



THE SHAMBLING PARABOLA

$$y = x^2$$

THE FORMULA THAT JUST WOULDN'T DIE!

OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE FAR OFF LAND OF BABYLONIA...



HERE A LAND OWNER HAD TO PAY TAXES BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF LAND HE OWNED.



I GROW $C=MX^2$ CROPS.

NO ONE CARES, DAVE!

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

DO I LOOK LIKE I HAVE A MAGICAL PROPORTION FAIRY?

PAY ME WITH "C" AMOUNT OF CROPS.

WUHGAGG!



In mathematical terms, if x is the length of the side of the field, m is the amount of crop you can grow on a square field of sidelength 1, and c is the amount of crop that you can grow, then $c=mx^2$

YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY LISTEN TO DAVE.

TOLD YOU!

I WISH THIS EQUATION WOULD JUST DIE... THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY YOU.

I STILL NEED TO SOLVE FOR x TO DETERMINE HOW BIG A FIELD TO PLANT.

EASY! x IS EQUAL TO THE SQUARE ROOT OF CROPS DIVIDED BY AMOUNT YIELDED!

I LITERALLY HATE YOU.

1000 YEARS LATER...

THE GREEKS DECIDED THEY JUST HAAAAAD TO FIGURE OUT A SOLUTION FOR THE EQUATION $x^2 = 2$



TRIANGLES AND FIGURING OUT THE HYPOTENUSE LENGTH.

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

$$A^2 + B^2 = C^2$$

IS THAT A RIGHT TRIANGLE WITH SIDE LENGTHS OF ONE?

THAT'S THE TWELFTH TIME YOU'VE ASKED THAT. YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE...

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE GOLDEN RECTANGLE IS.

$$x = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{2} = 0.61803...$$

THE GOLDEN RATIO

THE GOLDEN RECTANGLE CAN BE SEEN IN THE SHAPE OF WINDOWS, ESPECIALLY ON GEORGIAN HOUSES.

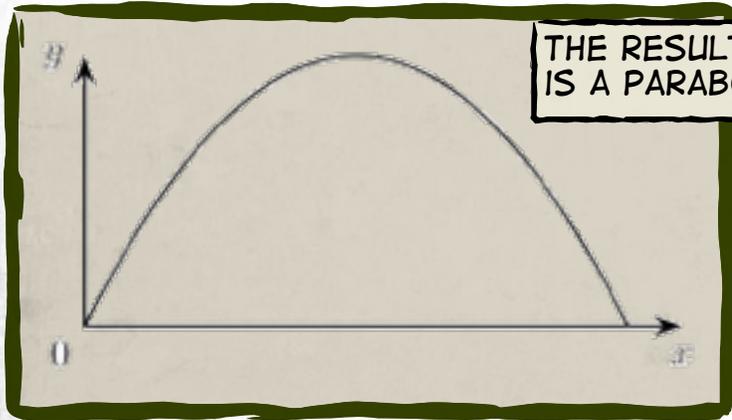
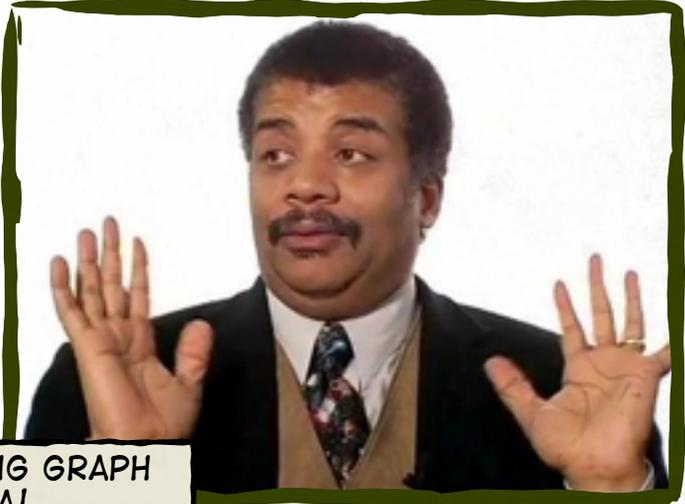
MORE RECENTLY, THE GOLDEN RATIO CAN ALSO BE FOUND AS THE "PERFECT SHAPE" FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND FILM IMAGES. SO THINK ABOUT THAT NEXT TIME YOU TAKE A SQUARE INSTAGRAM PHOTO... YOU'RE RUINING THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF MATHEMATICAL DISCOVERY. AND THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE WATCHING NETFLIX FOR EIGHT HOURS IN A ROW THINK ABOUT HOW PERFECT THE IMAGES LOOK AND REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RECTANGLE.



THE EQUATION THAT SAVES LIVES AND GETS YOU MONEY

$$y = \left(\frac{v}{u}\right)x - \left(\frac{g}{2u^2}\right)x^2,$$

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE PART OF THIS EQUATION EVERY TIME YOU'RE IN A CAR THAT ACCELERATES AND STOPS?



THE RESULTING GRAPH IS A PARABOLA!

WHO CARES?!





A mobile phone works by converting your speech into high frequency radio waves and the behavior of these waves can then be calculated using further formulae involving i . So we can say with justification that without the simple quadratic equation $x^2 = -1$ the mobile phone would never have been invented.



Super long story sort of short:

Imaginary numbers were created when mathematicians faced the problem $x^2 = -1$. The "cheat" they created was to just make up an answer by defining it using the symbol i . Now $i^2 = -1$, which means it can't be a real number, so it's imaginary.

And we apply our understanding of i and quantum theory to calculate "wave number" of a quantity to create this partial differential equation:

$$i \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla^2 u + v(x)u = 0.$$

Understanding the motion of these electrons is what allows us to design integrated circuits for things like computers, cars DVD players and mobile phones.