

## Fermat's Last Theorem

1/24  
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Diophantine equation

$$x^n + y^n = z^n$$

does not have a solution in positive integers for integer  $n > 2$ .

Conjectured by Pierre de Fermat in 1637 in the margin of a copy of Arithmetica where he claimed he had a proof that was too large to fit in the margin.

$n = 4$  Fermat + several equivalent proofs

$n = 3$  Leonhard Euler (1770)

$n = 5$  Legendre / Dirichlet (1825)

$n = 7$  Lamé (1839)

$n = 6, 10, 14$

:

any  $n$  Andrew Wiles (1994)

– Elliptic curves  $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$

– Modular forms  $\mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$  with “much symmetry”

$n = 2$  (Euclid's formula):

$$x = m^2 - n^2$$

$$y = 2mn$$

$$z = m^2 + n^2$$

## The Enormous Theorem

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Every finite simple group is isomorphic to one of the following groups:

1. A cyclic group with prime order;
2. An alternating group (group of even permutations) of degree at least 5;
3. A simple group of Lie type (over a finite field) (quite rich...)<sup>†</sup>
4. The 26 sporadic simple groups.

The biggest sporadic group = “Monster”, number of elements

$$= 2^{46} \cdot 3^{20} \cdot 5^9 \cdot 7^6 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 13^3 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 23 \cdot 29 \cdot 31 \cdot 41 \cdot 47 \cdot 59 \cdot 71$$

$$= 808017424794512875886459904961710757005754368000000000$$

Proof finished 2004 – hundreds of papers. . .

Group is a set  $G$  with “multiplication” and “division”:

$\forall a, b \in G: ab \in G$  (closure)

$\forall a, b, c \in G: (ab)c = a(bc)$  (associativity)

$\exists e \in G: \forall a \in G$  it holds  $ea = ae = a$  (identity element)

$\forall a \in G \exists a^{-1}: aa^{-1} = a^{-1}a = e$  (inverse element)

<sup>†</sup> Incl. both the classical Lie groups, namely the simple groups related to the projective special linear, unitary, symplectic, or orthogonal transformations over a finite field; the exceptional and twisted groups of Lie type (incl. the Tits group, sometimes classified as sporadic).

## Fermat's Little Theorem

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For  $p =$  prime:

gcd = greatest common divisor

$$a^p \equiv a \pmod{p} \quad a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, a \text{ not multiple of } p$$

**Proof:** Consider  $p$ -tuples of  $a$  objects; there are  $a^p$  of them. We remove 111..1, 222..2, ...; there are  $a^p - a$  left. These can be grouped to  $p$ -cyclically shifted groups; e.g., 21111, 12111, 11211, 11121, 11112.

**Also:**  $\{a, a^2, a^3, \dots, a^{p-1}\} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1\} \pmod{p}$  (i.e., except order)

**Extension:** for  $a, n$  co-primes

$$a^{\phi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

numbers  $a, b$  so that  
gcd( $a, b$ ) = 1  
are called co-primes

where  $\phi(n)$  = Euler's totient function = number of co-primes to  $n$  in interval  $[1, n-1]$ .

NB:  $\phi(p) = p-1$ .

**Example:** calculate  $3^7 \pmod{7}$  by the square-and-multiply algorithm

$$\varepsilon \equiv \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \equiv \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \varepsilon \pmod{7}$$

**Inversion:** If  $a^{n-1} \not\equiv 1$  for a co-prime  $a$ , then  $n$  is composite

**Probabilistic test:** If  $a^{n-1} \equiv 1$  for several co-primes  $a$ , then  $n$  is a prime with a high probability

## Modular inversion (division in general)

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Let  $a, b$  be co-primes and  $a < b$ . We want to solve

$$ax \equiv 1 \pmod{b} \quad \text{or} \quad ax + by = 1$$

**Extended Euclidean algorithm:**

	$a$	$b$
$r_0 := b$	$s_0 = 0$	$t_0 = 1$
$r_1 := a$	$s_1 = 1$	$t_1 = 0$
$r_2 := r_0 - q_1 r_1$	$s_2 := s_0 - q_1 s_1$	$t_2 := t_0 - q_1 t_1$
$r_3 := r_1 - q_2 r_2$	$s_3 := s_1 - q_2 s_2$	$t_3 := t_1 - q_2 t_2$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$1$	$x$	$y$

where  $q_i$  = remainder after  $r_{i-1} : r_i$  ( $:$  = integer division)

**Proof:** based on  $r_i = as_i + bt_i$  for every line, proof by induction.

**Example:** solve  $6x \equiv 1 \pmod{17}$

$\varepsilon$

## RSA cryptosystem

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Rivest–Shamir–Adleman (1978)

lcm = least common multiple

Choose 2 distinct primes  $p, q$  (not too close)

Calculate  $n = pq$  (the modulo, part of the public key)

Calculate  $\lambda = (p-1)(q-1)$  (better: lcm( $p-1, q-1$ ))

Public key:  $e, 1 < e < \lambda$ , co-prime to  $\lambda$  (often  $e = 65537$ )

Private key:  $d$  so that  $de \equiv 1 \pmod{\lambda}$  (easy if you know  $pq$ )

**Encrypt**  $m: c \equiv m^e \pmod{n}$

**Decrypt**  $c: m \equiv c^d \pmod{n}$

**Proof.** Since  $de - 1$  is a multiple of  $\lambda$ ,  $\exists g, h, k$  so that

$$ed - 1 = g\lambda = h(p-1) = k(q-1)$$

Using Fermat's little theorem (except  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , which is trivial)

$$m^{ed} = m^{ed-1}m = (m^{p-1})^h m \equiv 1^h m \equiv m \pmod{p}$$

And similarly for  $q: m^{ed} \equiv m \pmod{q}$ . Since  $p, q$  are co-primes,

$$(m^e)^d \equiv m \pmod{pq}$$

q.e.d.

? Can integer factorization be solved in polynomial time on a classical computer?

## How it works

start -/n pic/theories.jkv 5/24  
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**Message sent via insecure channel** (https, ssh)

Alice calculates  $n, e$  and sends it openly to Bob.

Bob encrypts a message using  $n, e$  and sends it to Alice.

Alice decrypts the message using her private  $n, d$ .

**Digital signature**

Alice publishes  $n, e$ .

Alice encrypts a file (better: a hash) using  $n, d$ .

Bob can verify the encrypted hash using  $n, e$ .

**SSH login without password**

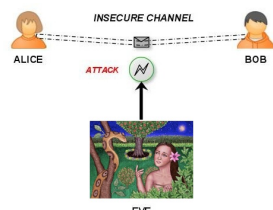
Generate a private/public key pair on your HOME computer:

ssh-keygen -t rsa

your PRIVATE key is .ssh/id\_rsa

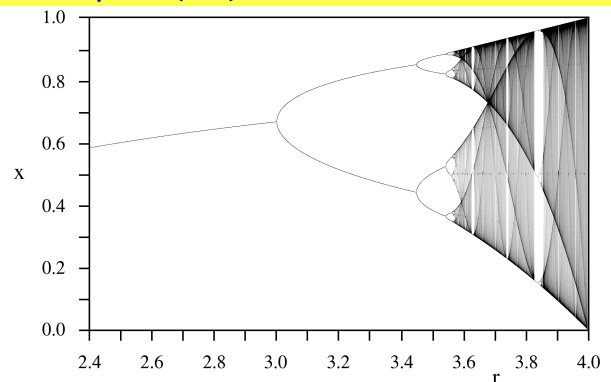
your PUBLIC key is .ssh/id\_rsa.pub

copy your PUBLIC key to .ssh/authorized\_keys on the REMOTE machine



## Bifurcation map $x := rx(1-x)$

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Problem: what is the length of the borderline?

Answer: it depends on the meter  $m$ :

$$l = \text{const } m^{1-D}$$

$D = 1.02$  South Africa

$D = 1.25$  west GB



**Fractal:** geometric set, which resembles a part of itself (after a continuous transformation, usually shrinking)

Random fractal: self-similarity in a statistical-sense

(Almost) definition of the **fractal dimension**:

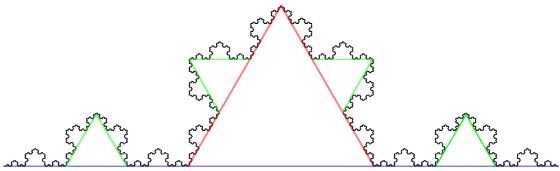
$$D = \lim_{m \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log N_m}{\log(1/m)}$$

where  $N_m$  = # of line segments/squares/cubes ... of length/edge ...  $m$  needed to cover the set  
( $1/m$  = # of line segments of length  $m$  to cover a unit line segment,  $D = 1$ )

