



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

On this day in 1679, Philosopher Thomas Hobbes died, thus ending his 25 year feud with John Wallis over Hobbes's attempt to square the circle in 1655. It began when Hobbes called Wallis's Arithmetica Infinitorum a "scab of symbols."

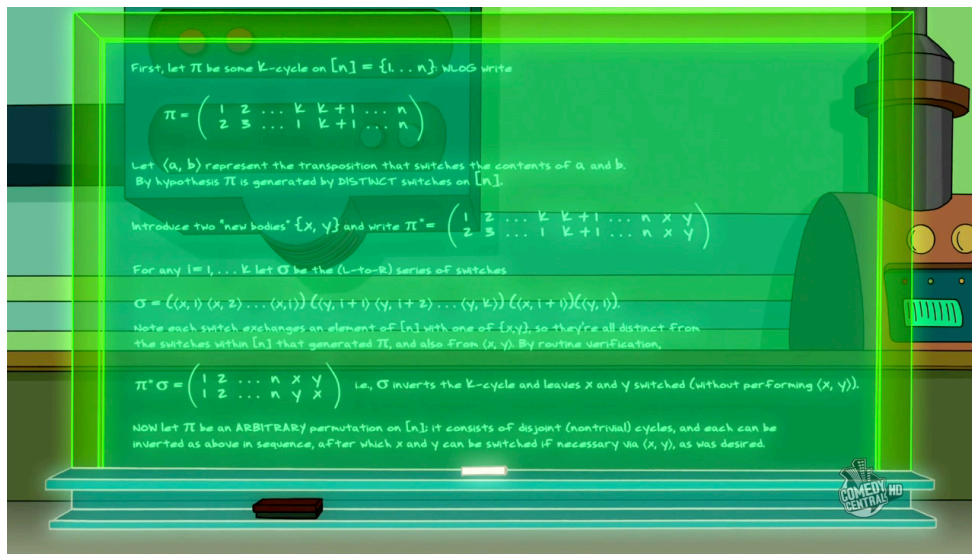
FAMUS: December 4, 2015

Friday Afternoon Math Undergrad Seminar meets on Fridays at 3:00-4:00pm in Room 164 of the Adel Math Building. Refreshments are always served!!

The Futurama Theorem

Speaker: Dr. Dana C. Ernst (NAU)

In the episode "The Prisoner of Benda" of the television show Futurama, Professor Farnsworth and Amy create a mind-switching machine, only to afterwards realize that when two people have switched minds, they can never switch back with each other. Throughout the episode, the Professor, with the help of the Globetrotters, try to find a way to solve the problem using two or more additional bodies. The solution to this problem is now called the Futurama Theorem, and is a real-life mathematical theorem, invented by Futurama writer Ken Keeler, who holds a PhD in applied mathematics. In this talk, we will introduce the mathematics behind the Futurama Theorem and present its proof.



ALL MATHEMATICS MAJORS ARE ENCOURAGED AND EXPECTED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND