

Proofs without words I

Exercises in METAPOST

Toby Thurston

March 2021 —



Contents

Geometry and Algebra	3
Trigonometry, Calculus, & Analytic Geometry	28
Inequalities	46

Geometry and Algebra

The Pythagorean theorem I	4
The Pythagorean theorem II	5
The Pythagorean theorem III	6
The Pythagorean theorem IV	7
The Pythagorean theorem V	8
The Pythagorean theorem VI	9
A Pythagorean theorem: $aa' = bb' + cc'$	10
The rolling circle squares itself	11
On trisecting an angle	12
Trisection in an infinite number of steps	13
Trisection of a line segment	14
The vertex angles of a star sum to 180°	15
Viviani's theorem I	16
Viviani's theorem II	17
A theorem about right angles	18
Area and the projection theorem of a right triangle	19
Chords and tangents of equal length	20
Completing the square	21
Algebraic areas I	22
Algebraic areas II	23
Sum of squares identity	24
Polygonal numbers	25
The volume of a frustrum of a square pyramid	26
The volume of a hemisphere via Cavalieri's Principle	27

The Pythagorean theorem I



— adapted from the *Chou pei san ching*

The Pythagorean theorem II



Behold!

— Bhāskara (12th century)

The Pythagorean theorem III



— based on Euclid's proof

The Pythagorean theorem IV



— H. E. Dudeney (1917)

The Pythagorean theorem V



$$A = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}ab + \frac{1}{2}c^2 = \frac{1}{2}(a+b)^2$$

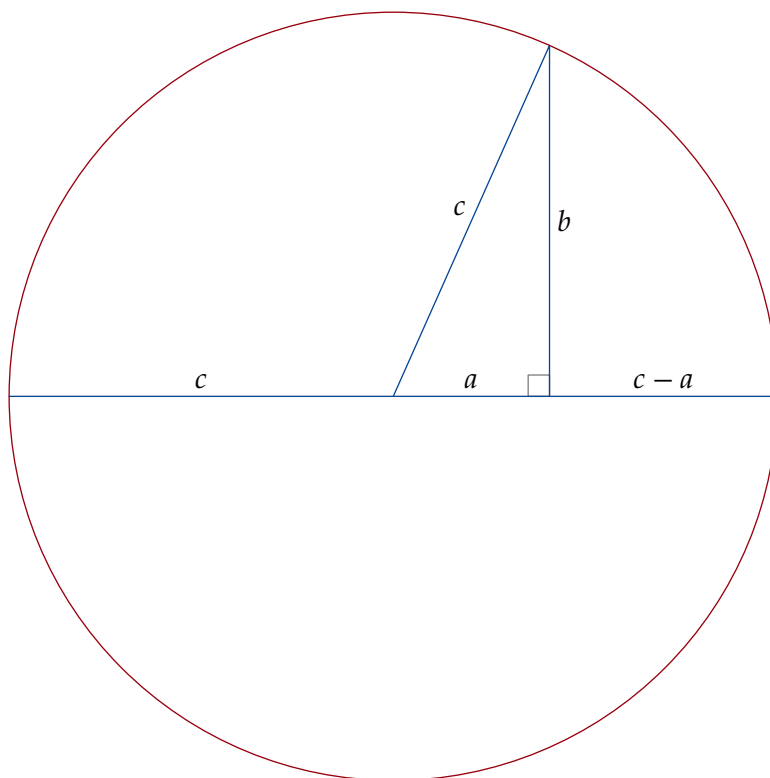
$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

— James A. Garfield (1876)

The Pythagorean theorem VI

$$\frac{c+a}{b} = \frac{b}{c-a}$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$