## Fractal dimension

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**Example.** Calculate the fractal dimension of a line segment.  
Answer:  $N_m = l/m$ ,  $D = \lim \log(l/m) / \log(1/m) = 1$



**Example.** Calculate the fractal dimension of the Koch curve

9.2.1 = 3 u / u

**Example.** Calculate the fractal dimension of the trajectory of the Brownian motion (polymer in a  $\theta$ -solvent)

1 step of random walk by 1 ( $\leftarrow$ ,  $\rightarrow$ ):  $\langle R^2 \rangle = 1$ ,  $m = 1$ ,  $l = 1$ ,  $N_m = 1$

2 steps of random walk:  $\langle R^2 \rangle = 1$ ,  $m = 1/\sqrt{2}$ ,  $l = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $N_m = l/m = 2$

$D = \lim \log(l/m) / \log(1/m)$  (does not depend on the space dimension)

## Poincaré hypothesis

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Every simply-connected, closed 3-manifold is homeomorphic to the 3-sphere.

- 3-sphere =  $\{r, |r| = 1\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^4$
- simply-connected = path-connected + any circle can be contracted to a point
- path-connected =  $\exists$  a continuous path between points
- closed = compact + without boundary
- compact = any open cover has a finite subcover;  
any infinite sequence has a converging subsequence
- 3-manifold = locally as 3D Euclidean
- homeomorphism = continuous function between topological spaces that has a continuous inverse function

Proven by Grigori Perelman 2002, 2003

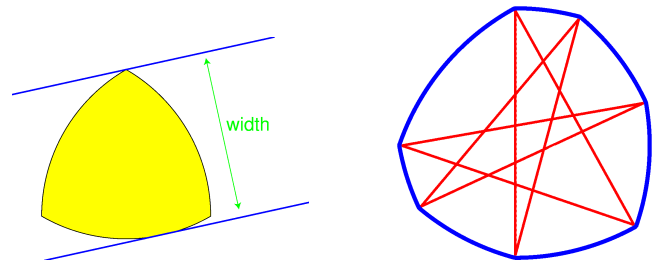
He rejected the Millennium Prize (\$1M) and the Fields medal

Cf. Poincaré homology sphere (glued dodekahedron, binary icosahedral group,  $n = 120$ )

## Curves/shapes of constant width

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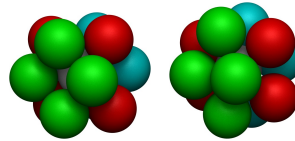
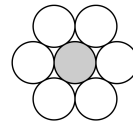
A **curve of constant width** is a simple closed curve in the plane whose width (the distance between parallel supporting lines) is the same in all directions. Such curve is convex.



## ? Kissing numbers

cd ../simul/kissing; kiss.sh 17/24  
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The greatest number of non-overlapping unit spheres (in  $D$ -dimensional space) touching a central unit sphere.



D	Lower bound	Upper bound	proven
1	2	2	easy
2	6	6	easy
3	12	12	1953
4	24	24	2003
5	40	44	
6	72	78	
7	126	134	
8	240	$2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$	1979
9	306	364	
10	500	554	
11	582	870	
12	840	1,357	
13	1,154	2,069	
14	1,606	3,183	
15	2,564	4,866	
16	4,320	7,355	
17	5,346	11,072	
18	7,398	16,572	
19	10,668	24,812	
20	17,400	36,764	
21	27,720	54,584	
22	49,896	82,340	
23	93,150	124,416	
24	196,560	$2^4 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13$	1979

## The Rectangular Peg Problem

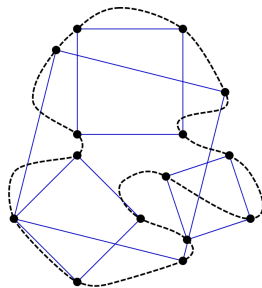
mz movies/RectangularPegProblem.gif 13/24  
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aka Inscribed Square Problem, Toeplitz' conjecture

Does any (smooth) Jordan curve admit an inscribed square?

A Jordan curve is a plane curve which is topologically equivalent to (a homeomorphic image of) the unit circle, i.e., it is simple and closed.

Solved by Joshua Evan Greene and Andrew Lobb (2020) for smooth curves (even for every rectangle  $\exists$  a similar rectangle on the the curve)



credits: Wikipedia, <https://www.quantamagazine.org/new-geometric-perspective-cracks-old-problem-about-rectangles-20200625/>

## ? Twin primes

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are prime numbers  $p_1, p_2$  so that  $p_2 - p_1 = 2$ .

Are there infinitely many twin primes?

Probably yes, but not proven...

Brun's theorem: the sum of reciprocal twin primes converges:

$$\sum_{p, p+2 \text{ are primes}} \left( \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p+2} \right) = \left( \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{11} + \frac{1}{13} \right) + \dots \approx 1.902160583104$$

Euler 1737: the sum of reciprocal primes diverges

Yitang Zhang 2015:  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} (p_{n+1} - p_n) < 246$

## ? Goldbach's conjecture

Every even integer greater than 2 can be expressed as a sum of two primes.

The conjecture has been shown to hold for all integers less than  $4 \times 10^{18}$

## Gödel

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**Liar paradox:** This sentence is false.

**Paradox of 1000 words:** Let us consider sentences in English, based on a well-defined syntax and vocabulary, that define a number. There are a finite number of words in English; therefore, there are a finite number of sentences shorter than 1000 words that define a number. Hence, there exists a highest such number. Now, consider the sentence: "The number equals one plus the highest number that can be defined by a sentence in English composed of less than 1000 words."

Language vs. metalanguage

**First Incompleteness Theorem:** Any consistent formal system  $F$  within which a certain amount of elementary arithmetic can be carried out is incomplete; i.e., there are statements of the language of  $F$  which can neither be proved nor disproved in  $F$ .

**First Incompleteness Theorem:** For each formal system  $F$  containing basic arithmetic, it is possible to canonically define a formula  $\text{Cons}(F)$  expressing the consistency of  $F$ . This formula expresses the property that "there does not exist a natural number coding a formal derivation within the system  $F$  whose conclusion is a syntactic contradiction;" loosely: "there is no natural number that codes a derivation of 0=1 from the axioms of  $F$ ."

Gödel's second incompleteness theorem shows that, under general assumptions, this canonical consistency statement  $\text{Cons}(F)$  will not be provable in  $F$ .

## ? Odd perfect number

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**Perfect number** = positive integer that is equal to the sum of its positive divisors, excluding the number itself.

Euclid proved that  $2^{p-1}(2^p - 1)$  is an even perfect number whenever  $2^p - 1$  is prime (Mersenne prime).

$$6 = 110_2 \quad 28 = 11100_2 \quad 496 = 111110000_2$$

It is unknown whether there is any odd perfect number  $N$ . If yes:

- $N > 10^{1500}$
- The largest prime factor of  $N$  is greater than  $10^8$
- $N$  has at least 101 prime factors and at least 10 distinct prime factors.

## Catalan's conjecture → Mihăilescu's theorem

The only solution in natural numbers of  $x^a - y^b = 1$  for  $a, b > 1$ ,  $x, y > 0$  is  $3^2 - 2^3 = 1$ .

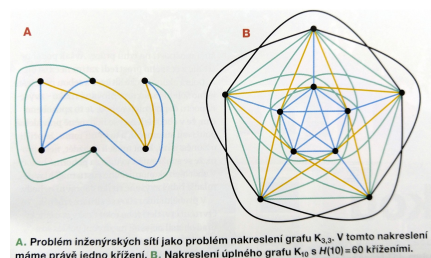
Proven 2002 by Preda V. Mihăilescu

## TO ADD: Axiom of choice

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## ? Zarankiewicz and Hill conjectures

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To fully connect, algorithms exist for the number of crossing lines  $C$ :

$$C(K_{n,m}) = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor \lfloor \frac{m-1}{2} \rfloor \quad C(K_n) = \frac{1}{4} \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor \lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor \lfloor \frac{n-3}{2} \rfloor$$

Are there better solutions?

[M. Balko, Vesmír 11, 628 (2019)]

## ? Collatz conjecture aka $3n + 1$ problem

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$$f(n) := \begin{cases} n/2 & \text{for even } n \\ 3n + 1 & \text{for odd } n \end{cases}$$

**Conjecture:** For any integer  $n$ , there exists a finite  $M$  so that  $\overbrace{f(f(\dots(n)))}^{M \times} = 1$

- proven for  $n < 2^{68}$
- probabilistic arguments suggest it is true
- $27 \rightarrow 9232$   
 $6631675 \rightarrow 60342610919632$

- The cycle length (except  $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1 \dots$ ) of

$$f(n) := \begin{cases} n/2 & \text{for even } n \\ (3n + 1)/2 & \text{for odd } n \end{cases}$$

is at least 17087915 (Eliahou 1993). Based on continuum fraction expansion for  $\ln 3 / \ln 2 \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

27 82 41 124 62 31 94 47 142 71 214 107 322 161  
484 242 121 364 182 91 274 137 412 206 103 310  
155 466 233 700 350 175 526 263 790 395 1186 593  
1780 890 445 1336 668 334 167 502 251 754 377  
1132 566 283 850 425 1276 638 319 958 479 1438  
719 2158 1079 3238 1619 4858 2429 7288 3644  
1822 911 2734 1367 4102 2051 6154 3077 9232  
4616 2308 1154 577 1732 866 433 1300 650 325  
976 488 244 122 61 184 92 46 23 70 35 106 53 160  
80 40 20 10 5 16 8 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 2 1

1	1/1	-0.585
1	2/1	0.415
1	3/2	-0.08496
2	8/5	0.01504
2	19/12	-0.001629
3	65/41	0.0004034
1	84/53	-5.684e-05
5	485/306	4.82e-06
2	1054/665	-9.471e-08
23	24727/15601	1.683e-09
2	50508/31867	-3.289e-10
2	125743/79335	6.664e-11
1	176251/111202	-4.671e-11
1	301994/190537	4.883e-13
55	16785921/10590737	-7.243e-15
1	17087915/10781274	1.515e-15

## ? Complexity theory: $P = NP$

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**P** = problem can be solved (on a computer) in a polynomial time (as a function of problem size)<sup>\*</sup>  
e.g.: sorting, square root

**NP**<sup>i</sup> = a known solution can be verified in a polynomial time  
e.g., subset sum problem, sudoku

**NP-complete** = problems to which any other NP-problem can be reduced in polynomial time, and whose solution may still be verified in polynomial time  
e.g., decide whether a solution of traveling salesman is indeed the shortest

**NP-hard** = at least as hard as the hardest NP

$H$  is NP-hard if every NP problem can be reduced in polynomial time to  $H$   
e.g., traveling salesman, quantum theory, ...

- likely but not proven:  $P \neq NP$   
 $\Rightarrow$  NP-hard problems cannot be solved in polynomial time

**Connes embedding conjecture**  
(about approximating operators  $\approx$  infinite matrices  $\approx$  quantum world by a hierarchy of finite matrices) has been falsified

<sup>\*</sup>for number problems: size = # of digits  
<sup>i</sup>Nondeterministic Polynomial

## ? Riemann hypothesis

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Riemann zeta function:

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \frac{1}{1^s} + \frac{1}{2^s} + \frac{1}{3^s} + \dots$$

for  $s \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\Re(s) > 1$ , and its analytic continuation

Euler:

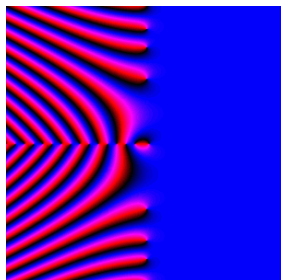
$$\zeta(s) = \prod_{p \text{ is prime}} \frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}}$$

Single pole at  $s = 1$  (res = 1)

Hypothesis (1859): roots = negative even integers (trivial) and complex numbers with real part 1/2.

Proven (2004) for the first  $10^{13}$  roots, but not in general

Consequences to the distribution of primes

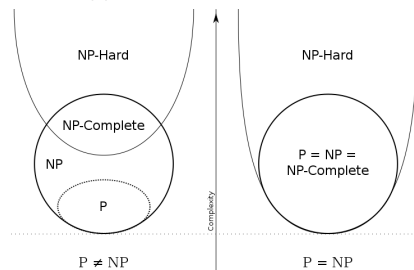


credit: <http://wisdomath.com/complex/gallery.html>

## ? Probably $P \neq NP$

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.. but not proven! And thus many problems are hard.



credit: "P np np-complete np-hard" by Behnam Eshahood. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Commons - [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:P\\_np\\_np-complete\\_np-hard.svg#/media/File:P\\_np\\_np-co](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:P_np_np-complete_np-hard.svg#/media/File:P_np_np-co)