

# From STEAM to STEEM

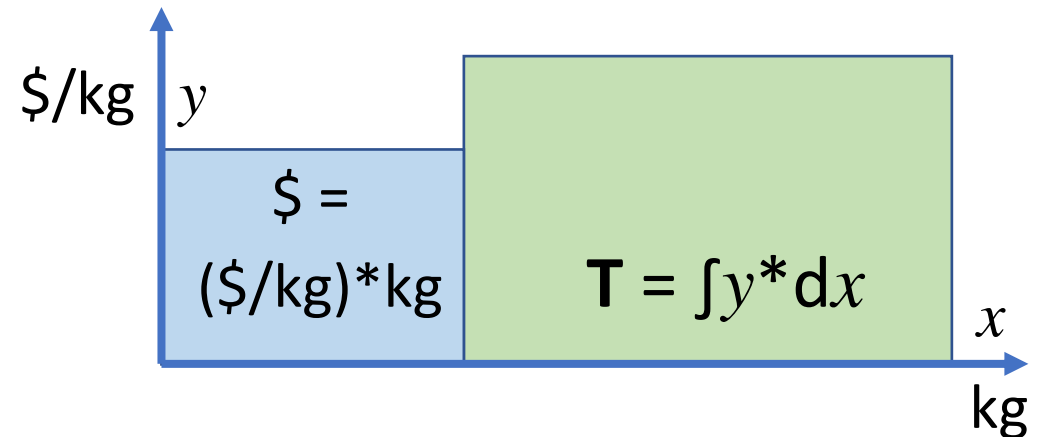
*Mathematics is for All  
if Rooted in PerNumber Economics*

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\$/kg			
<b>8/2</b>	<b>8</b>	$= (8/2)*2$	
<b>T/B</b>	<b>T</b>	$= (T/B)*B$	
	<b>2</b>		<b>B</b>





# What is the real goal of mathematics education?

## Inspiration from Grand Theory



### PHILOSOPHY

- Is mathematics about **essence** or **existence**? (Heidegger)

### SOCIOLOGY

- **Institutions** as solutions to common problems may be tempting, but
- Beware of a **goal displacement** (Bauman) where a means becomes a goal instead, and creates a patronizing **truth regime** (Foucault)

### PSYCHOLOGY

- What to learn: essence (Vygotsky), or existence (Piaget)
- Beware of using **fear of exclusion** to keep a **truth regime** in power



# From STEM over STEAM to STEEM

## From Hard to Easy - if rooting Math in Economics



### Math is hard

- Teach STEM. It motivates **reasons** to learn math, before applying it.

### Oops, Math is still hard

- Teach STEAM to sugar-coat a **desire** for learning it, before applying it.

### Oops, Math is still hard

Philosophy: **Math is hard**, until **existence precedes essence** (existentialism)

- Teach STEEM to **master Math** by ~~applying~~ rooting it in existence.

Let's master Math through its original root, Economics  
Let's respect that **Math is a natural science about Many**



How do humans master Many?  
Ask a 3year old: how old next time?

The answer is 4, showing 4 fingers



But, reacting strongly to 4 fingers held together 2 by 2:

“That is not four, that is two twos”



Observation 1: Inside, children see what **exists** outside, bundles of **2s**, *in space*; and 2 of them, *in time*. So children use bundle-numbers with units.

Observation 2: The child uses a **full number-language sentence** as in the word-language with a SUBJECT, a VERB, and a PREDICATE:

“That is two twos”, shortened to “T = 2 **2s**”.





# Economics: Sharing what we each produce



To survive, humans must labor, work, and act (Arendt)

So, the human condition is: **eat**, **produce**, and **create**

Production = **productivity** \* persons \* hours

**Productivity** = what a person produces per hour

**Productivity** increases with new technology (numbers, calculators, etc.)

**Productivity** increases when we produce what **we master best**

But at what **exchange per-number**?



# Productivity step 1:

Creating icons:  →  →  →



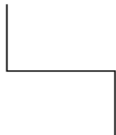
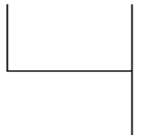

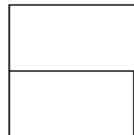
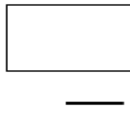

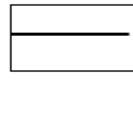
Uniting many 1s into 1 many-icon.

Uniting **four ones** into **one fours** creates a **4-icon** with four sticks.

An icon contains as many sticks as it represents, if written less sloppy.

Once created, icons become **UNITS** when counting in bundles, as kids do.

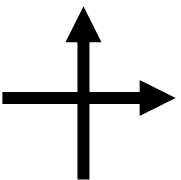
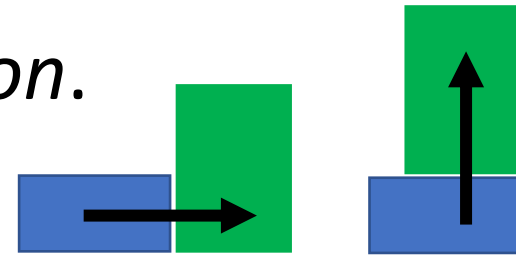


one	two	three	four	five	six	seven	eight	nine
I	II	III	IIII	IIIII	IIIIII	IIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII
								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



## Productivity step 2: Predict counting with icon-operations

- From 9 **PUSH** away 4s we write 9/4 iconizing a broom, called *division*.
- 2 times **LIFT** the 4s to a stack we write 2x4 iconizing a lift called *multiplication*.
- “From 9 **PULL** away 2 4s to find un-bundled” we write 9 – 2x4 iconizing a rope, called *subtraction*.
- **UNITE** next-to or on-top we write **A+C** iconizing the two directions, called *addition*.

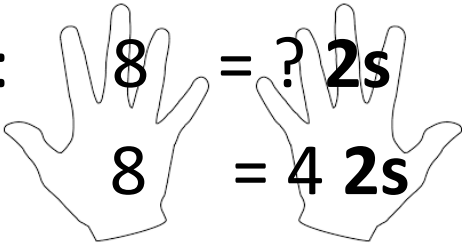




Productivity step 3:  
Shifting units creates a **Recount-formula**

$$8 = (8/2) \times 2$$

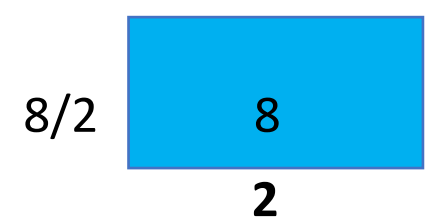
$$T = (T/B) \times B$$

Shift unit from **1s** to **2s**:   $8 = ? \text{ 2s}$   
 Bundle-counting:  $8 = 4 \text{ 2s}$

Predict by a calculation:  $8/2 = 4$

Recount result:  $8 = (8/2) \times 2$

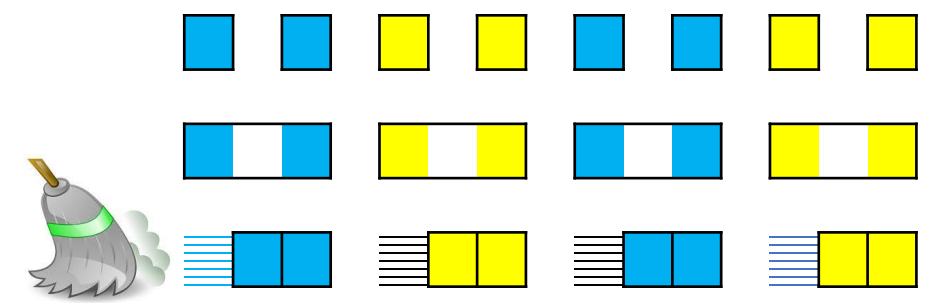
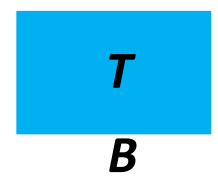
Recount-Formula:  **$T = (T/B) \times B$**  "From  $T$ ,  $T/B$  times,  $B$  is pushed away"



Equations

$T/B$

Proportionality



Shifting unit	$y = k * x$
Linearity	$\Delta y = (\Delta y / \Delta x) * \Delta x = m * \Delta x$
Local linearity	$dy = (dy/dx) * dx = y' * dx$
Trigonometry	$h = (h/b) * b = \tan A * b$
Trade	$\$ = (\$/\text{kg}) * \text{kg} = \text{price} * \text{kg}$
STEM	$\text{meter} = (\text{meter/sec}) * \text{sec} = \text{speed} * \text{sec}$

Observation: Recounting in Bundle-numbers contains core mathematics & STEM



# The Recount-formula solves equations



Asking “How many 2s in 8” gives the equation “ $u \times 2 = 8$ ” that is solved by recounting 8 in 2s:

$$\begin{aligned} u \times 2 &= 8 &= (8/2) \times 2 \\ u &= 8/2 \end{aligned}$$

Solve equations: MOVE to OPPOSITE side with OPPOSITE calculation sign

$u + 2 = 8$	$u \times 2 = 8$	$u^8 = 2$	$2^u = 8$
$u = 8 - 2$	$u = 8/2$	$u = \sqrt[8]{2}$	$u = \log_2 8$

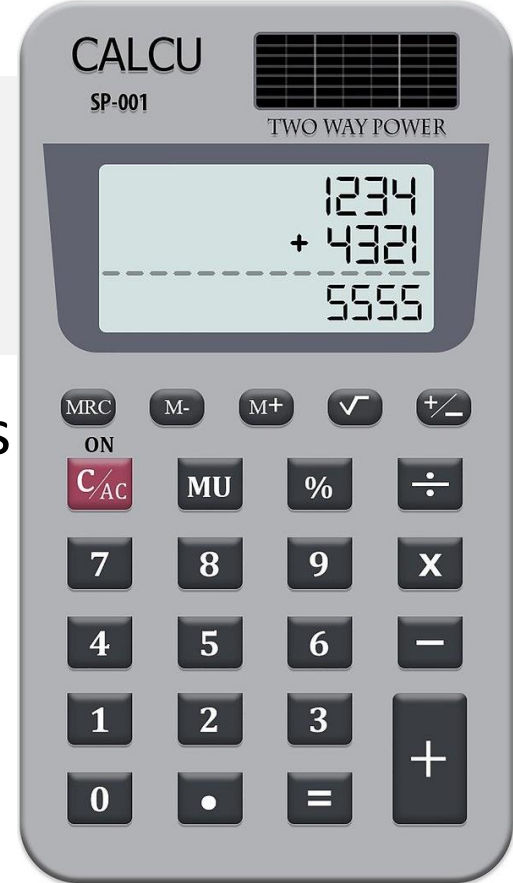


# The Math-core is seen on a calculator

Numbers: rooted in degrees of many; and bundle-counted in tens

Operations: predict counting results

- $8/2 = 4$ : **from 8 push away 2** can be done **4** times
- $4 \times 2 = 8$ : **4 times lift 2s** totals **8**
- $9 - 4 \times 2 = 1$ : **from 9 pull away 4 2s** leaves **1**
- $1 \text{ 2s} + 2 \text{ 3s} = 1\text{B}3 \text{ 5s}$  or  $2\text{B}2 \text{ 3s}$ : stacks may **unite next-to** and **on-top**
- $3^2 = 9$ : a **bundle-of-bundles** of 3s totals 9
- $\sqrt{16} = 4$ : a 1.6-by-10 box may be **reshaped** into a 4-by-4 square





# How Many did I produce?

## Totals become stacks when **B**undle-counted

Twelve: **III III III III**

Viking language: tve-lve = "tve left", twen-ty = "twen-ti")



- Fives (hands):  $T = 2\mathbf{B}undle2 = 1\mathbf{B}7$  (*over-load*) =  $3\mathbf{B}-3$  (*under-load*)
- Scores:  $T = 1\mathbf{B}-8 = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{B}2$
- Dozens:  $T = 1\mathbf{B}0 = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{B}6$
- Tens:  $T = 1\mathbf{B}2 = 1.2 \mathbf{B} = 2\mathbf{B}-8 = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{B}7$   $T = 345 = 3\mathbf{B}B4\mathbf{B}5 = 2\mathbf{B}B14\mathbf{B}5$
- Sevens (weeks):  $T = 1\mathbf{B}5 = 2\mathbf{B}-2$
- Threes:  $T = 4\mathbf{B}0 = 5\mathbf{B}-3 = 3\mathbf{B}3$  But  $3\mathbf{B} = 1\mathbf{B}B$ , so  $T = 1\mathbf{B}B1\mathbf{B}0 = 1\mathbf{B}B0\mathbf{B}3$
- Twos (pairs):  $T = 6\mathbf{B}0$  But  $2\mathbf{B} = 1\mathbf{B}B$ , and  $2\mathbf{B}B = 1\mathbf{B}BB$ , so  $T = 1\mathbf{B}BB1\mathbf{B}B$