— Michael Hardy

A Pythagorean theorem: $aa' = bb' + cc'$



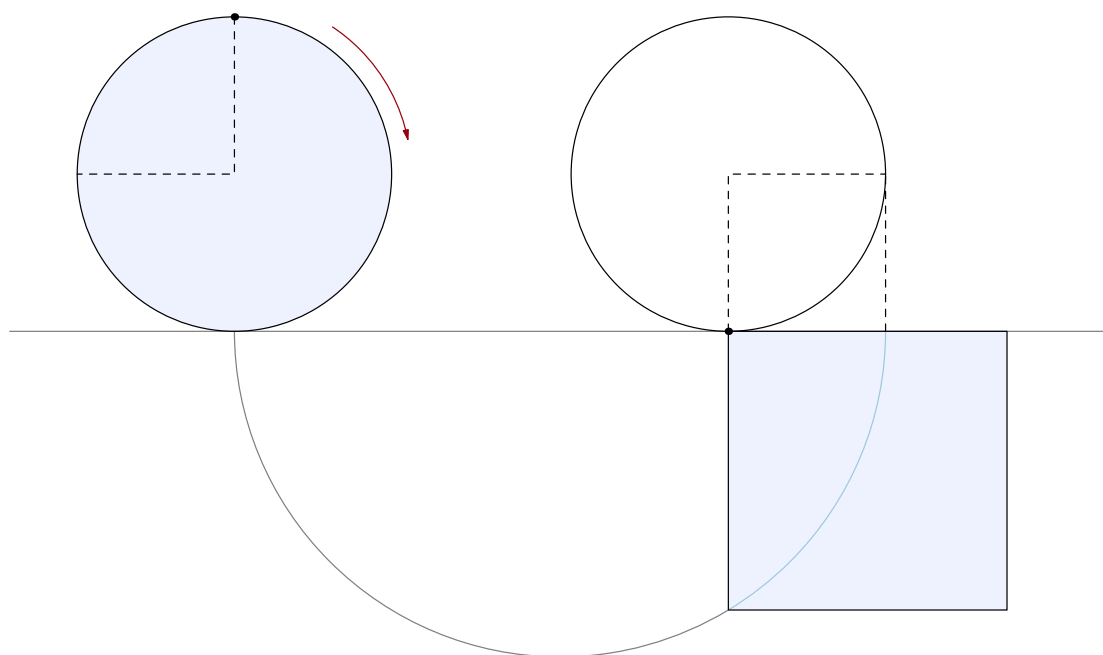
$$\frac{x}{b'} = \frac{b}{a} \implies \frac{x}{b} = \frac{b'}{a} \implies ax = bb';$$

$$\frac{y}{c'} = \frac{c}{a} \implies \frac{y}{c} = \frac{c'}{a} \implies ay = cc';$$

$$\therefore aa' = a(x + y) = bb' + cc'.$$

— Enzo R. Gentile

The rolling circle squares itself



— Thomas Elsner

On trisecting an angle



— Rufus Isaacs

Trisection in an infinite number of steps



$$\frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{16} + \dots$$

— Eric Kincanon

Trisection of a line segment



$$\overline{AF} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \overline{AB}$$

— Scott Cobel

The vertex angles of a star sum to 180°



— Fouad Nakhli

Viviani's theorem I

The perpendiculars to the sides from a point on the boundary or within an equilateral triangle add up to the height of the triangle.



This shows a particular example, with C'GQ collinear, rather than the general case

— Samuel Wolf

Viviani's theorem II

The perpendiculars to the sides from a point on the boundary or within an equilateral triangle add up to the height of the triangle.



— Ken-Ichiroh Kawasaki

A theorem about right angles

The internal bisector of the right angle of a right triangle bisects the square on the hypotenuse



— Roland H. Eddy

Area and the projection theorem of a right triangle



$$CD^2 = AD \cdot DB$$

— Sidney H. Kung

Chords and tangents of equal length

If circle C_1 passes through the center O of circle C_2 , the length of the common chord \overline{PQ} is equal to the tangent segment \overline{PR} .



