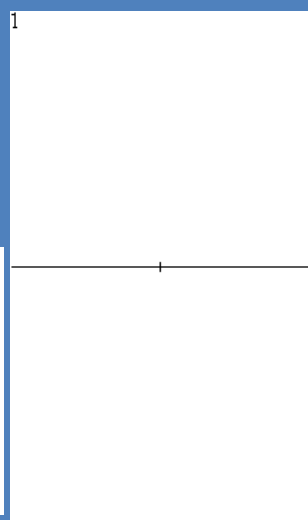
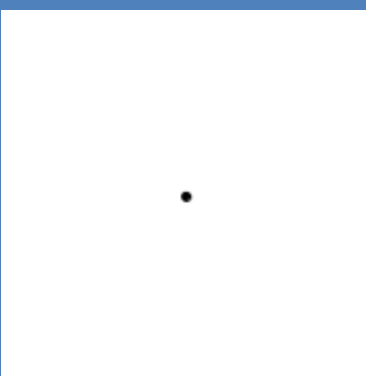
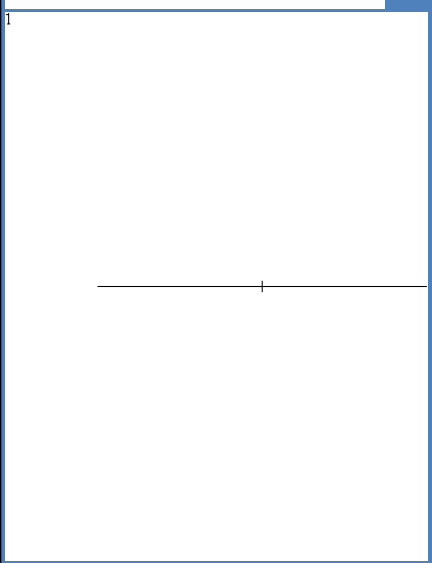
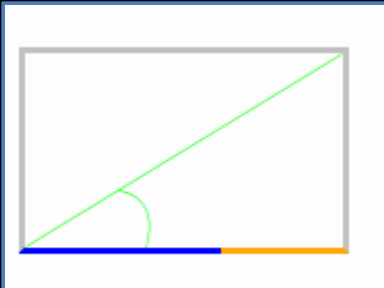


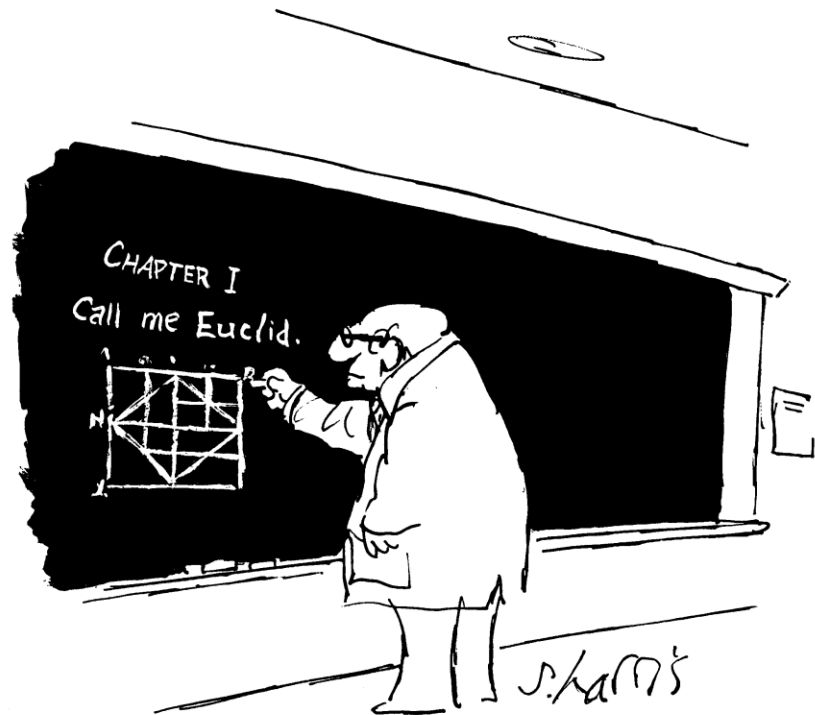
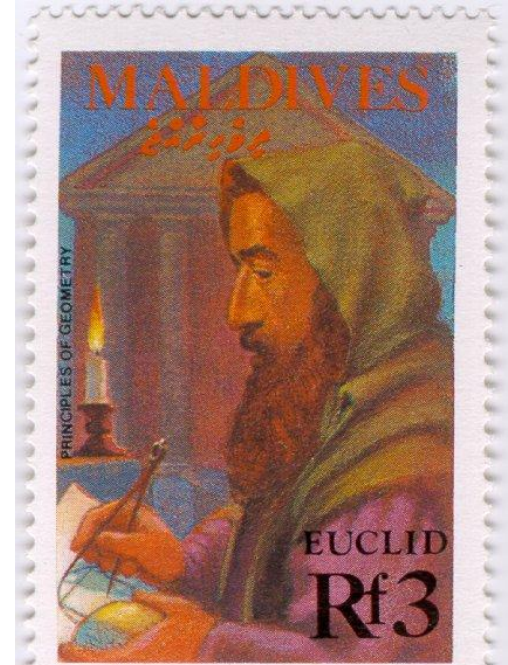


Imprinted at London by Iohn Daye.



Euclid's Straight-Edge and Compass Geometric Constructions





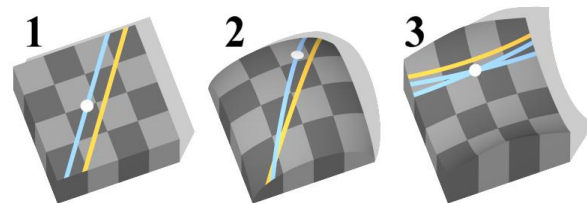
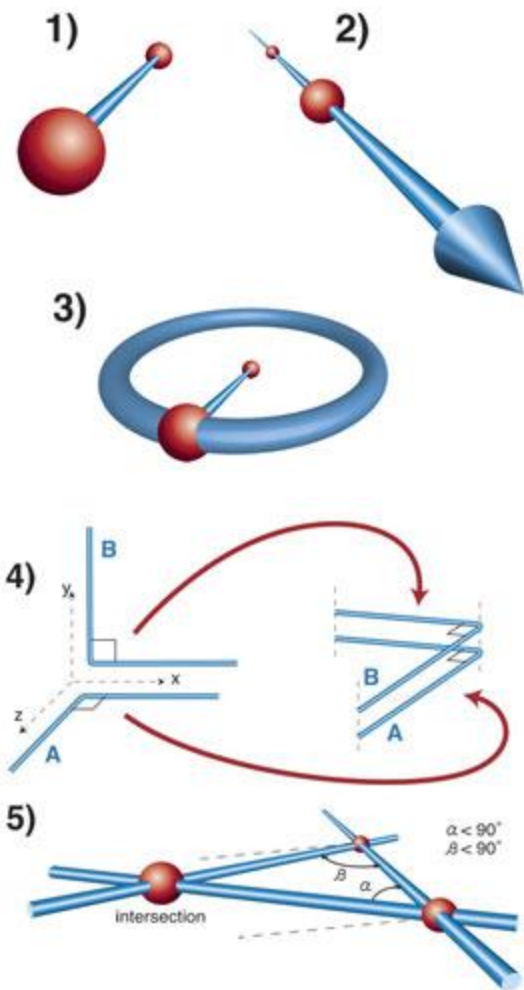
Euclid's Axioms

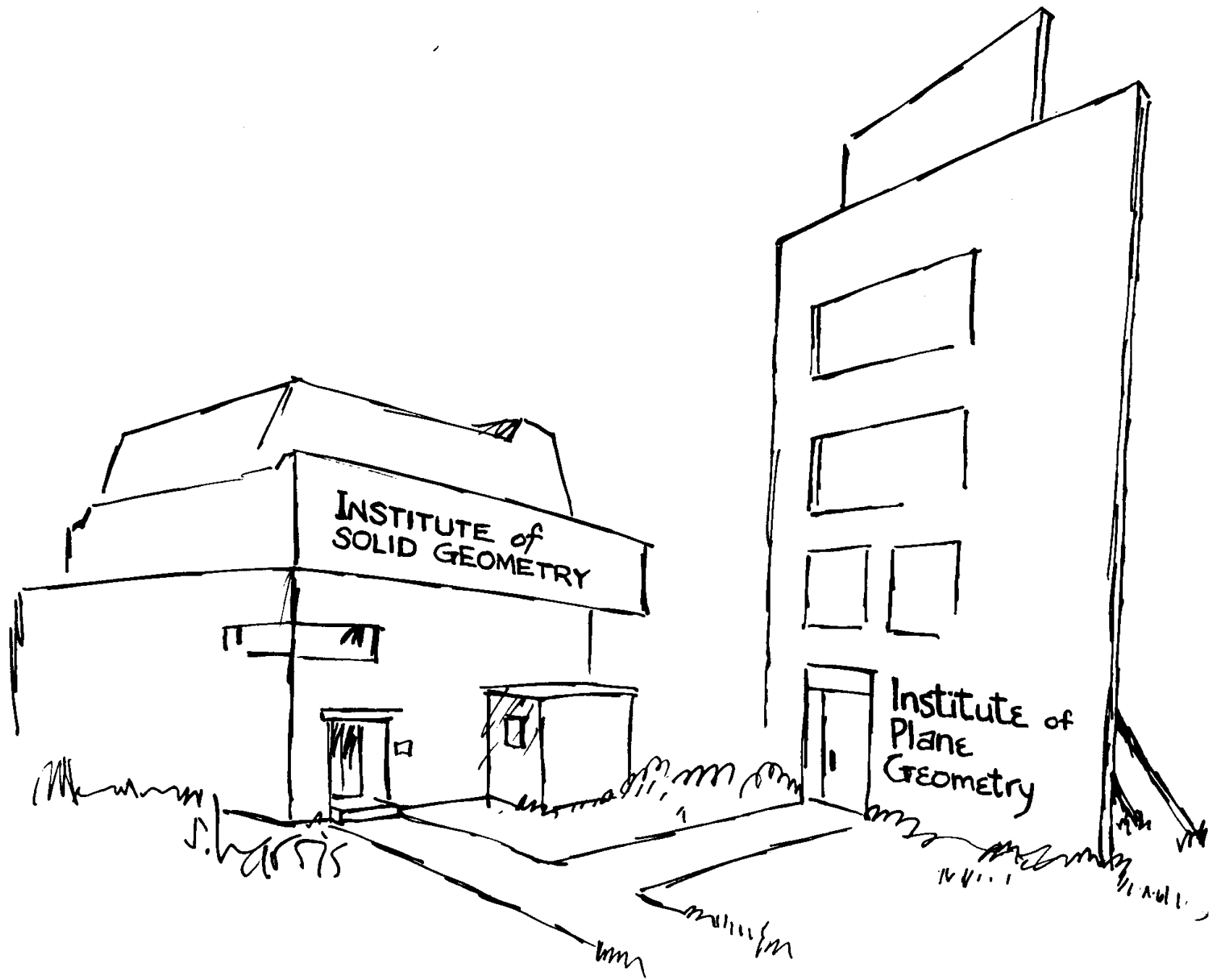
- 1: Any two points can be connected by exactly one straight line.
- 2: Any segment can be extended indefinitely into a straight line.
- 3: A circle exists for any given center and radius.
- 4: All right angles are equal to each other.
- 5: The **parallel postulate**: Given a line and a point off that line, there is exactly one line passing through the point, which does not intersect the first line.

The first 28 propositions of Euclid's Elements were proven without using the parallel postulate!

Theorem [Beltrami, 1868]: The parallel postulate is **independent** of the other axioms of Euclidean geometry.

The parallel postulate can be **modified** to yield **non-Euclidean geometries**!





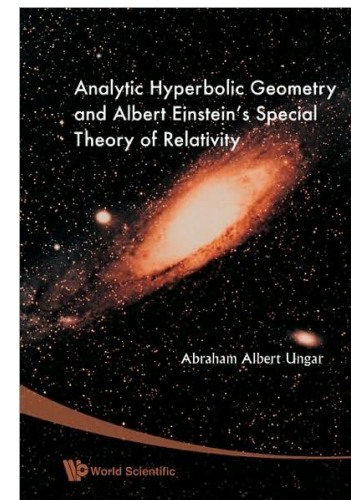
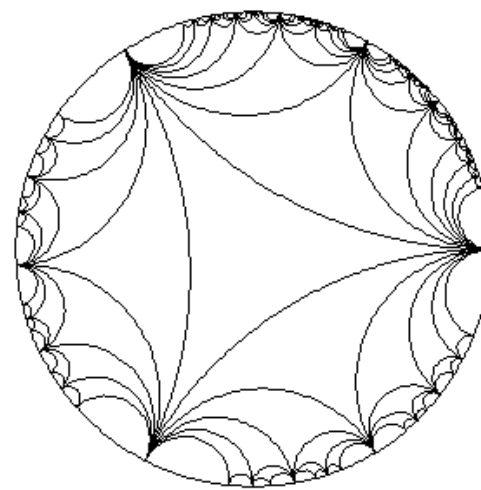
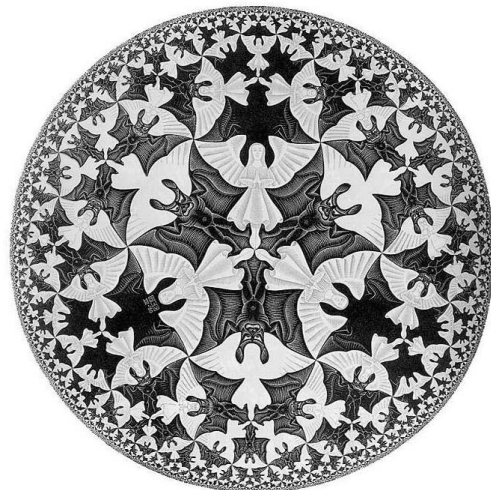
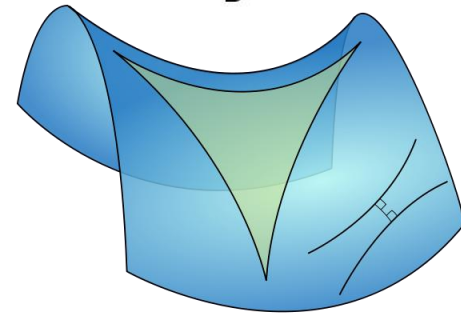
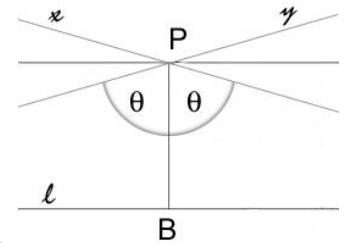
INSTITUTE of
SOLID GEOMETRY

Institute of
Plane
Geometry

Non-Euclidean Geometries

Hyperbolic geometry: Given a line and a point off that line, there are an **infinity of lines** passing through that point that do not intersect the first line.

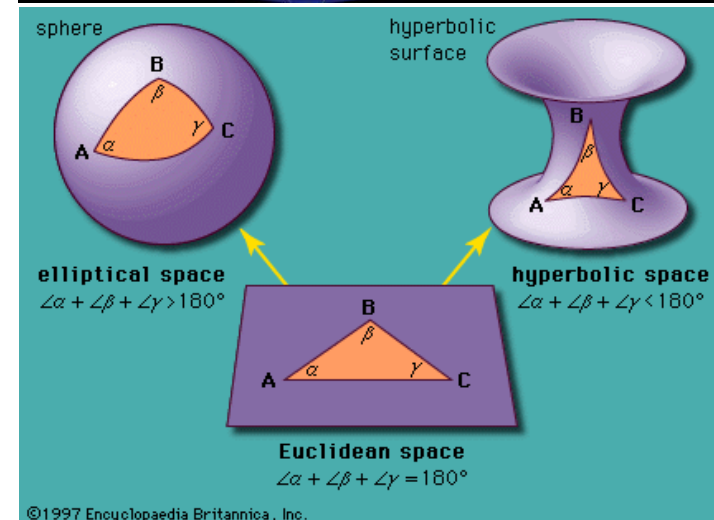
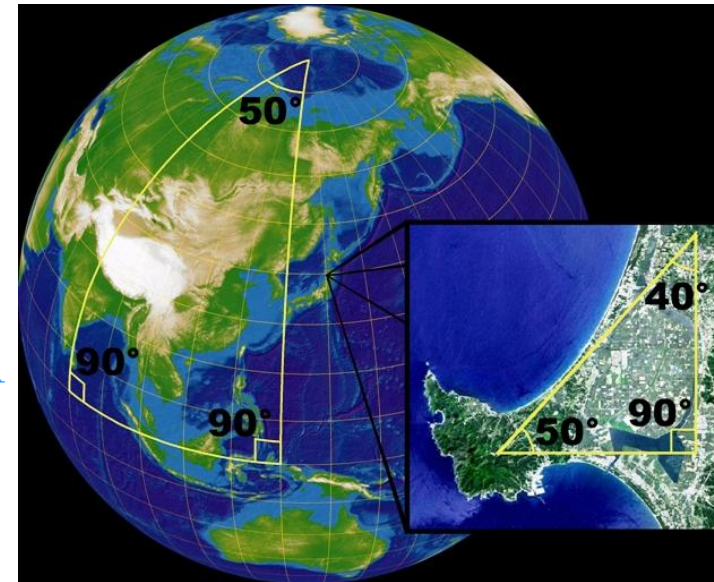
- Sum of triangle angles is less than 180°
- Not all triangles have the same angle sum
- Triangles with same angles have same area
- There are no similar triangles
- Used in relativity theory

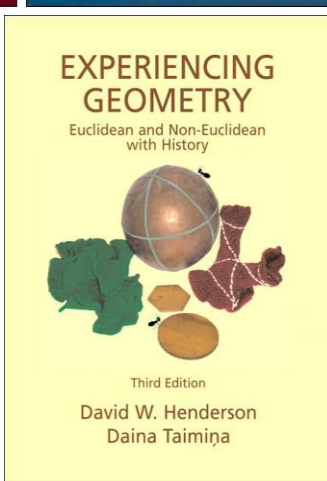
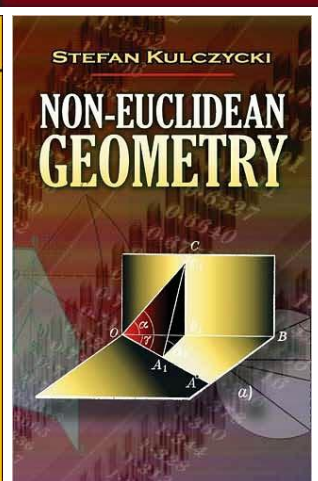
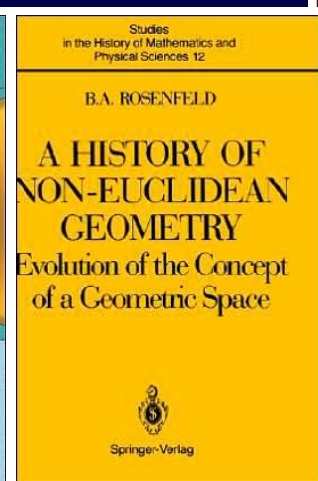
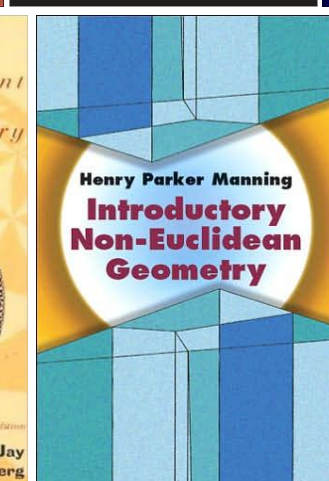
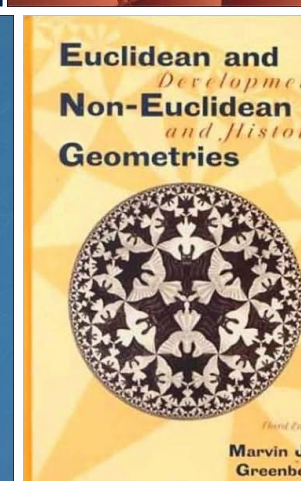
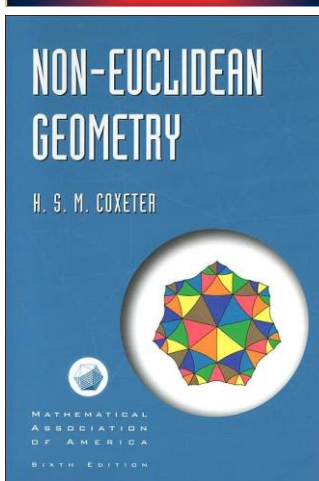
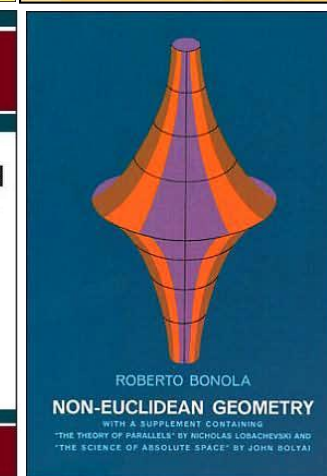
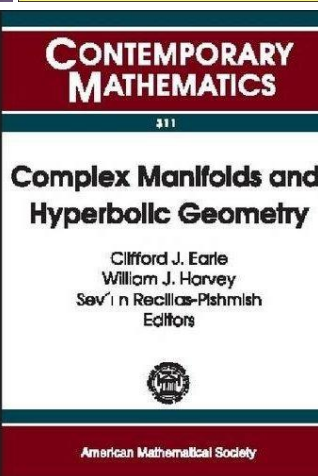
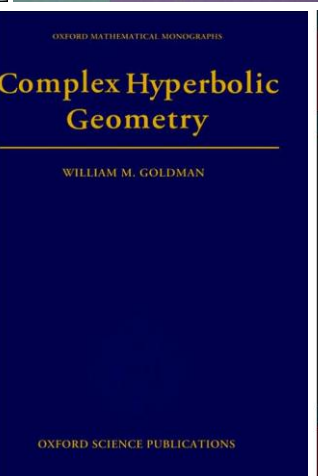
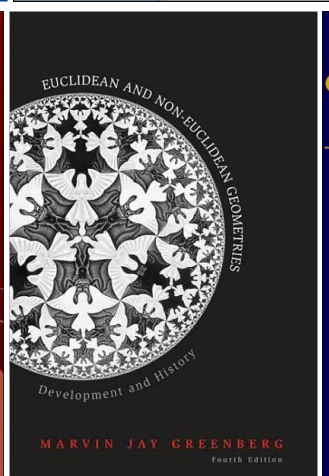
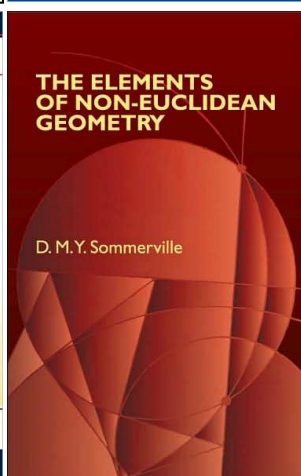
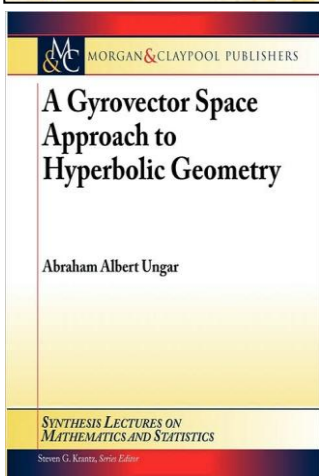
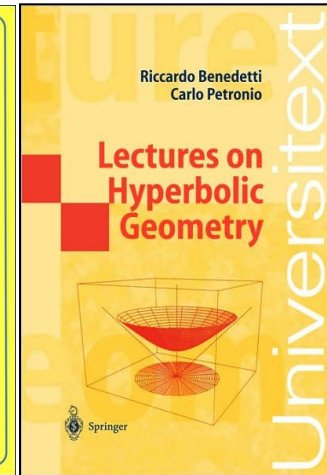
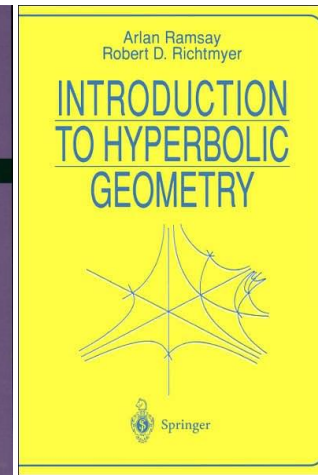
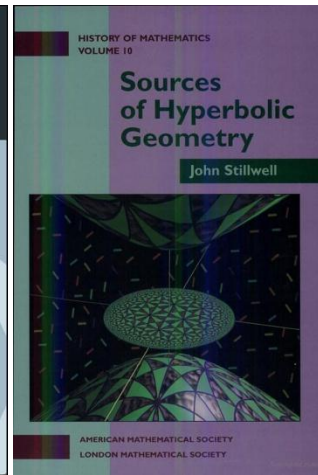
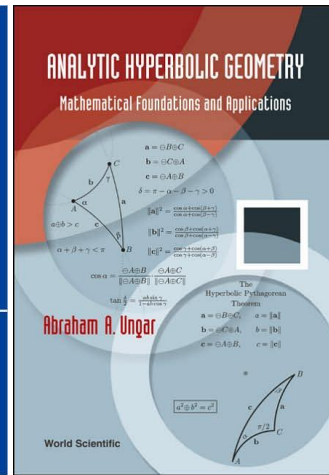
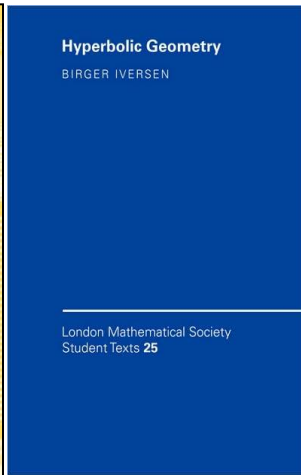
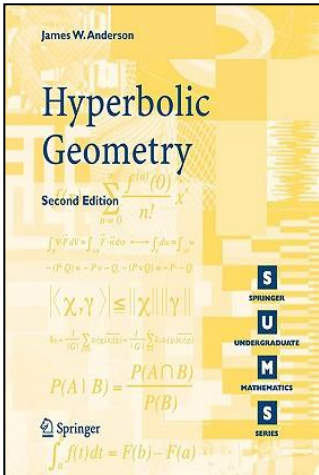


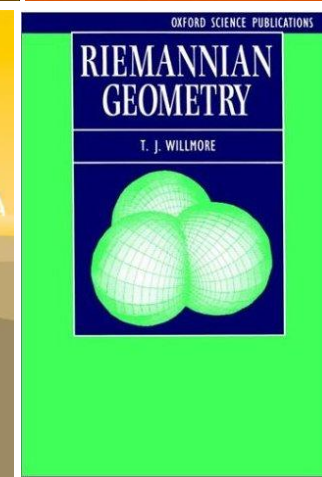
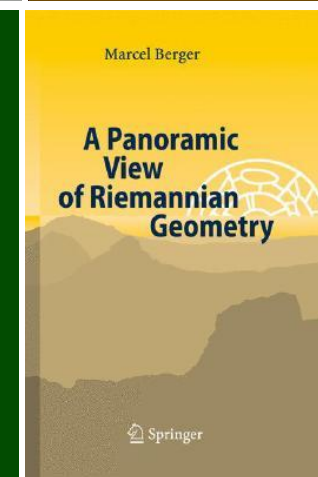
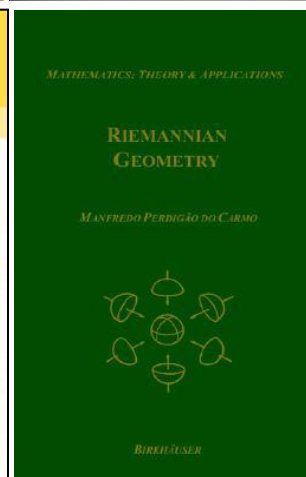
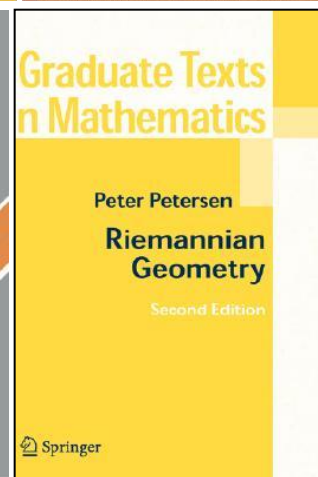
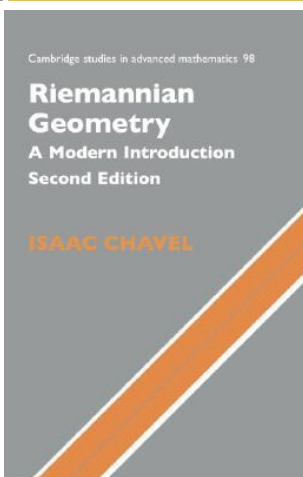
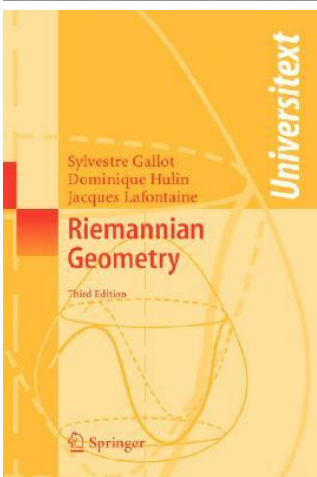
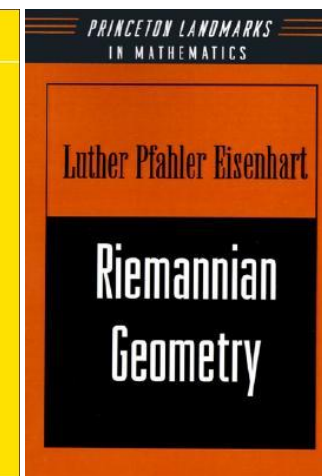
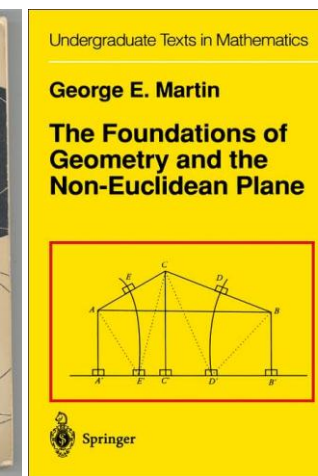
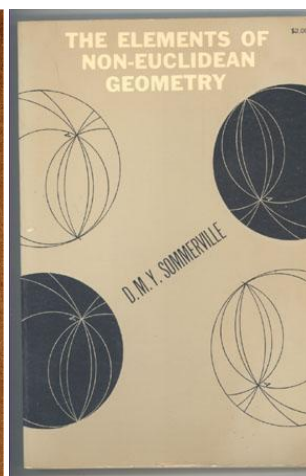
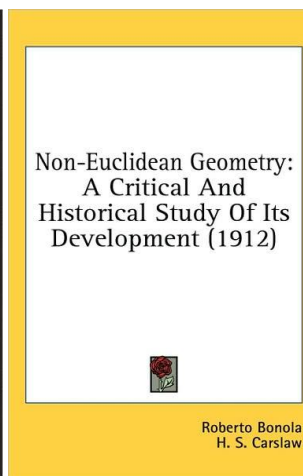
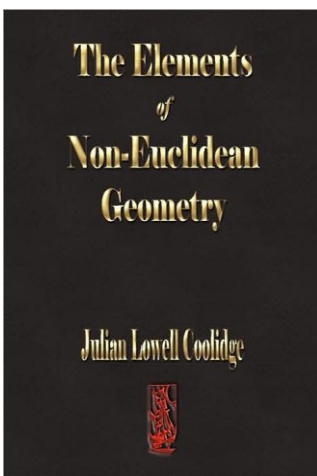
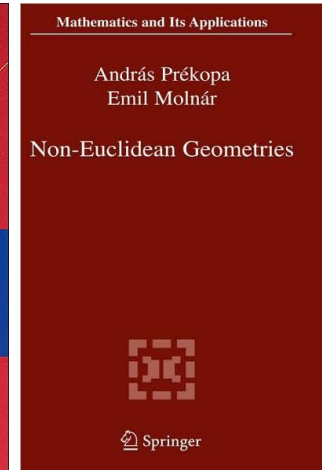
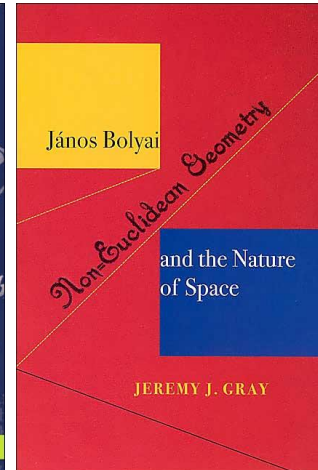
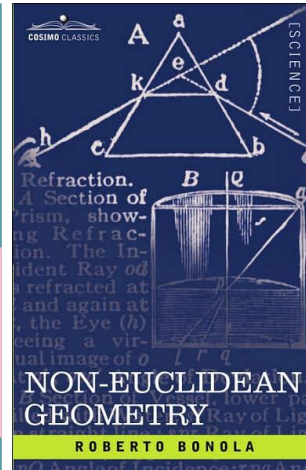
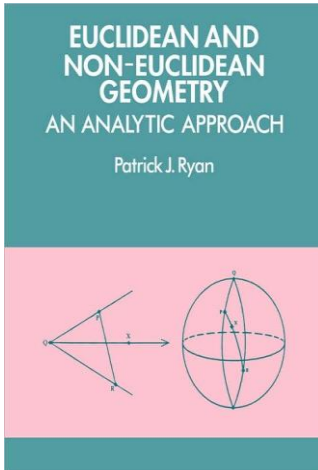
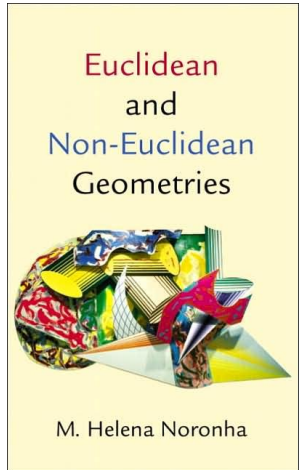
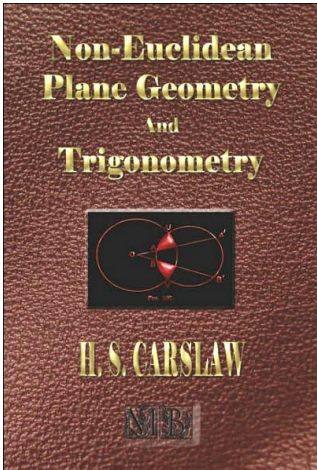
Non-Euclidean Geometries

Spherical / Elliptic geometry: Given a line and a point off that line, there are **no lines** passing through that point that do not intersect the first line.

- Lines are **geodesics** - “great circles”
- Sum of triangle angles is $> 180^\circ$
- Not all triangles have same **angle sum**
- Figures can not scale up indefinitely
- **Area** does not scale as the **square**
- **Volume** does not scale as the **cube**
- The **Pythagorean theorem** fails
- **Self-consistent**, and **complete**

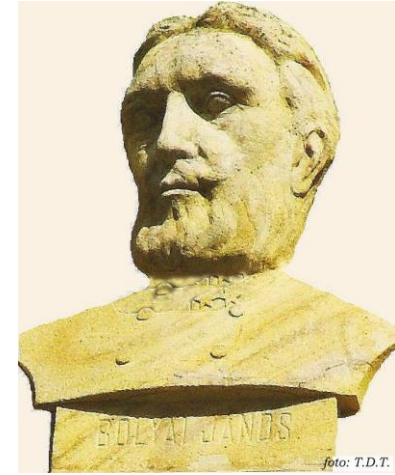
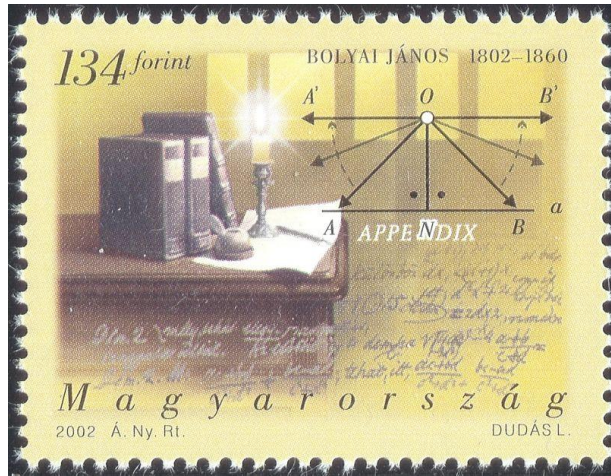






Founders of Non-Euclidean Geometry

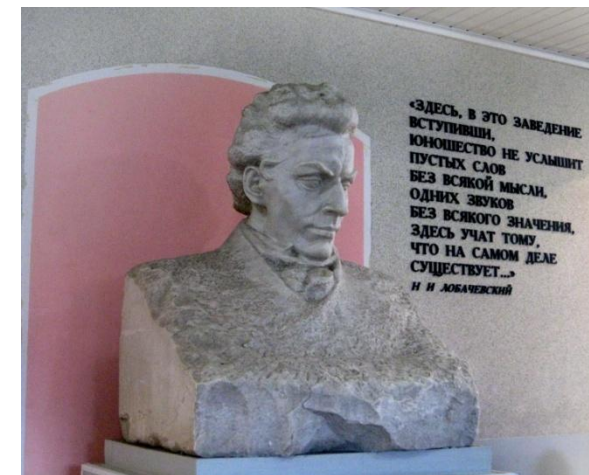
János **Bolyai** (1802-1860)



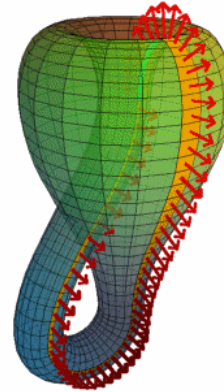
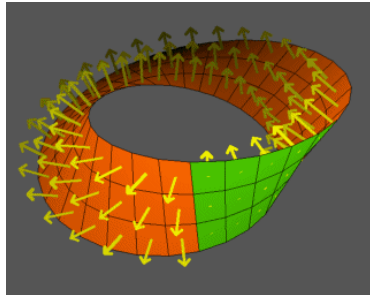
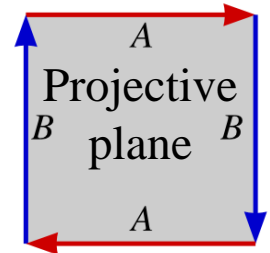
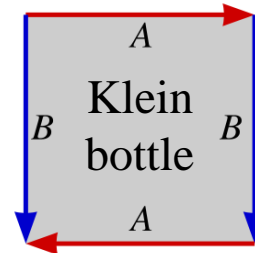
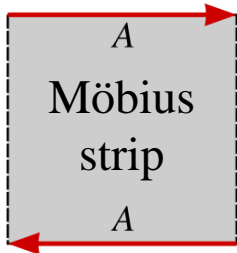
Nikolai Ivanovich **Lobachevsky** (1792-1856)



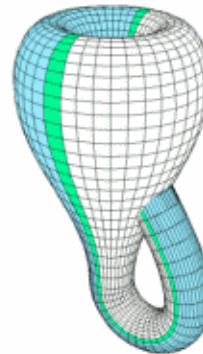
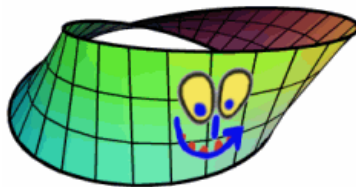
N. I. Lobachevsky



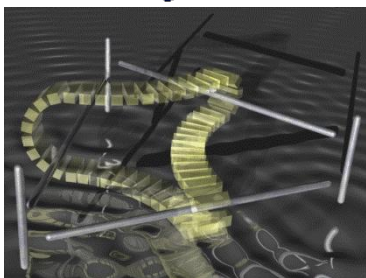
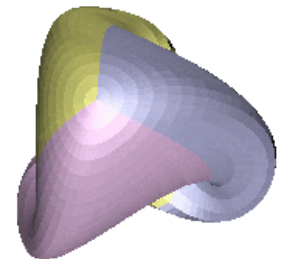
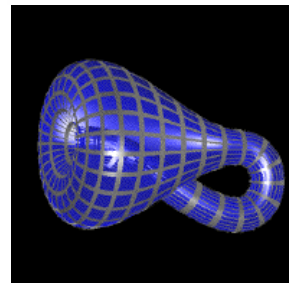
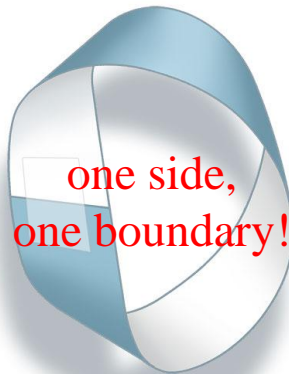
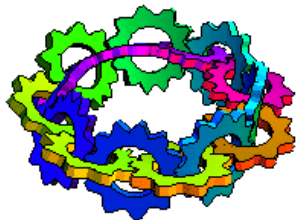
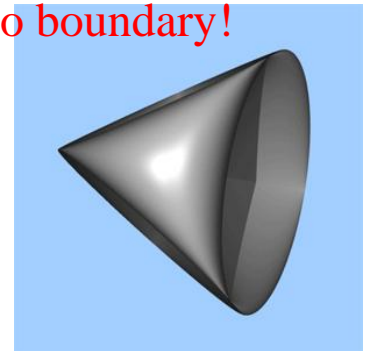
Non-Euclidean Non-Orientable Surfaces



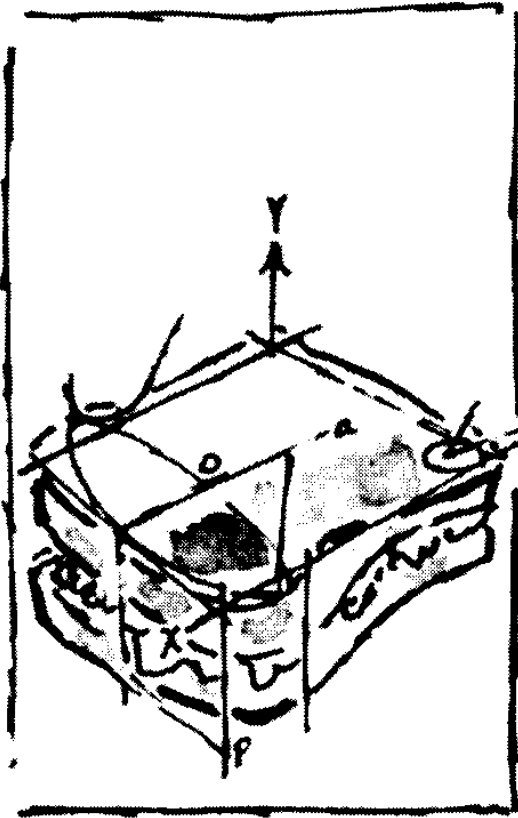
one side,
no boundary!



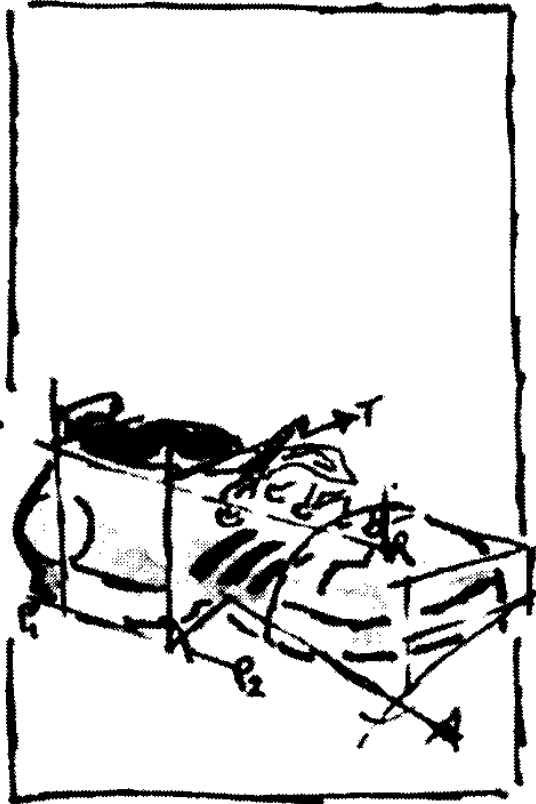
one side,
no boundary!



THE GEOMETRY OF EVERYDAY LIFE



TUNA SANDWICH



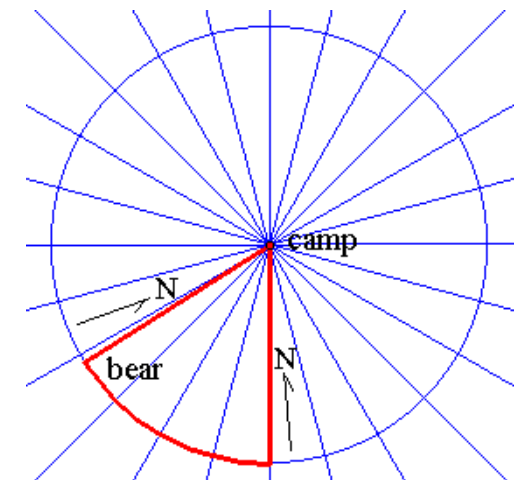
SNEAKER



GRANDMA

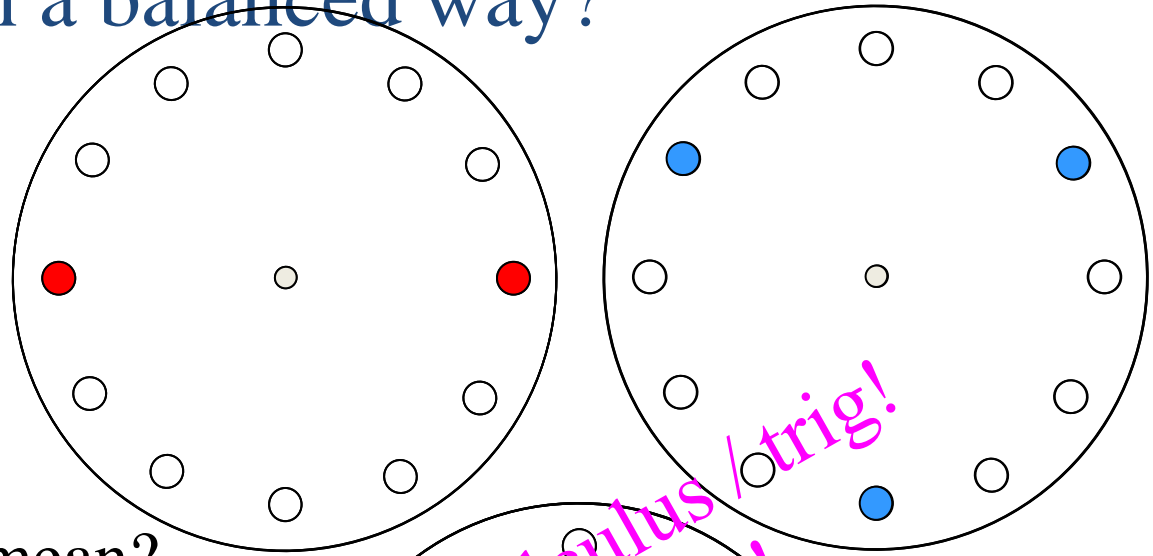
sharis

Problem: A man leaves his house and walks one mile south. He then walks one mile west and sees a Bear. Then he walks one mile north back to his house. What color was the bear?



Problem: Is the house location unique?

Problem: Can 5 test tubes be spun simultaneously in a 12-hole centrifuge in a balanced way?



- What does “balanced” mean?
- Why are 3 test tubes balanced?
- **Symmetry!**
- Can you merge solutions?
- **Superposition!**
- **Linearity!** $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$
- Can you spin 7 test tubes?
- **Complementarity!**
- Empirical testing...

No vector calculus / trig!
No equations!
Truth is guaranteed!
Fundamental principles exposed!
Easy to generalize!
High elegance / beauty!

Problem: $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + \dots + 100 = ?$

Proof: Induction...



$$= (100 * 101) / 2$$

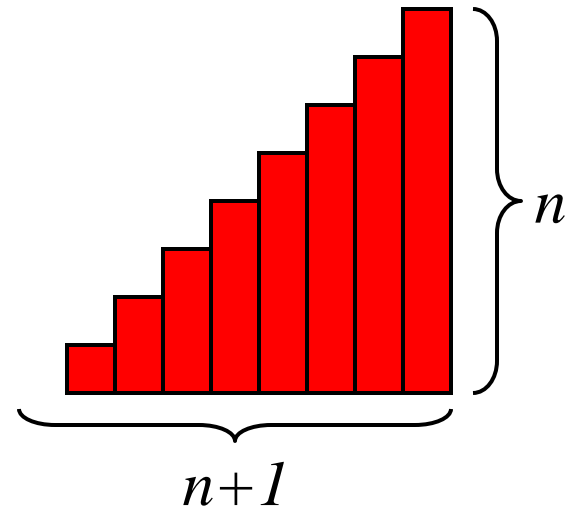
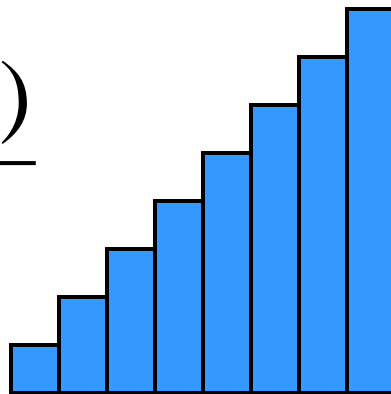
$$= 5050$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 99 + 100$$

$$100 + 99 + 98 + \dots + 2 + 1$$

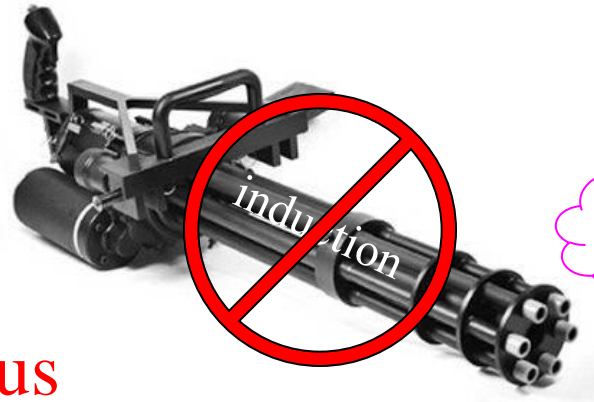
$$101 + 101 + 101 + \dots + 101 + 101 = 100 * 101$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$



Drawbacks of Induction

- You must **a priori** know the formula / result
- Easy to make **mistakes** in inductive proof
- Mostly “mechanical” – **ignores intuitions**
- **Tedious** to construct
- **Difficult** to check
- **Hard** to understand
- **Not very convincing**
- Generalizations **not obvious**
- Does not “**shed light on truth**”
- **Obfuscates** connections



Conclusion: only use induction as a **last resort!**

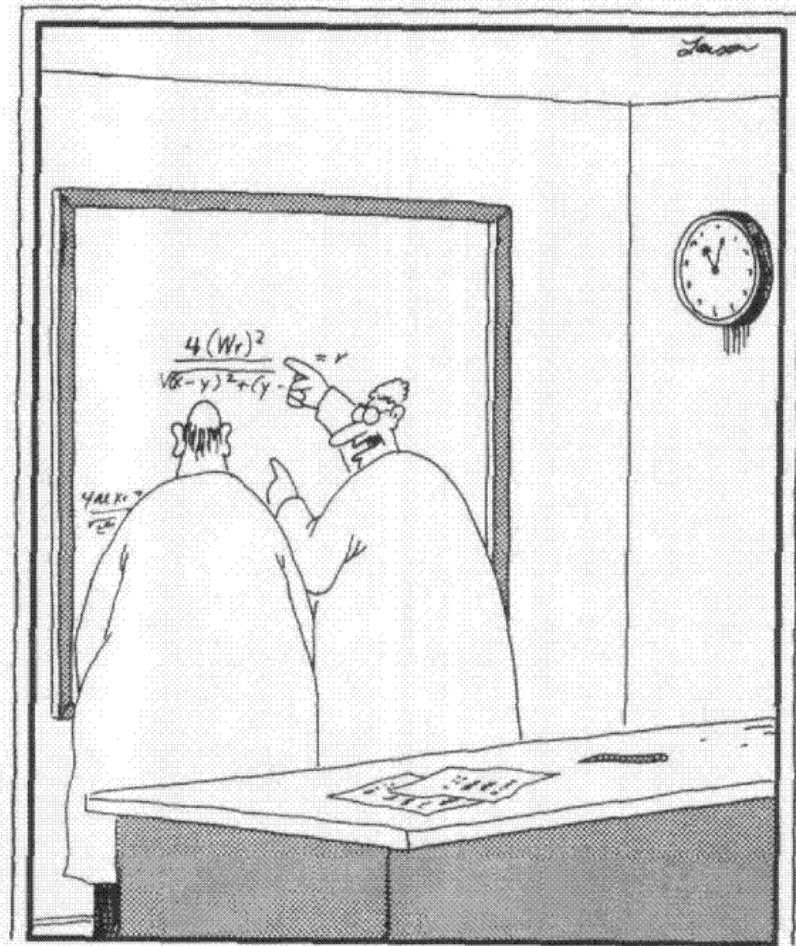
I.e., **almost never!**

Problem: $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 + \dots + n^3 = ?$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i^3 = ?$$

Extra Credit:

find a short, **geometric**,
induction-free proof.



"Yes, yes, I know that, Sidney ... everybody knows that! ... But look: Four wrongs squared, minus two wrongs to the fourth power, divided by this formula, do make a right."

Problem: $(1/4) + (1/4)^2 + (1/4)^3 + (1/4)^4 + \dots = ?$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4^i} = ?$$

Extra Credit:

Find a short, **geometric**, induction-free proof.

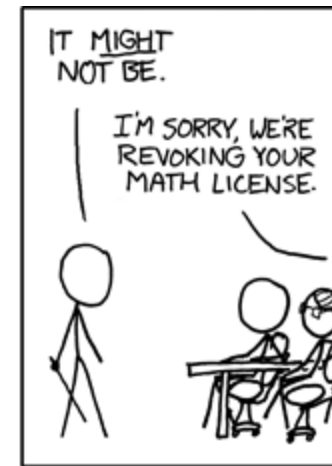
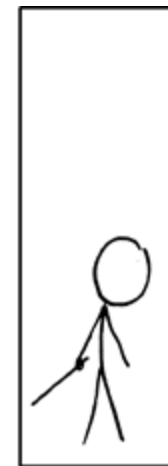
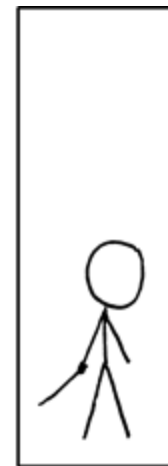
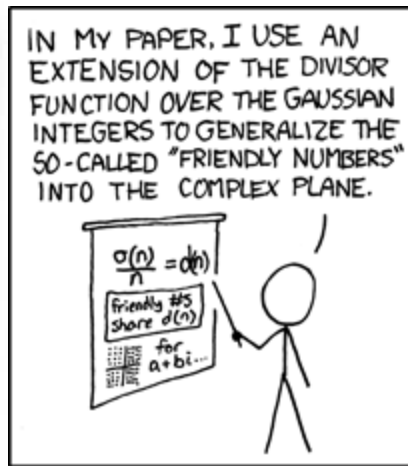
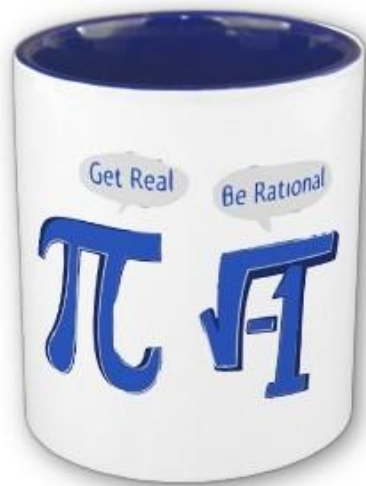
Problem: $(1/8) + (1/8)^2 + (1/8)^3 + (1/8)^4 + \dots = ?$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{8^i} = ?$$

Extra Credit:

Find a short, **geometric**, induction-free proof.

Problem: Are the complex numbers closed under exponentiation ? E.g., what is the value of i^i ?



Problem: Prove that there are an infinity of primes.

Extra Credit: Find a short, induction-free proof.

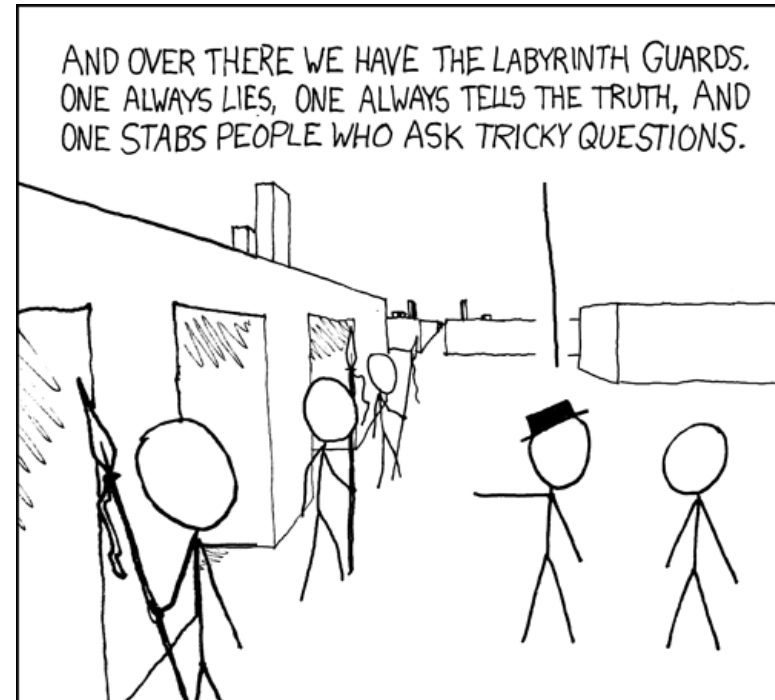
- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations



Problem: True or false: there arbitrary long blocks of consecutive composite integers.

Extra Credit: find a short, induction-free proof.

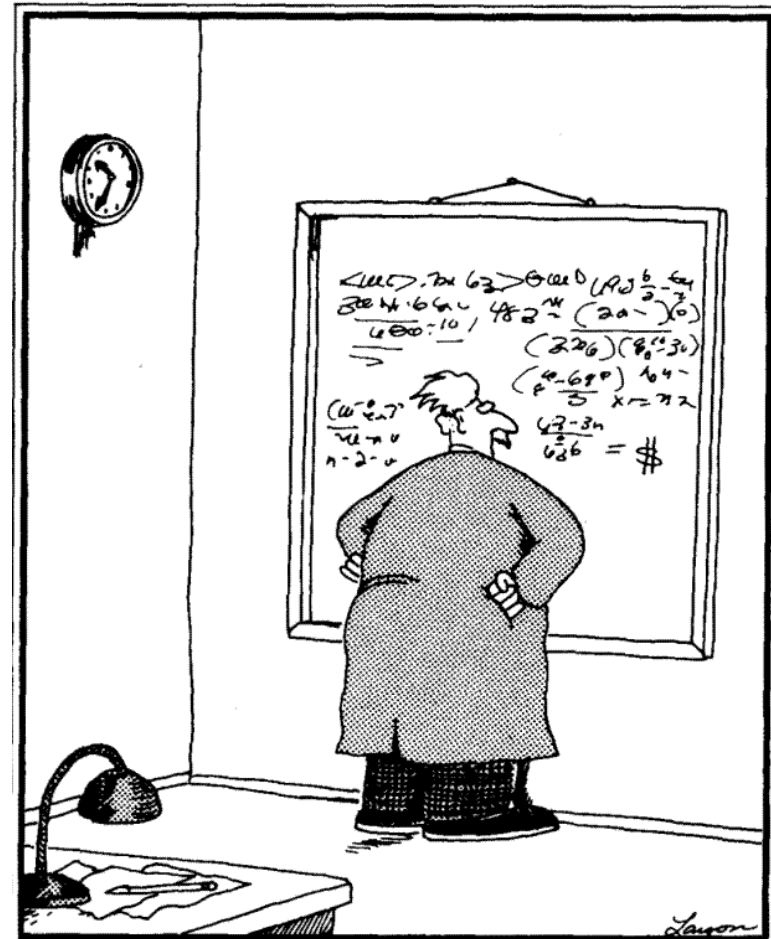
- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations



Problem: Prove that $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

Extra Credit: find a short, induction-free proof.

- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations



Einstein discovers that time is actually money.

Problem: Does exponentiation preserve irrationality?
i.e., are there two irrational numbers x and y such
that x^y is rational?

Extra Credit: find a short, induction-free proof.

- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations