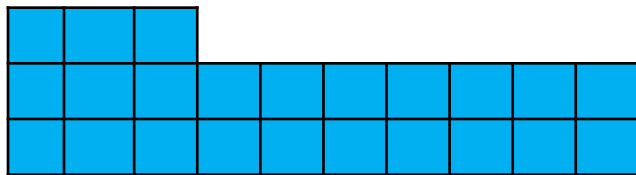


# Counting in tens, how to see the unbundled?



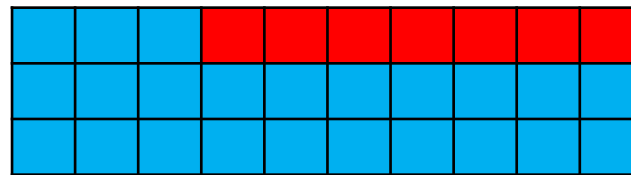
Counting in tens, a Total of 2 **tens** & 3 can be described as  $T = 23$ , if

- leaving out the unit and the decimal point,
  - teaching a place-value system, silencing that 100 is 1 bundle-bundle
- or as:



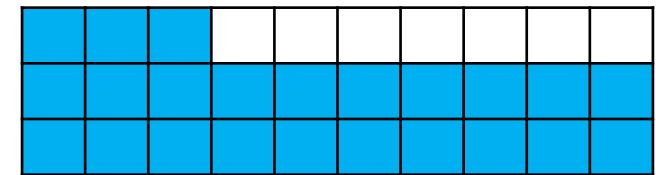
$T = 2.3 \text{ tens}$

$T = 2\mathbf{B}3 \text{ tens}$



$T = 3.\textcolor{red}{-}7 \text{ tens}$

$T = 3\mathbf{B}\textcolor{red}{-}7 \text{ tens}$



$T = 2 \ 3/10 \text{ tens}$

$T = 2 \ 3/10 \mathbf{B} \text{ tens}$



# Flexible **B**undle-numbers ease calculations.

Counting in tens,  $T = 78 = 7\mathbf{B}8 = 6\mathbf{B}18 = 8\mathbf{B}-2$



Overload	Underload	Overload	Overload
6 5 + 2 7	6 5 - 2 7	7 x 48	336 /7
6 <b>B</b> 5 + 2 <b>B</b> 7	6 <b>B</b> 5 - 2 <b>B</b> 7	7 x 4 <b>B</b> 8	33 <b>B</b> 6 /7
8 <b>B</b> 12	4 <b>B</b> -2	28 <b>B</b> 56	28 <b>B</b> 56 /7
9 <b>B</b> 2	3 <b>B</b> 8	33 <b>B</b> 6	4 <b>B</b> 8
92	38	336	48

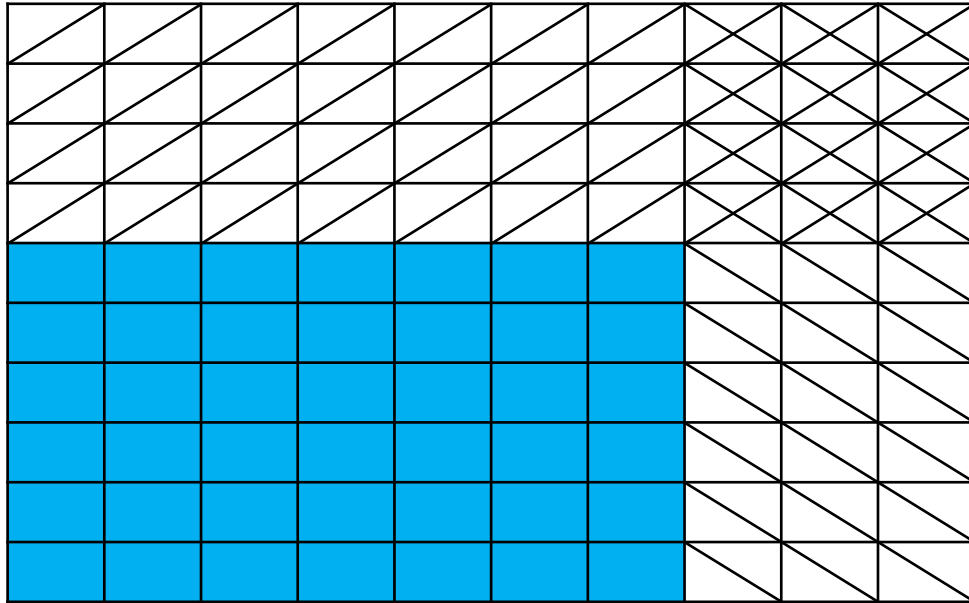
No need to carry  
No place-values



# Recounting in tens: Multiplication tables



**6 7s = ? tens**



This roots the algebraic formula  
 $(a - b) \times (c - d) = a \times c - a \times d - b \times c + b \times d$

On a pegboard, 2 rubber bands form a ten-by-ten square,  
and 2 bands form a 6-by-7 block.  
With less-numbers, 6 **7s** is ten **tens**,  
**less 4 tens, less 3 tens**,  
plus 3 **4s** that is removed twice:

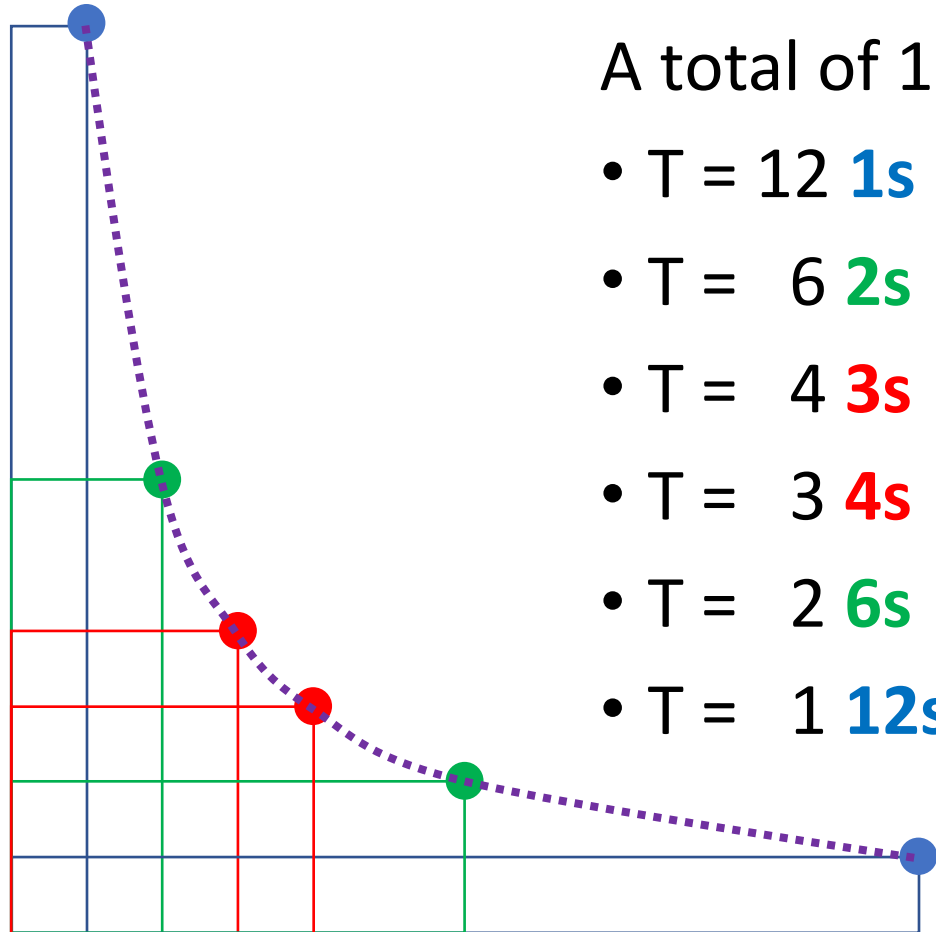
$$\begin{aligned} T = 6 \text{ 7s} &= 6 \times 7 = (\mathbf{B}-4) \times (\mathbf{B}-3) \\ &= 10\mathbf{B} - 4\mathbf{B} - 3\mathbf{B} + 4 \text{ 3s removed twice} \\ &= 3\mathbf{B}12 = 4\mathbf{B}2 = 42 \end{aligned}$$

*Interesting: **negative** x **negative** = **positive**!*

*6 x 7 gives the **less-numbers** 4 & 3. So from 100, we subtract their sum, and add their product.*



# Internal exchange in other units

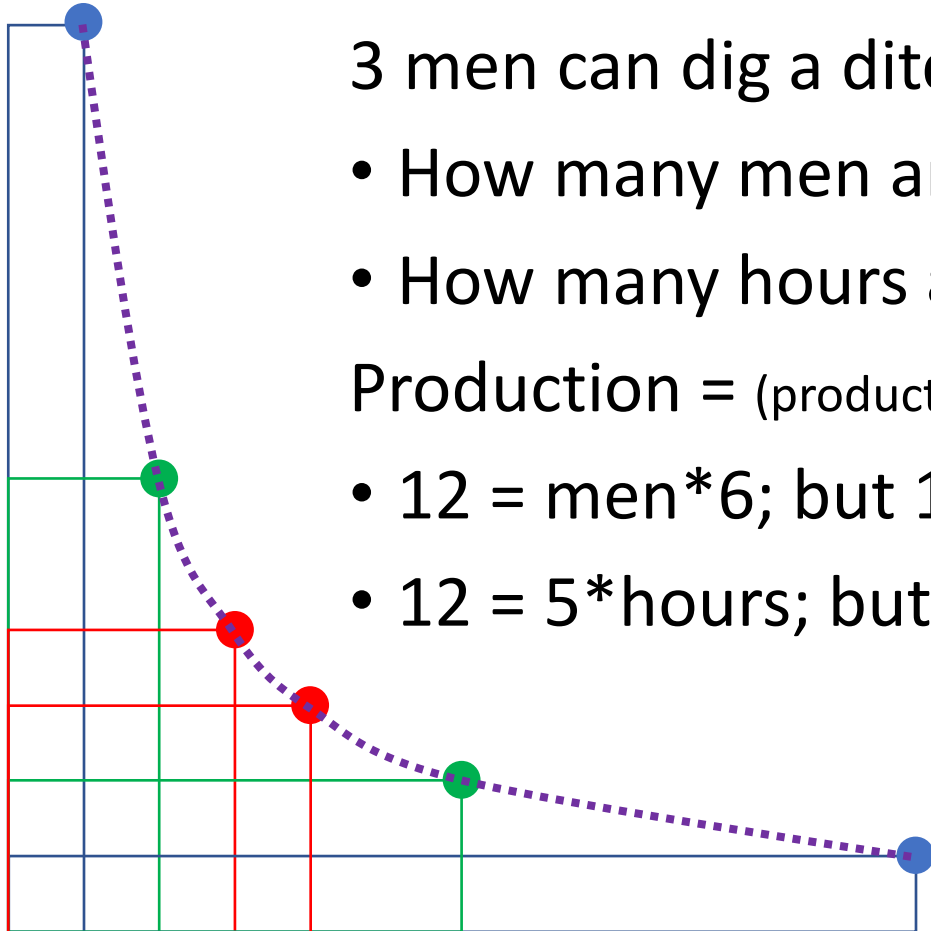


A total of 12 may be recounted in other units

- $T = 12$  **1s**
- $T = 6$  **2s**
- $T = 4$  **3s**
- $T = 3$  **4s**
- $T = 2$  **6s**
- $T = 1$  **12s**



# Working together



3 men can dig a ditch in 4 hours.

- How many men are needed for 6 hours?
- How many hours are needed with 5 men?

Production = (productivity)\*men\*hours =  $3*4 = 12$  man-hours

- $12 = \text{men} * 6$ ; but  $12 = (12/6) * 6$ , so men =  $12/6 = 2$
- $12 = 5 * \text{hours}$ ; but  $12 = (12/5) * 5$ , so hours =  $12/5 = 2.4$



# External exchange with a per-number



I have 8 **3s**, how many **4s** can I buy?

- Exchange per-number: 4 **3s** per 3 **4s**
- So I count my **3s** in **4s**
- $T = 8 \text{ 3s} = (8/4) * 4 \text{ 3s} = (8/4) * 3 \text{ 4s} = 6 \text{ 4s}$

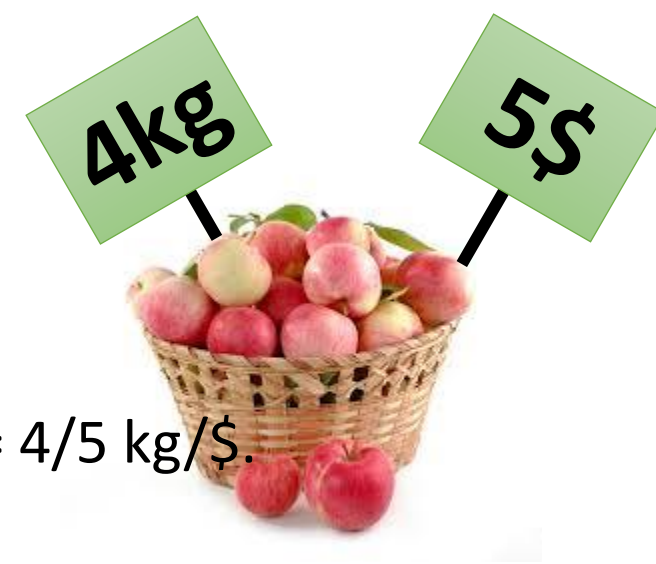


I have 8 **apples**, how many **pears** can I buy?

- Exchange per-number: 4 **apples** per 3 **pears**
- So I count my apples in **4s**
- $T = 8 \text{ apples} = (8/4) * 4 \text{ apples} = (8/4) * 3 \text{ pears} = 6 \text{ pears}$



# ReCounting in two units creates PerNumbers & Proportionality



ReCounting in kg & \$, we get a PerNumber  $4\text{kg per } 5\$ = 4\text{kg}/5\$ = 4/5 \text{ kg}/\$$ .

With like units, per-numbers become fractions:  $4\$/5\$ = 4/5$ , and  $4\$/100\$ = 4/100 = 4\%$ .

With 4kg linked to 5\$, we simply recount in the per-number.

*(Or we recount the units directly. Or we equate the per-numbers. Or we use the before 1900 'Rule of 3' (Regula de Tri) alternating the units, and, from behind, first multiply, then divide.)*



## Questions:

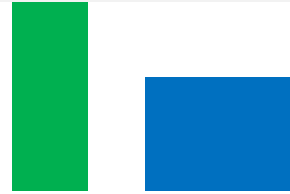
12kg = ?\$	20\$ = ?kg
$12\text{kg} = (12/4) \times 4\text{kg}$ $= (12/4) \times 5\$ = 15\$$	$20\$ = (20/5) \times 5\$$ $= (20/5) \times 4\text{kg} = 16\text{kg}$
$\$ = (\$/\text{kg}) \times \text{kg} = 5/4 \times 12 = 15$	$\text{kg} = (\text{kg}/\$) \times \$ = 4/5 \times 20 = 16$
$u/12 = 5/4$ , so $u = 5/4 \times 12 = 15$	$u/20 = 4/5$ , so $u = 4/5 \times 20 = 16$
If 4kg is 5\$, then 12kg is ?\$; answer: $12 \times 5/4 = 15$	If 5\$ is 4kg, then 20\$ is ?kg; answer: $20 \times 4/5 = 16$



# Taking stock roots proportionality & calculus



With the two stacks, 5 **2s** and 3 **4s**,  
what is the total stock?



Add on-top

Counting in **4s**, we shift units by recounting the 5 **2s** in **4s**

Shifting unit = **proportionality, linearity**



Add next-to

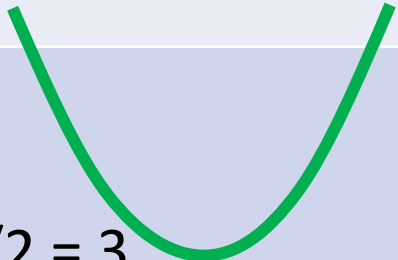
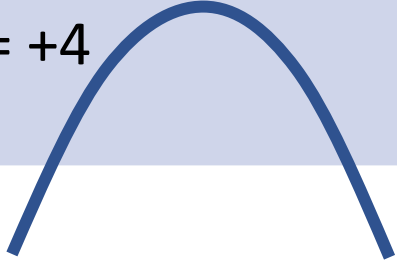
Counted in **6s**, we add by areas, called integral **calculus**,  
becoming differential calculus when reversing the question:

$$5 \text{ } 2s + ? \text{ } 4s = 3 \text{ } 6s$$





# Counting roots linear and quadratic formulas

Linear	Quadratic
$T = 3B1 = 3*B + 1$ $y = 3*x + 1$	$T = 3BB2B-1 = 3*B^2 + 2*B - 1$ $y = 3*x^2 + 2*x - 1$
<p>Where does a quadratic formula turn?</p> $T = x^2 + b*x + c$ $T = x^2 + 2*b/2*x + c$ $T = \underline{x^2 + 2*b/2*x + (b/2)^2} + c - (b/2)^2$ $T = \underline{(x + b/2)^2} - D = -D \text{ for } x = -b/2$ <p>T turns where <math>x = -b/2</math></p>	<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <math>T = x^2 - 6*x + 8</math> T turns where <math>x = 6/2 = 3</math></li><li>• <math>T = -x^2 + 8*x + 5 = -(x^2 - 8*x - 5)</math> T turns where <math>x = +8/2 = +4</math></li></ul>  



# Investing with budget-lines



I invest 100\$ in apples at 2\$/kg, and in pears at 4\$/kg

- I buy  $x$  kg apples. It leaves  $100 - 2 \cdot x$  \$ to buy pears:
- I buy  $(100 - 2 \cdot x)/4 = 25 - 1/2 \cdot x$  kg pears

So, the linear **budget-line** cuts the axes in 25kg pears and 50kg apples.





# Market price, where supply & demand meet



Rising the unit-price  $p$  will rise **supply** and lower **demand**

**Supply** =  $0.2 * p$ , and **Demand** =  $6 - 0.1 * p$

Met at : **Supply** = **Demand** units

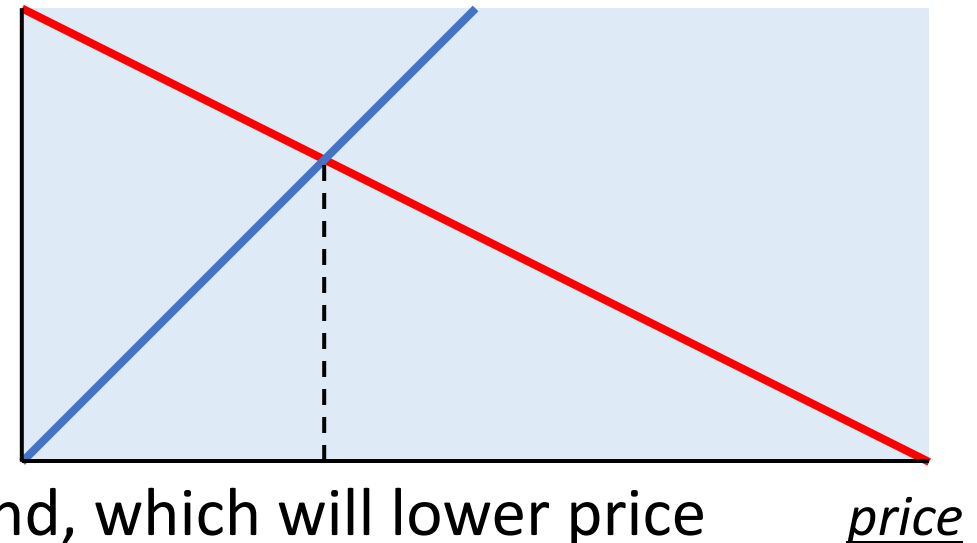
- $0.2 * p = 6 - 0.1 * p$
- $0.3 * p = 6 = (6/0.3) * 0.3$
- $p = 6/0.3$

So, they meet at the unit-price 20

This price is stable:

Rising price will rise **supply**, and lower demand, which will lower price

Lowering price will lower **supply**, and rise demand, which will rise price





# Saving money at home



Bo has 10\$, and saves 3\$/day.

So after  $n$  days,  **$T = 10 + 3*n$**

- How much after 7 days ?

$$T = 10 + 3*7 = 31$$

- When 100\$ ?

$$100 = 10 + 3*n,$$

but,  $100 = (100 - 10) + 10$ , so

$$3*n = 100 - 10 = 90$$

but,  $90 = (90/3)*3$ , so

$$n = 90/3 = 30$$



# Comparing savings



Al saves 5\$/day. Starting 4 days earlier, Bo saves 3\$/day.

After  $n$  days:

- Al.  $T = 5 * n$
- Bo.  $T = 3 * n + 3 * 4 = 3 * n + 12,$

The same:

$3 * n + 12 = 5 * n$	but, $5 * n = (5 * n - 3 * n) + 3 * n = 2 * n + 3 * n$ , so
$2 * n = 12$	but, $12 = (12/2) * 2$ , so
$n = 12/2 = 6$	



# Saving money in a bank



$200\$ + 12\% = ?$       Oops, unlike units, so we exchange  $200\$ = 100\%$

$100\% + 12\% = 112\%$ , changed back to \$:

$$T = 112\% = (112/100) * 100\% = (112/100) * 200\$ = 1.12 * 200\$$$

- So, to add 12% means to multiply with 112%, or 1.12.

After  $n$  years, we have  $T = 200\$ * 112\%^n$ , or  **$T = 200 * 1.12^n$**

- After 2 years:  $R = (1 + 12\%)^2 = 1.12^2 = 1.254$ ,  
so 12% 2 times = 24% + 1.4% extra interest (compound interest)
- Doubling,  $1.12^n = 2$ , is predicted by the **factor-counting logarithm**  
 $n = \log_{1.12}(2) = 6.1$
- Asking which percent gives a 10year doubling leads to the equation  
 $(1+x)^{10} = 2$  predicted by the **factor-finding root**  $1+x = \sqrt[10]{2} = 1.072$ , so  $x = 7.2\%$



# Instalment plan: a race between a debt and a saving



- I borrow 100\$ at 7 % per year. So, as interest I pay 7% of 100\$ = 7\$.  
I pay back 7\$ + 2\$ = 9\$ per year.

This gives a saving  $S$  after  $n$  years:

$S = R * 9 / 7\%$ , with  $1 + R = (1 + 7\%)^n$ , or

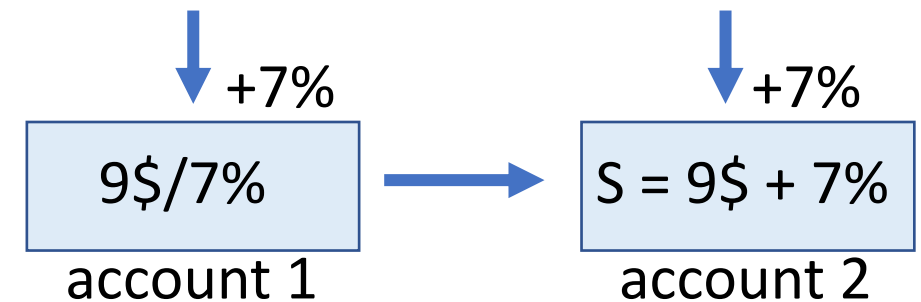
$$S/9 = R/7\%$$

- Balance when Debt = Saving:

$$100 * 1.07^n = (1.07^n - 1) * 9 / 7\%$$

Reducing to  $1.07^n = 9/2$  (the 'speed-factor')

Solved by  $n = 22.2$  years





# Per-numbers add as areas (integral calculus)

“2kg at 3\$/kg + 4kg at 5\$/kg = 6kg at ? \$/kg?”



Here, the per-number curve is **piecewise constant**

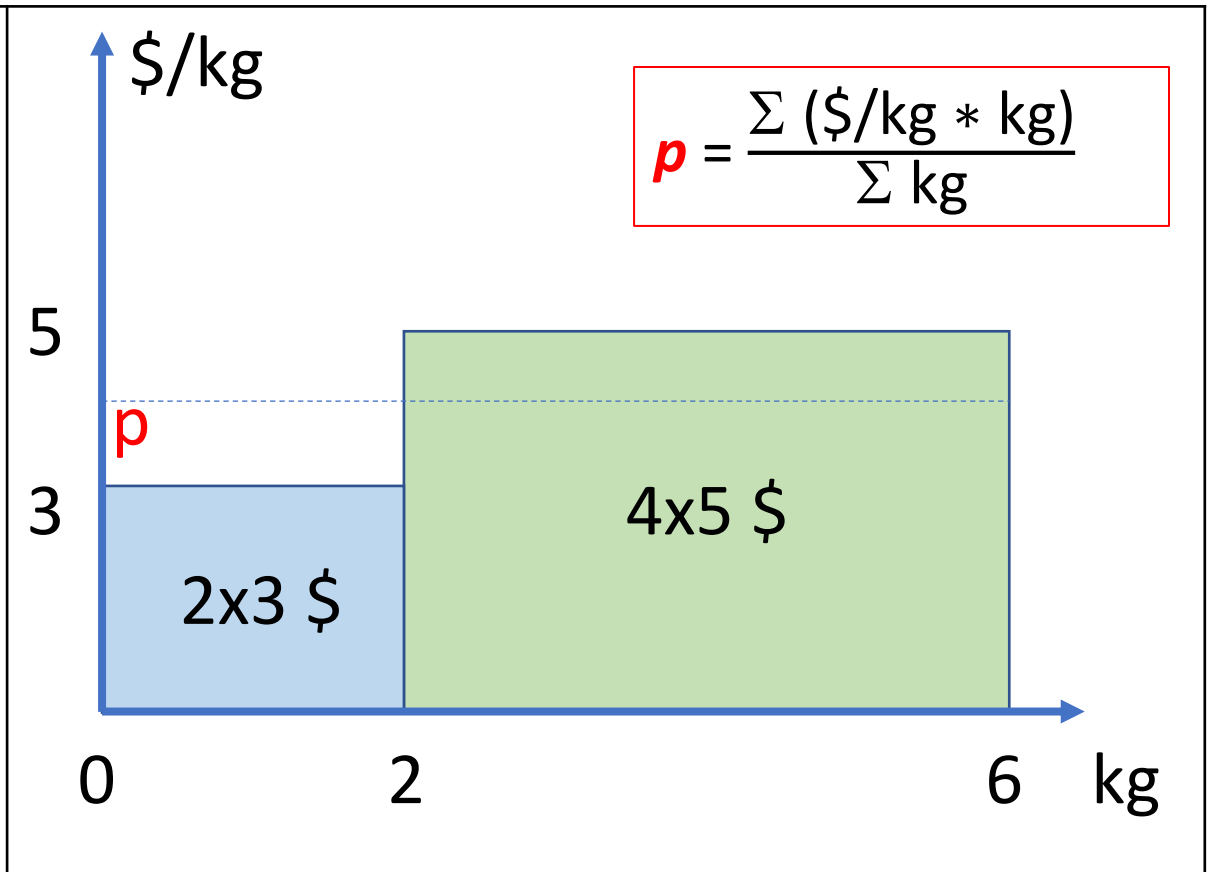
$\Sigma (p^* \Delta x)$  becomes  $\int p^* dx$ , if it is **locally constant**, interchanging *epsilon* and *delta*

2 kg at 3 \$/kg  
+ 4 kg at 5 \$/kg  

---

  
(2+4) kg at ***p*** \$/kg

- Unit-numbers add directly.
- Per-numbers must be multiplied to unit-numbers, thus adding as **areas** under the per-number curve.
- Here, multiplication before addition
- So, per-numbers and fractions are not numbers, but operators needing numbers to be numbers.





# Per-numbers are found (differentiation)

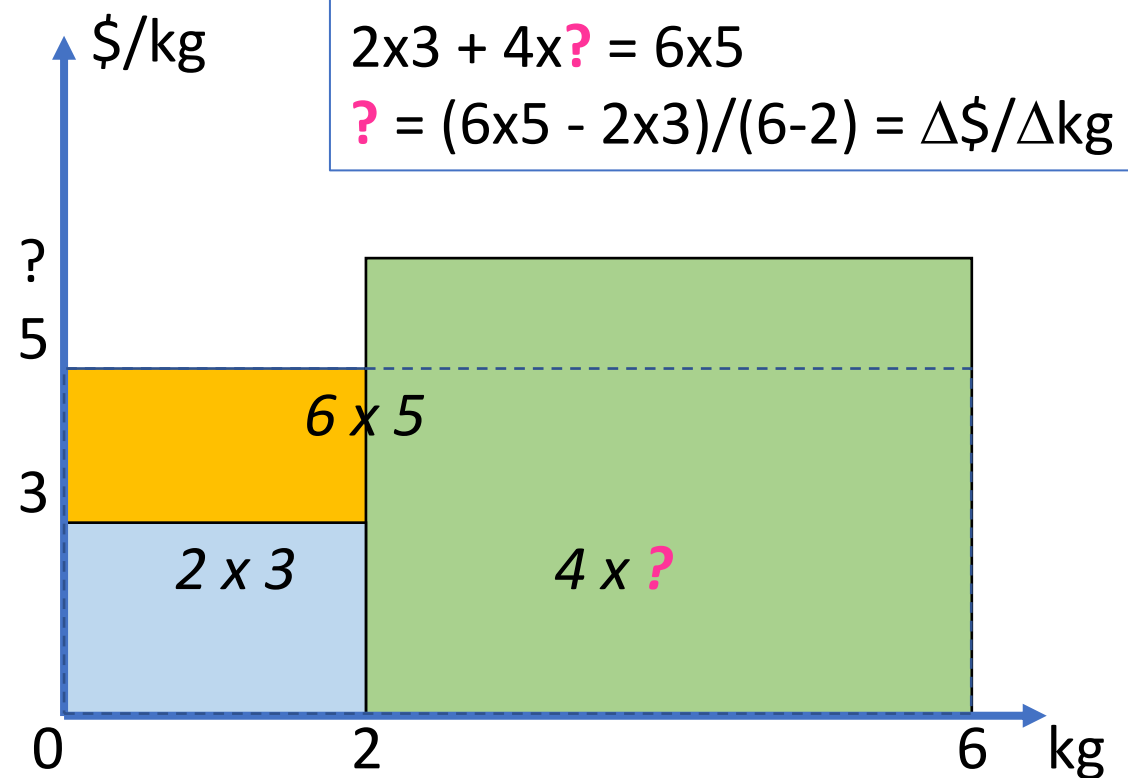
“2kg at 3\$/kg + 4kg at **what** = 6kg at 5\$/kg?”



$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \text{ kg at } 3 \text{ \$/kg} \\ + 4 \text{ kg at } ? \text{ \$/kg} \\ \hline 6 \text{ kg at } 5 \text{ \$/kg} \end{array}$$

Outside, we remove the initial 2x3 block and recount the rest in 4s. Geometrically, reversed per-number addition means subtracting areas to be reshaped, called differential calculus.

Inside, the recount-formula algebraically predicts the result. Here subtraction (giving a change,  $\Delta$ ) comes before division.







# Four ways to unite and split a Total

A number-formula  $T = 345 = 3\mathbf{B}^2 + 4\mathbf{B} + 5$  (a polynomial) shows the 4 ways to unite: +, \*, ^, next-to block-addition (integration). Addition and multiplication unite changing and constant unit-numbers. Integration and power unite changing and constant per-numbers. We might call this beautiful simplicity the 'Algebra Square' since in Arabic, algebra means to reunite. • The 4 uniting operations each has a reverse splitting operation: Addition has subtraction (−), and multiplication has division (/). Power has factor-finding (root,  $\sqrt[n]{\phantom{x}}$ ) and factor-counting (logarithm, log). Integration has per-number finding (differentiation  $dT/dn = T'$ ). Reversing operations is solving equations, done by moving to **opposite side** with **opposite sign**.

Operations unite / split into	Changing	Constant
<b>Unit-numbers</b> <i>m, s, \$, kg</i>	$T = a + n$ $T - a = n$	$T = a * n$ $T/n = a$
<b>Per-numbers</b> <i>m/s, \$/kg, <math>m/(100m) = \%</math></i>	$T = \int a \, dn$ $dT/dn = a$	$T = a^n$ $\log_a T = n, \sqrt[n]{T} = a$



# Consumer and product behavior: Never trust totals & averages, always split 'em



Sale: 5 apples to 4 girls & 1 boy; 5 pears to 2 girls & 3 boys. Do girls & boys buy similar? Do apples & pears sell similar? We use 3 cross-tables: 1 with unit-, 2 with per-numbers.

*In average, apples & pears sell like; and 60% go to girls.*

Totals	Apples	Pears	Total
Girls	4	2	6
Boys	1	3	4
Total #	5	5	10

By product	Apples	Pears	Total%	Total #
Girls	$4/6 = 67\%$	33%	100%	6
Boys	25%	75%	100%	4

*Girls are 3 times more likely to buy apples than pears.  
Boys are 3 times more likely to buy pears than apples.*

By buyer	Apples	Pears
Girls	$4/5 = 80\%$	40%
Boys	20%	60%
Total %	100%	100%
Total #	5	5

**Never go between per-numbers  
Always go via the unit-numbers**

*Apples are sold to 4 times as many girls than boys.  
Pears are sold to 50% more boys than girls.*



# Quadratics have constant change-of-change



$x^2$  gives the numbers 0, 1, 4, 9, ...

The numbers change with +1, +3, +5, ...

The changes change with +2

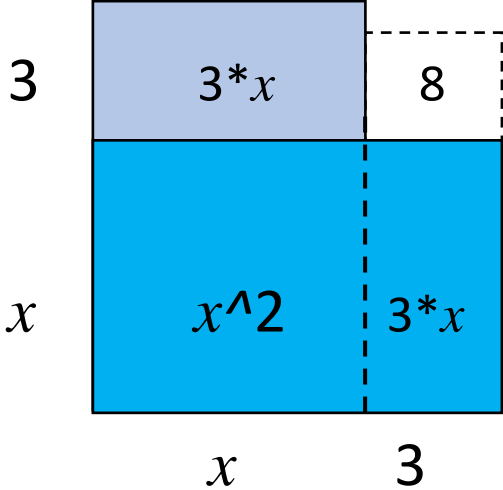
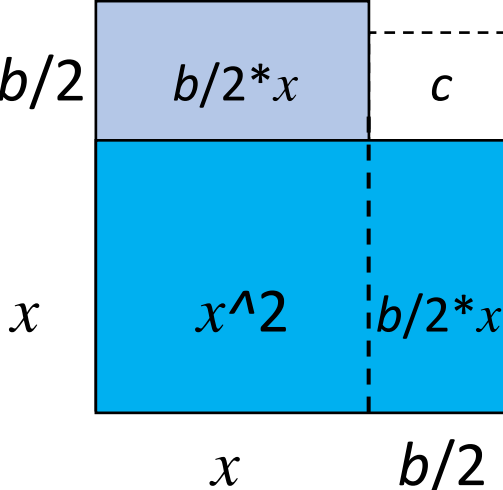
- T may increase daily with a number that is **constant 7**,  $T = 5 + 7 * x$
- T may increase daily with a number that is **constantly decreasing** as 7, 5, 3, ... Here the change-of-change is constant, -2

Checking, gives the formula  $T = -x^2 + 8 * x + 5$ .



Outside geometry & inside algebra, should always go hand in hand. Quadratic equations solved with 2 cards



$x^2 + 6x + 8 = 0$	$x^2 + b x + c = 0$
	
$(x+3)^2 = x^2 + 6x + 8 + 1$ $(x+3)^2 = 0 + 1$ $x+3 = \pm \sqrt{1}$ $x = -3 \pm 1$ $x = -4 \text{ \& } x = -2$	$(x+b/2)^2 = x^2 + bx + c + [(b/2)^2 - c]$ $(x+b/2)^2 = 0 + D$ $x+b/2 = \pm \sqrt{D}$ $x = -b/2 \pm \sqrt{D}, x = -b/2 \pm \sqrt{(b/2)^2 - c}$



# Recounting sides in a box gives trigonometry



In Greek, geometry means to earth-measure. The earth may be divided in triangles; that may be divided in right triangles; that may be seen as a box cut by its diagonal thus having three sides: the base  $b$ , the altitude  $a$ , and the cut  $c$ , connected with the angle  $A$  by per-number formulas recounting the sides pairwise.

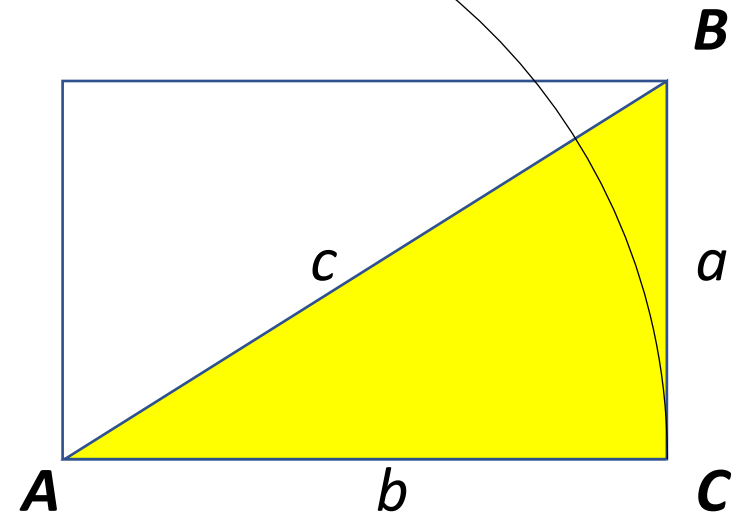
$$a = (a/c) \times c = \sin A \times c$$

$$a = (a/b) \times b = \tan A \times b$$

$$b = (b/c) \times c = \cos A \times c$$

$$\tan A = a/b = \Delta y / \Delta x = \text{gradient}$$

Circle: circum./diam. is  $\pi = n * \tan(180/n)$  for  $n$  large





# Conclusion



- Yes, core mathematics may be learned through its historic root, economics, describing how humans share what they produce
- Asking “How many did I produce?” roots counting, predicted by division iconizing a broom pushing away bundles, to be stacked by a multiplication-lift, to be pulled away by a subtraction-rope to look for unbundled singles, to be added on-top or next-to, thus rooting decimal and negative numbers
- Recounting in a new unit creates a recount formula, used to solve equations, and to change units as in most STEM formulas
- Uniting stacks on-top or next-to roots proportionality or calculus
- So why make mathematics hard when it may also be easy & meaningful?



# Theoretical background



Tarp, A. (2018). Mastering Many by counting and recounting before adding on-top and next-to. *Journal of Math Education*, March 2018, 11(1), 103-117.

Tarp, A. (2020). De-modeling numbers, operations and equations: from inside-inside to outside-inside understanding. *Ho Chi Minh City University of Education Journal of Science* 17(3), 453-466.