— Roland H. Eddy

Completing the square

$$x^2 + ax = (x + a/2)^2 - (a/2)^2$$



— Charles D. Gallant

Algebraic areas I

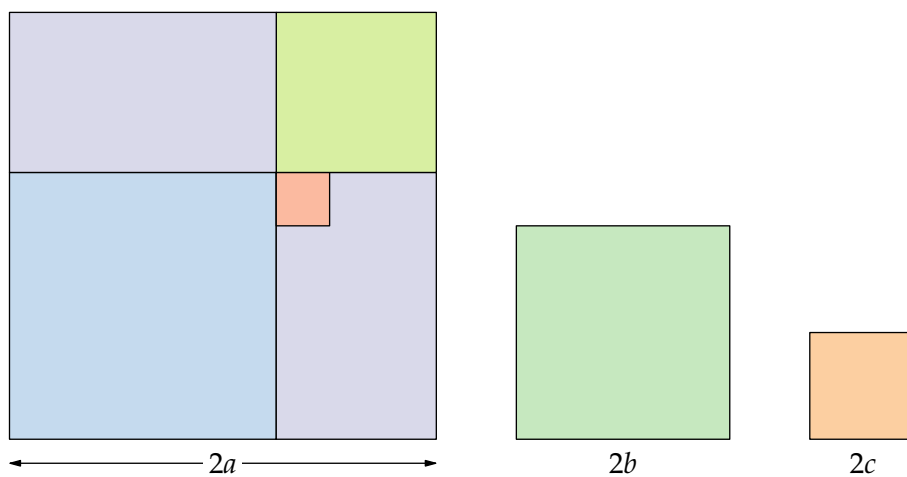
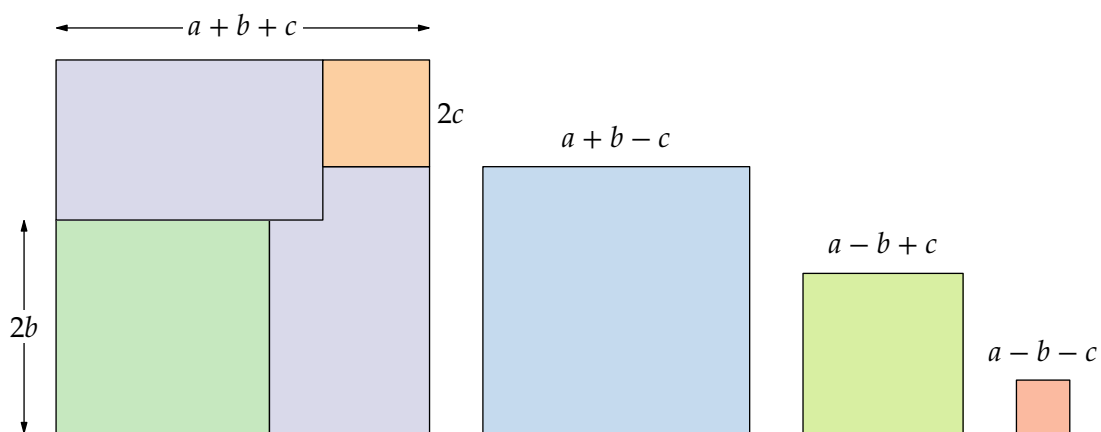
$$(a+b)^2 + (a-b)^2 = 2(a^2 + b^2)$$



— Shirley Wakin

Algebraic areas II

$$(a + b + c)^2 + (a + b - c)^2 + (a - b + c)^2 + (a - b - c)^2 = (2a)^2 + (2b)^2 + (2c)^2$$



— Sam Pooley and K. Ann Drude

Sum of squares identity

$$(a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2) = (ab + bc)^2 + (bd - ac)^2$$



— Diophantus of Alexandria

Polygonal numbers

The k^{th} n -gonal number is $1 + (k-1)(n-1) + \frac{1}{2}(k-2)(k-1)(n-2)$



— Dave Logothetti

The volume of a frustum of a square pyramid



$$V_{P_1} = \frac{h}{b-a} \cdot V_{P_2} = \frac{h}{b-a} \cdot \frac{1}{3} (b^3 - a^3) = \frac{h}{3} (a^2 + ab + b^2)$$

— *The Moscow Papyrus*, c. 1850 BCE

The volume of a hemisphere via Cavalieri's Principle



$$V_S = V_P = \frac{1}{3}r^2 \cdot 2\pi r = \frac{2}{3}\pi r^3$$

— Sidney H. Kung

Trigonometry, Calculus, & Analytic Geometry

Sine of the sum	29
Area and difference formulas	30
The law of cosines I	31
The law of cosines II	32
The law of cosines III (via Ptolemy's theorem)	33
The double-angle formulae	34
The half-angle tangent formulae	35
Mollweide's equation	36
Tangent, cotangent, secant, and cosecant	37
Substitution to make a rational function of sine and cosine	38
Sums of arctangents	39
The distance between a point and a line	40
The midpoint rule is better than the trapezoidal rule for concave functions	41
Integration by parts	42
The graphs of f and f^{-1} are reflections about the line $y = x$	43
The reflection property of the parabola	44
Area under an arch of the cycloid	45

Sine of the sum

$$\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \sin \alpha \cos \beta + \cos \alpha \sin \beta \text{ for } \alpha + \beta < \pi$$



$$c = a \cos \beta + b \cos \alpha$$

$$r = 1/2 \implies \sin \gamma = \frac{c/2}{1/2} = c, \sin \alpha = a, \sin \beta = b$$

$$\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \sin(\pi - (\alpha + \beta)) = \sin \gamma = \sin \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \beta \cos \alpha$$

— Sidney H. Kung

Area and difference formulas



$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot a \cdot b \sin(\alpha - \beta) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot a \sin \alpha \cdot b \cos \beta - \frac{1}{2} \cdot a \cos \alpha \cdot b \sin \beta$$

$$\sin(\alpha - \beta) = \sin \alpha \cos \beta - \cos \alpha \sin \beta$$

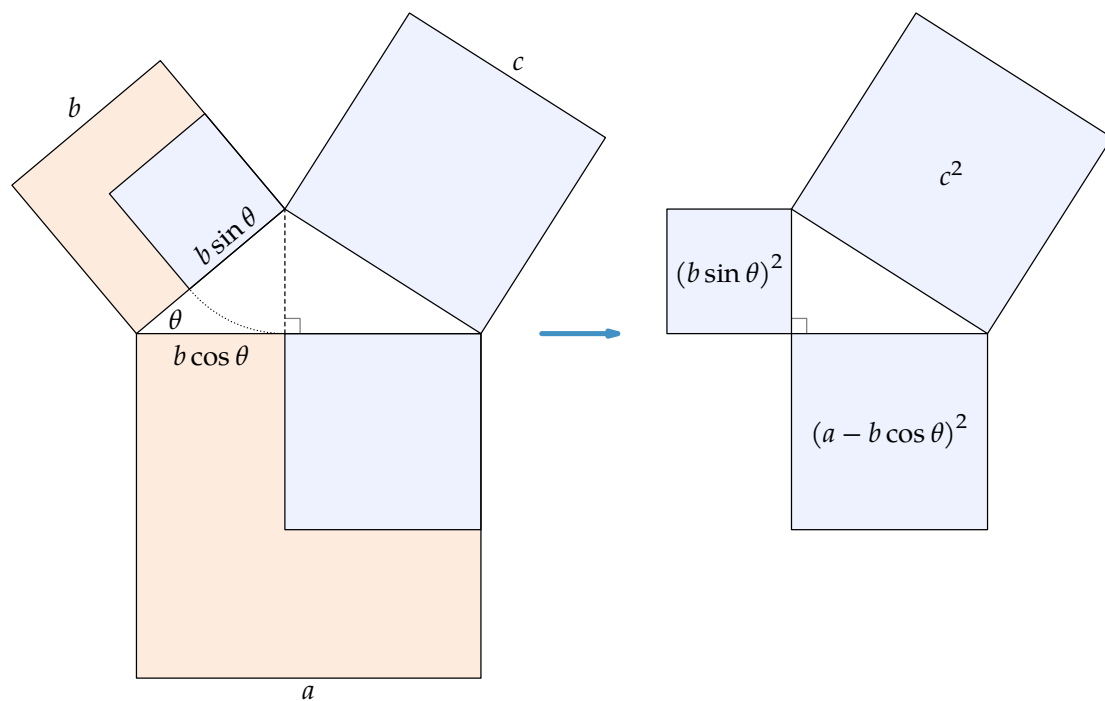


$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot a \cdot b \cos(\alpha - \beta) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot a \cos \alpha \cdot b \cos \beta + \frac{1}{2} \cdot a \sin \alpha \cdot b \sin \beta$$

$$\cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta$$

— Sidney H. Kung

The law of cosines I



$$\begin{aligned} c^2 &= (b \sin \theta)^2 + (a - b \cos \theta)^2 \\ &= b^2 \sin^2 \theta + a^2 - 2ab \cos \theta + b^2 \cos^2 \theta \\ &= a^2 + b^2 (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) - 2ab \cos \theta \\ &= a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

— Timothy A. Sipka

The law of cosines II



$$(2a \cos \theta - b) \cdot b = (a - c) \cdot (a + c)$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta$$

— Sidney H. Kung

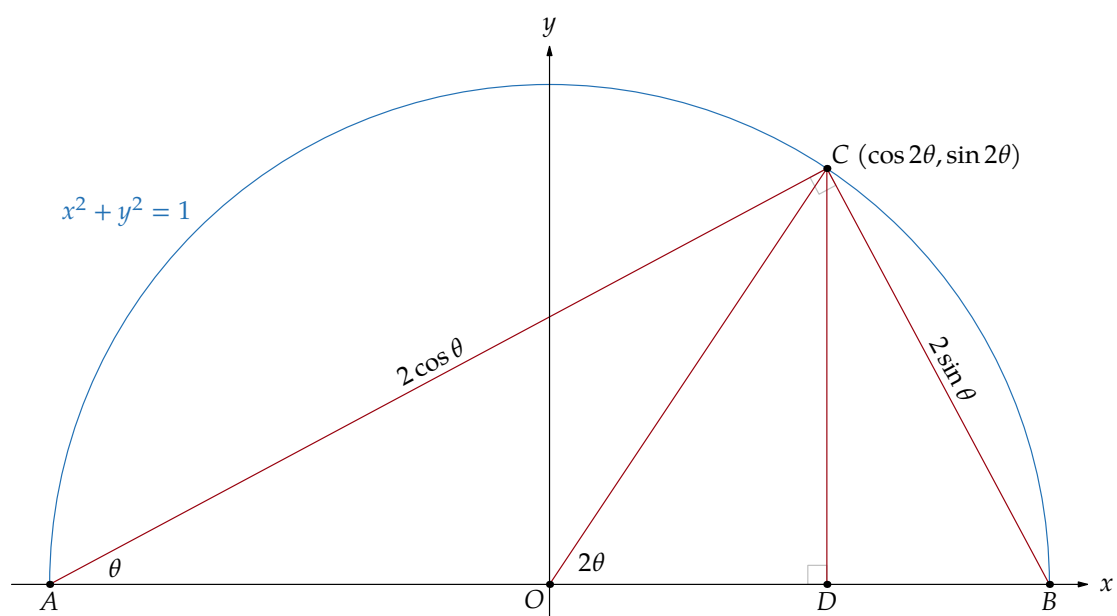
The law of cosines III (via Ptolemy's theorem)



$$\begin{aligned}c \cdot c &= b \cdot b + (a + 2b \cos(\pi - \theta)) \cdot a \\c^2 &= a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta\end{aligned}$$

— Sidney H. Kung

The double-angle formulae



$$\triangle ACD \sim \triangle ABC$$

$$\begin{aligned} CD/AC &= BC/AB \\ \sin 2\theta / 2 \cos \theta &= 2 \sin \theta / 2 \\ \sin 2\theta &= 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} AD/AC &= AC/AB \\ (1 + \cos 2\theta) / 2 \cos \theta &= 2 \cos \theta / 2 \\ \cos 2\theta &= 2 \cos^2 \theta - 1 \end{aligned}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

The half-angle tangent formulae



$$\tan \theta/2 = \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta} = \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$$

— R. J. Walker

Mollweide's equation

$$(a - b) \cos \frac{\gamma}{2} = c \sin \left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2} \right)$$



— H. Arthur DeKleine

Tangent, cotangent, secant, and cosecant



$$\tan^2 \theta + 1 = \sec^2 \theta$$

$$\cot^2 \theta + 1 = \csc^2 \theta$$

$$(\tan \theta + 1)^2 + (\cot \theta + 1)^2 = (\sec \theta + \csc \theta)^2$$

$$\text{also } \tan \theta = \frac{\tan \theta + 1}{\cot \theta + 1}$$

— William Romaine

Substitution to make a rational function of sine and cosine



$$z = \tan(\theta/2) \implies \sin \theta = \frac{2z}{1+z^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \cos \theta = \frac{1-z^2}{1+z^2}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

Sums of arctangents



$$\arctan \frac{1}{2} + \arctan \frac{1}{3} = \frac{\pi}{4}$$



$$\arctan 1 + \arctan 2 + \arctan 3 = \pi$$

— Edward M. Harris

The distance between a point and a line



$$\frac{d}{1} = \frac{|ma + c - b|}{\sqrt{1 + m^2}}$$

— R. L. Eisenman

The midpoint rule is better than the trapezoidal rule for concave functions



— Frank Burk

Integration by parts



$$\text{Area } \text{Area 1} + \text{Area } \text{Area 2} = qs - pr$$

$$\int_r^s u \, dv + \int_p^q v \, du = uv \Big|_{(p,r)}^{(q,s)}$$

$$\int_a^b f(x)g'(x) \, dx = f(x)g(x) \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b g(x)f'(x) \, dx$$

— Richard Courant

The graphs of f and f^{-1} are reflections about the line $y = x$



— Ayoub B. Ayoub

Area under an arch of the cycloid



$$\frac{1}{2}\pi r \cdot 2r \quad + \quad \pi r^2 \quad + \quad \frac{1}{2}\pi r \cdot 2r$$

therefore $A = 3\pi r^2$

— Richard M. Beekman

Inequalities

The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality I	47
The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality II	48
The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality III	49
Two extremum problems	50
The HM–GM–AM–QM inequalities I	51
The HM–GM–AM–QM inequalities II	52
The HM–GM–AM–QM inequalities III	53
Five means — and their means	54
$e^\pi > \pi^e$	55
$A^B > B^A$ for $e \leq A < B$	56
The mediant property	57
Regle des nombres moyens – two proofs	58
The sum of a positive number and its reciprocal is at least two	59
Aristarchus’ inequalities	60
The Cauchy-Schwartz inequality	61

The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality I



$$\sqrt{ab} \leq \frac{a+b}{2}$$

— Charles D. Gallant

The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality II



$$(a+b)^2 - (a-b)^2 = 4ab$$

$$\frac{a+b}{2} \geq \sqrt{ab}$$

— Doris Schattschneider

The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality III

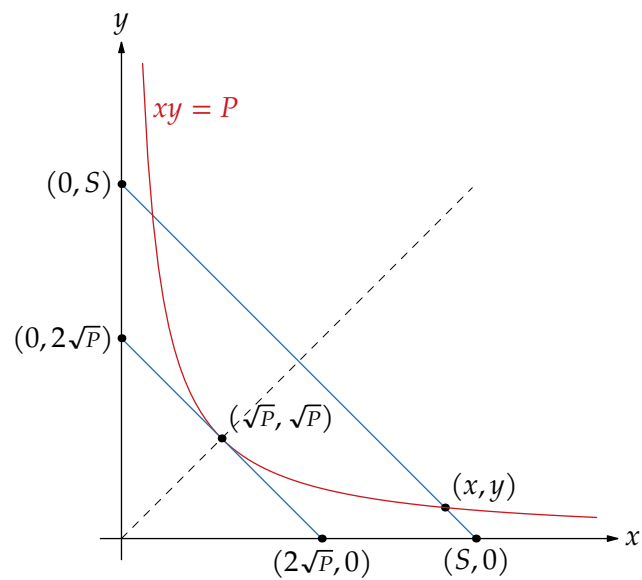
$$\frac{a+b}{2} \geq \sqrt{ab}, \quad \text{with equality iff } a = b$$



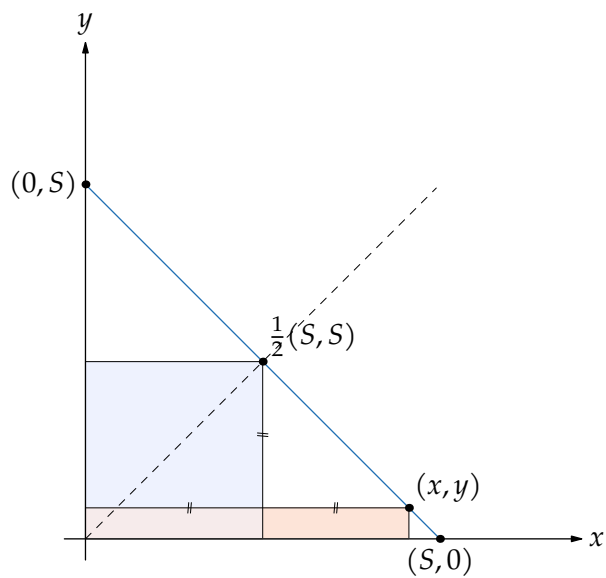
— Roland H. Eddy

Two extremum problems

For a given product, the sum of two positive numbers is minimal when the numbers are equal.

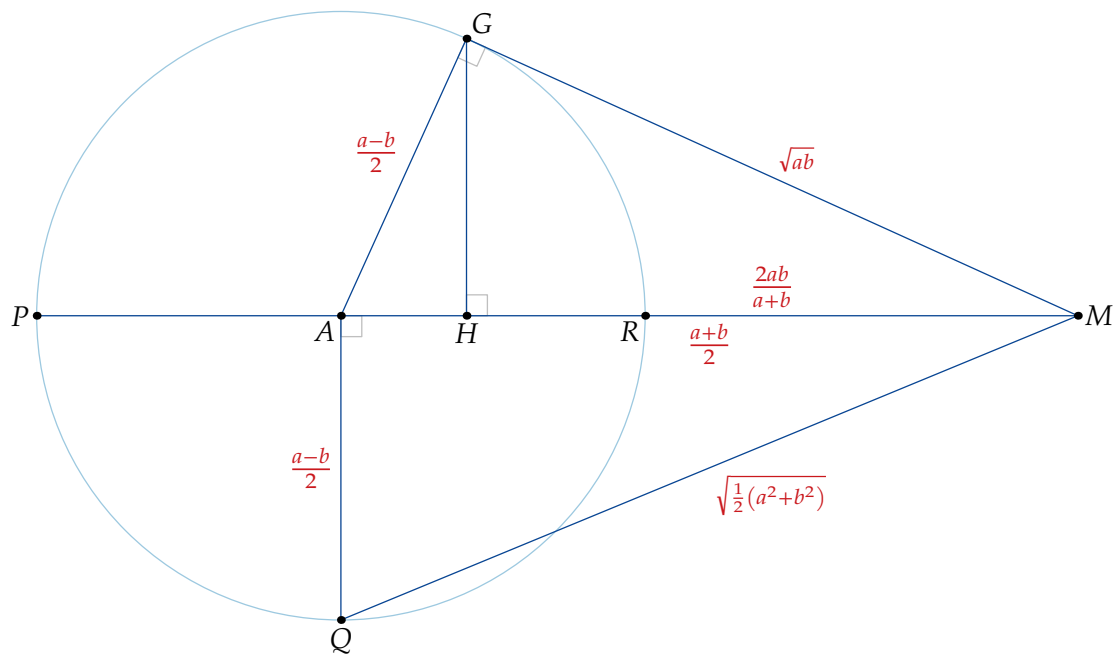


For a given sum, the product of two positive numbers is maximal when the numbers are equal.



— Paulo Montuchi and Warren Page

The HM–GM–AM–QM inequalities I



$$PM = a, \quad RM = b, \quad a > b > 0$$

$$HM < GM < AM < QM$$

$$\frac{2ab}{a+b} < \sqrt{ab} < \frac{a+b}{2} < \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(a^2 + b^2)}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

The HM–GM–AM–QM inequalities II



$$AB = a, \quad BC = b, \quad AD = DC = \frac{a+b}{2}$$

$$BE \perp AC, \quad DE = AD$$

$$FE \perp ED, \quad FB \parallel ED, \quad EG = BD = \frac{b-a}{2}$$

— Sidney H. Kung

The HM–GM–AM–QM inequalities III



$$2a^2 + 2b^2 \geq (a+b)^2$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(a^2 + b^2)} \geq \frac{a+b}{2}$$



$$(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b})^2 \geq 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{a} \sqrt{b}$$

$$\frac{a+b}{2} \geq \sqrt{ab}$$



$$1 \geq 4 \cdot \frac{a}{a+b} \cdot \frac{b}{a+b}$$

$$\sqrt{ab} \geq \frac{2ab}{a+b}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

Five means — and their means



— Roger B. Nelsen

$$e^\pi > \pi^e$$



— Fouad Nakhli

$A^B > B^A$ **for** $e \leq A < B$



$$e \leq A < B \implies m_A > m_B$$

$$\implies \frac{\ln A}{A} > \frac{\ln B}{B}$$

$$\implies A^B > B^A$$

— Charles D. Gallant

The mediant property

$$\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d} \Rightarrow \frac{a}{b} < \frac{a+c}{b+d} < \frac{c}{d}$$



— Richard A. Gibbs

Regle des nombres moyens – two proofs

$$a, b, c, d > 0; \quad \frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{a}{b} < \frac{a+c}{b+d} < \frac{c}{d}$$

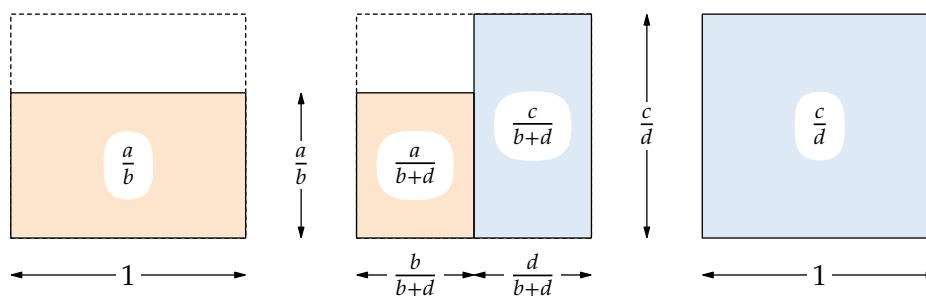
I.



$$m_1 < m_3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad m_1 < m_2 < m_3$$

— Li Changming

II.



$$\frac{a}{b} < \frac{a}{b+d} + \frac{c}{b+d} < \frac{c}{d}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

The sum of a positive number and its reciprocal is at least two

I.



II.



III.



IV.



— Roger B. Nelsen

Aristarchus' inequalities

$$0 < \beta < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2} \implies \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} < \frac{\alpha}{\beta} < \frac{\tan \alpha}{\tan \beta}$$



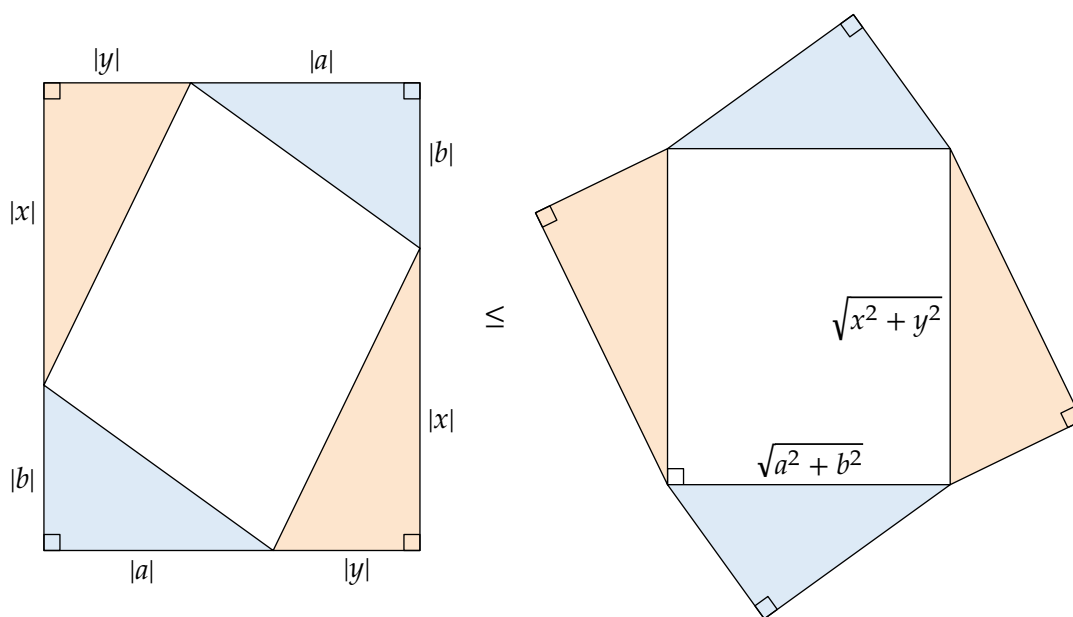
$$\sin \alpha < \frac{\sin \beta}{\beta} \alpha; \quad \tan \alpha > \frac{\tan \beta}{\beta} \alpha$$

$$\therefore \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} < \frac{\alpha}{\beta} < \frac{\tan \alpha}{\tan \beta}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

The Cauchy-Schwartz inequality

$$|\langle a, b \rangle \cdot \langle x, y \rangle| \leq \|\langle a, b \rangle\| \|\langle x, y \rangle\|$$



$$(|a| + |y|) (|b| + |x|) \leq 2 \left(\frac{1}{2} |a||b| + \frac{1}{2} |x||y| \right) + \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\therefore |ax + by| \leq |a||x| + |b||y| \leq \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen