

# HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING: STANDARDS, PRACTICES, AND HABITS OF MIND

Al Cuoco

Joint Mathematics Meetings, 2013



# OUTLINE

- 1 THE HABITS-O-MIND APPROACH
- 2 STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE
- 3 DEVELOPING MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE
- 4 PARTING THOUGHTS

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# THE HABITS OF MIND APPROACH

*What mathematicians most wanted and needed from me was **to learn my ways of thinking**, and not in fact to learn my proof of the geometrization conjecture for Haken manifolds.*

— William Thurston

“On Proof and Progress in Mathematics.”

*Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society*, 1994



## OUR FUNDAMENTAL ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE

*The widespread utility and effectiveness of mathematics come not just from mastering specific skills, topics, and techniques, but more importantly, from developing the ways of thinking—the habits of mind—used to create the results.*

—Cuoco, Goldenberg, & Mark  
“Habits of Mind: An Organizing Principle for High School Curricula.” *The Journal of Mathematical Behavior*, 1996.

# THE NOTION OF MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE

*It will be helpful to name and (at least partially) specify some of the things—practices, dispositions, sensibilities, habits of mind—entailed in doing mathematics. . . . These are things that mathematicians typically do when they do mathematics. At the same time most of these things, suitably interpreted or adapted, could apply usefully to elementary mathematics no less than to research.*

—Hyman Bass

“A Vignette of Doing Mathematics.” *The Montana Mathematics Enthusiast*, 2011.

# THE NOTION OF MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE

*The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe ways in which developing student practitioners of the discipline of mathematics increasingly ought to engage with the subject matter as they grow in mathematical maturity and expertise. . . .*

*Designers of curricula, assessments, and professional development should all attend to the need to connect the mathematical practices to mathematical content in mathematics instruction.*

— CCSS, 2010



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# COMMON CORE: MATHEMATICAL PRACTICES

Eight attributes of mathematical proficiency:

1. **Make sense of complex problems and persevere in solving them.**
2. **Reason abstractly and quantitatively.**
3. **Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.**
4. **Model with mathematics.**
5. **Use appropriate tools strategically.**
6. **Attend to precision.**
7. **Look for and make use of structure.**
8. **Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.**



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Commissioned by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, we developed a 45 hour course, *Developing Mathematical Practice* aimed at helping high school teachers implement these standards across the entire high school program.

# THE DMP COURSE

The course is designed to show how the standards for mathematical practice

- enhance the teaching and learning of standard content by making it
  - more understandable to students
  - easier to teach
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The course is now a regular offering of ESE and EDC, conducted around the country and taught by teams of teachers.



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# SAMPLE AGENDA

## DAY 1

**8:00:** Coffee, welcome, gossip

**8:27:** Getting Started

- A rectangle has perimeter 32. What could its area be?

**9:32:** Introductions, and discuss the standards for mathematical practice

**9:59:** Break

**10:12:** SSS and Area

**11:32:** Lunch

**12:17:** Geometric Optimization-1

- Of all rectangles of a given perimeter, which maximizes area?

**1:42:** Geometric Optimization-2

- The “Burning Tent” problem

**2:47:** Break

**3:02:** Debrief

**3:30:** End

# DAYS 2 AND 3

## DAY 2: ABSTRACTING GENERALITY FROM REPEATED REASONING

- Word problems
- Graphing
- Heron's formula
- Modeling functions
- Lines of best fit

## DAY 3: STRUCTURE

- Integers and Polynomials
- Fitting functions to tables
- Factoring
- Quadratics
- Monthly payments
- Probability distributions
- Complex numbers

# DAYS 4 AND 5

## DAY 4: VIABLE ARGUMENTS

- Area and dissections
- Congruence  $\rightarrow$  area  $\rightarrow$  similarity
- Critiquing proofs
- Reasoning about irrational numbers
- Extending definitions
- Critiquing the reasoning of others
- Mathematical induction

## DAY 5: IMPLICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Designing activities for students
- The PARCC Content Frameworks
- End with some lovely mathematics



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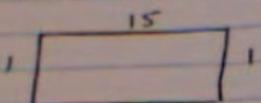
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- 4 Show how to cut a  $6 \times 10$  rectangle into a square with the same perimeter.
- 5 Show how to cut an  $a \times b$  rectangle into a square with the same perimeter.

# EXAMPLE: MAXIMIZING AREA

Maximizing Area

Rect has  $P=32$ . What is its area?

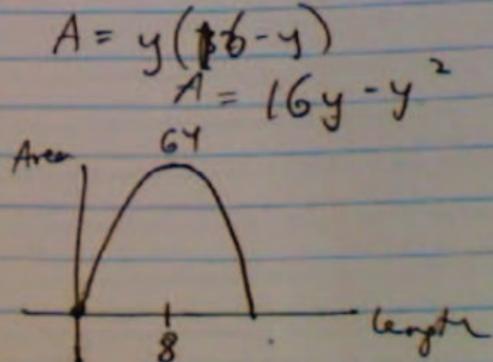


$A = 15$

$y$ Length	$16-y$ width	AREA
1	15	$\rightarrow 15$
2	14	$\rightarrow 28$
3	13	$\rightarrow 39$
4	12	$\rightarrow 48$
5	11	$\rightarrow 55$
6	10	$\rightarrow 60$
7	9	$\rightarrow 63$
8	8	$\rightarrow 64$

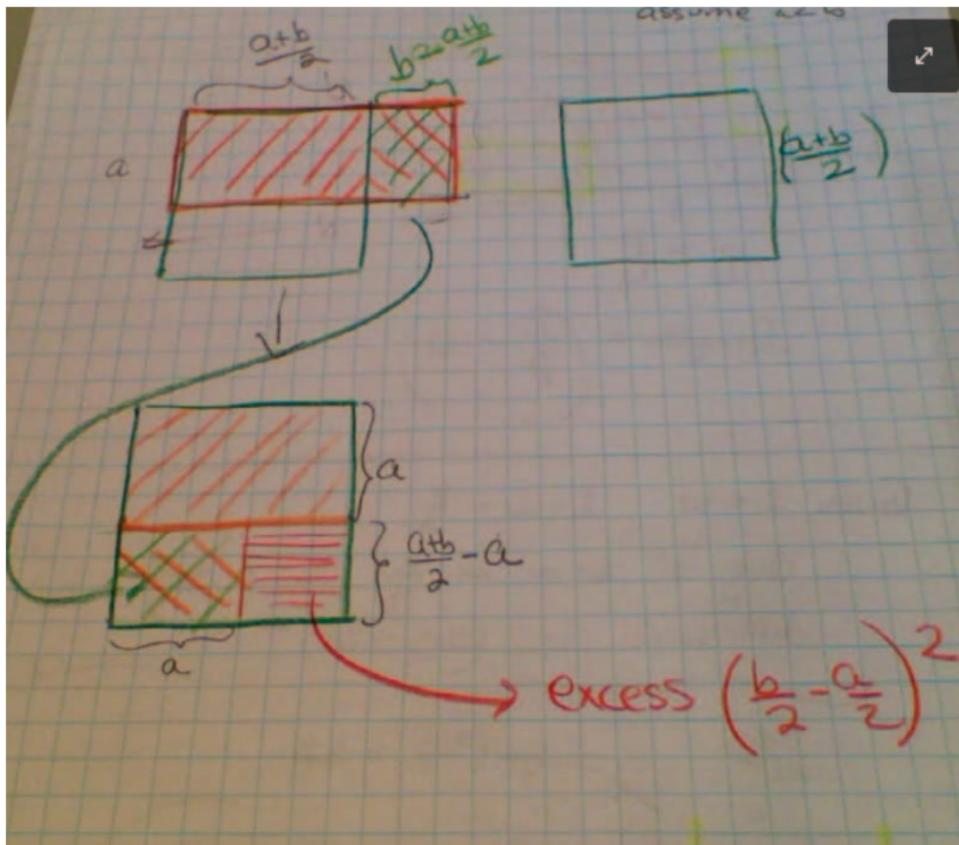
$2x + 2y = 32$   
 $x = 16 - y$

~~$A = y(16 - y)$~~   
 $A = 16y - y^2$



$0 < A \leq 64$

# EXAMPLE: MAXIMIZING AREA



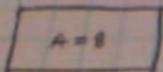
# EXAMPLE: MAXIMIZING AREA

Area difference between any rectangle of perimeter  $P$  and its max area rectangle of perimeter  $P$   
 is  $\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right)^2 - ab = \frac{(a-b)^2}{4}$

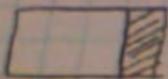
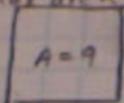
this will always  
be a square

ex/

$$P=12$$



max area

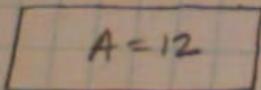


← missing piece to complete  
the square

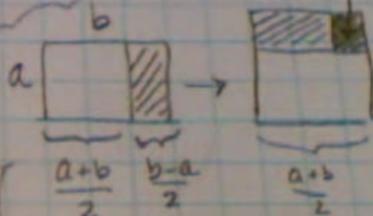
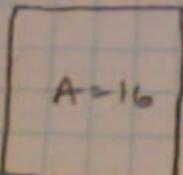
$$\frac{(a-b)^2}{4}$$

ex/

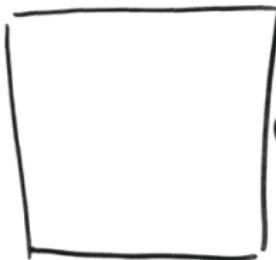
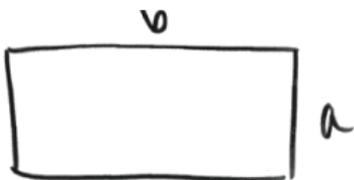
$$P=16$$



max area



# EXAMPLE: MAXIMIZING AREA



max Area  
w/same  
P

$$\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right)^2 \geq ab$$

excess:  $\frac{(a-b)^2}{4}$

$$a, b \geq 0$$

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

arithmetic  
mean

geometric  
mean

# EXAMPLE: BUILDING EQUATIONS

## WORD PROBLEMS

Mary drives from Boston to Chicago, and she travels at an average rate of 60 MPH on the way down and 50 MPH on the way back.  
*If the total trip takes 36 hours, how far is Boston from Chicago?*

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Mary drives from Boston to Chicago, and she travels at an average rate of 60 MPH on the way down and 50 MPH on the way back.  
*If Boston is 1000 miles from Chicago, how long did the trip take?*

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**“The difficulty lies in setting up the equation, not solving it.”**



## EXAMPLE: BUILDING EQUATIONS

Mr. Brennan is looking at a theater marquis:



He says “Isn’t that great. The theater usually charges \$9.00 per person. On Student Night, I can bring 47 more students for the same cost.” How many students can Mr. Brennan bring to the theater on Student Night?

# EXAMPLE: BUILDING EQUATIONS

Guess: 100 <sup>students</sup>  
 $53 \times 9 = 477$        $600 - 477 = 123$   
 $100 \times 6 = 600$

Guess: 110 <sup>students</sup>  
 $110 \times 6 = 660$        $660 - 567 = 93$   
 $63 \times 9 = 567$

Guess: 120 <sup>students</sup>  
 $120 \times 6 = 720$   
 $73 \times 9 = 657$        $720 - 657 = 63$

Guess: 150 <sup>students</sup>  
 $150 \times 6 = 900$   
 $103 \times 9 = 927$

Guess: 140 <sup>students</sup>  
 $140 \times 6 = 840$   
 $93 \times 9 = 837$

Generalize:  $\text{Guess} \times 6 = (\text{Guess} - 47) \times 9$   
 $6x = (x - 47) \times 9$   
 $6x = 9x - 423$   
 $2x = 423$        $x = 141 \text{ students}$

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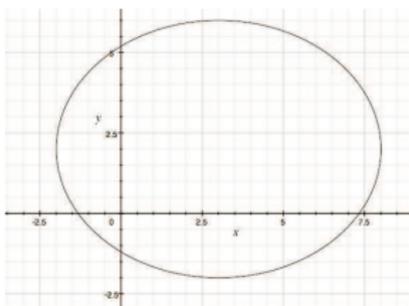
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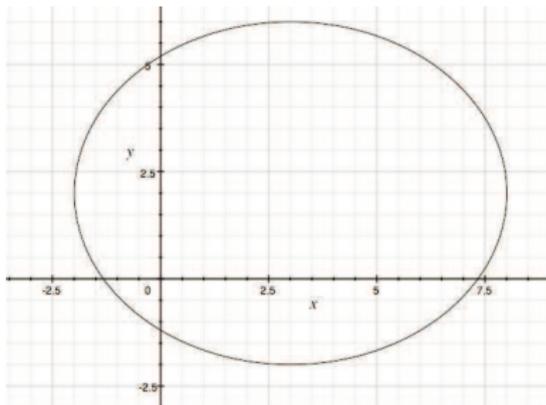
$$16x^2 - 96x + 25y^2 - 100y - 156 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{(x-3)^2}{25} + \frac{(y-2)^2}{16} = 1$$

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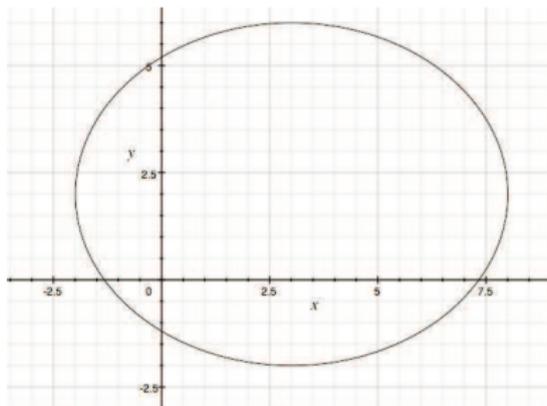
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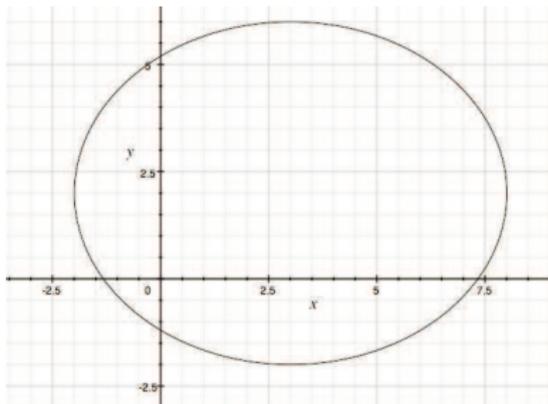
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Is (7.5, 3.75) on the graph?

## EXAMPLE: EQUATIONS FOR LINES

$$\frac{(x - 3)^2}{25} + \frac{(y - 2)^2}{16} = 1$$



Is (7.5, 3.75) on the graph?

This led to the idea that “equations are point testers.”

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*To see if a point is on  $\ell$ , you check that its  $x$ -coordinate is 5.*

- This leads to a guess-checker:  $x \stackrel{?}{=} 5$  and the equation

$$x = 5$$

## EXAMPLE: EQUATIONS FOR LINES

- What about lines for which there is no simple guess-checker? The idea is to find a geometric characterization of such a line and then to develop a guess-checker based on that characterization. One such characterization uses *slope*.

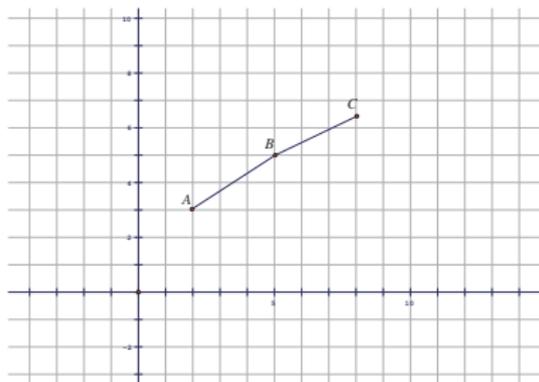
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- In first-year algebra, students study slope, and one fact about slope that often comes up is that three points on the coordinate plane, not all on the same vertical line, are collinear if and only if the slope between any two of them is the same.

## EXAMPLE: EQUATIONS FOR LINES

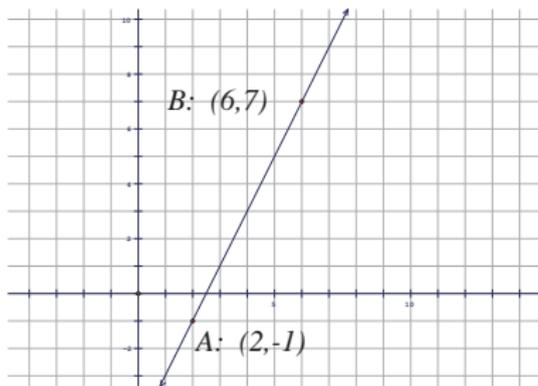
If we let  $m(A, B)$  denote the slope between  $A$  and  $B$  (calculated as change in  $y$ -height divided by change in  $x$ -run), then the collinearity condition can be stated like this:

Basic assumption:  $A, B,$  and  $C$  are collinear  $\Leftrightarrow m(A, B) = m(B, C)$



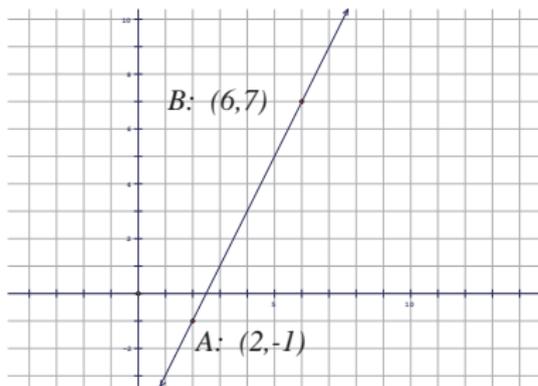
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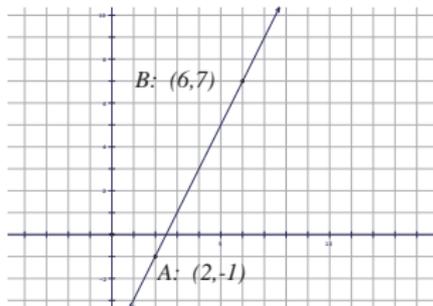
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Try some points, keeping track of the steps...

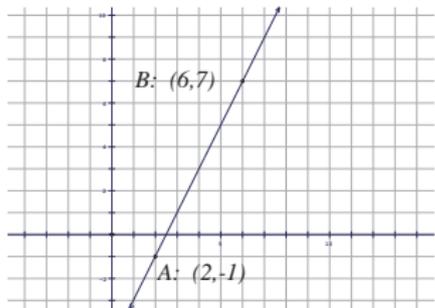
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- $A = (2, -1)$  and  
 $B = (6, 7)$
- $m(A, B) = 2$



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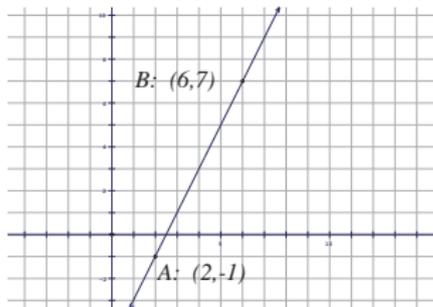
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- Test  $C = (3, 4)$ :  
 $m(C, B) = \frac{4-7}{3-6} \stackrel{?}{=} 2 \Rightarrow$  Nope

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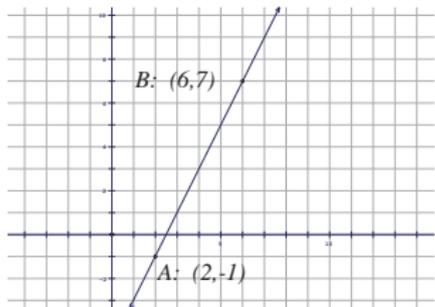
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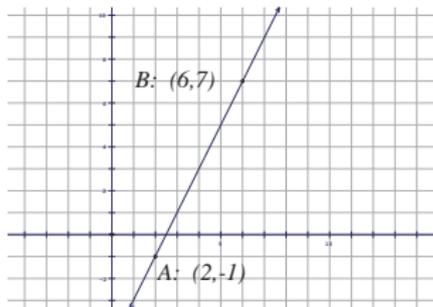
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- The “guess-checker?”  
Test  $P = (x, y)$ :  
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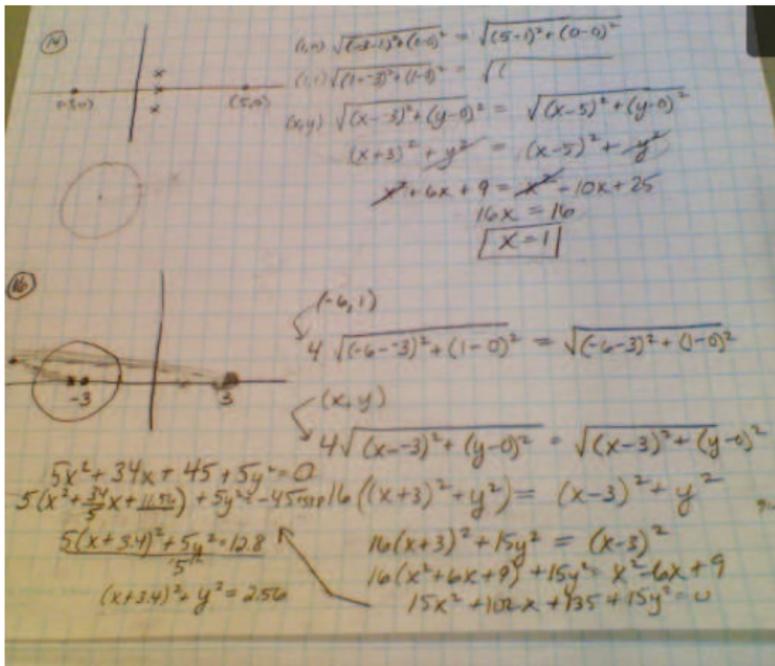
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Test  $P = (x, y)$ :  
 $m(P, B) = \frac{y-7}{x-6} \stackrel{?}{=} 2$

And an equation is  $\frac{y-7}{x-6} = 2$

# EXAMPLE: OTHER LOCI



## OTHER EXAMPLES WHERE THIS HABIT IS USEFUL

- Finding lines of best fit
- Building expressions (“*three less than a number*”)
- Fitting functions to tables of data
- Deriving the quadratic formula
- Establishing identities in Pascal’s triangle
- Using recursive definitions in a CAS or spreadsheet

⋮

# EXAMPLE: FACTORING

## FROM A POPULAR TEXT (~ 1980)



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“Factoring Pattern for  $x^2 + bx + c$ ,  $c$  Negative”



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Factor. Check by multiplying factors. If the polynomial is not factorable, write “prime.”



# EXAMPLE: FACTORING

FROM A POPULAR TEXT (~ 1980)

## “Factoring Pattern for $x^2 + bx + c$ , $c$ Negative”

Factor. Check by multiplying factors. If the polynomial is not factorable, write “prime.”

1.  $a^2 + 4a - 5$

4.  $b^2 + 2b - 15$

7.  $x^2 - 6x - 18$

10.  $k^2 - 2k - 20$

13.  $p^2 - 4p - 21$

16.  $z^2 - z - 72$

19.  $p^2 - 5pq - 50q^2$

22.  $s^2 + 14st - 72t^2$

2.  $x^2 - 2x - 3$

5.  $c^2 - 11c - 10$

8.  $y^2 - 10c - 24$

11.  $z^2 + 5z - 36$

14.  $a^2 + 3a - 54$

17.  $a^2 - ab - 30b^2$

20.  $a^2 - 4ab - 77b^2$

23.  $x^2 - 9xy - 22y^2$

3.  $y^2 - 5y - 6$

6.  $r^2 - 16r - 28$

9.  $a^2 + 2a - 35$

12.  $r^2 - 3r - 40$

15.  $y^2 - 5y - 30$

18.  $k^2 - 11kd - 60d^2$

21.  $y^2 - 2yz - 3z^2$

24.  $p^2 - pq - 72q^2$

# EXAMPLE: FACTORING

FROM A PUBLISHED TEXT (2010)



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- 1 Identify the values of  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ . Put  $a$  in Box  $A$  and  $c$  in Box  $B$ . Put the product of  $a$  and  $c$  in Box  $C$ .
- 2 List the factors of the number from Box  $C$  and identify the pair whose sum is  $b$ . Put the two factors you find in Box  $D$  and  $E$ .
- 3 Find the greatest common factor of Boxes  $A$  [sic] and  $E$  and put it in box  $G$ .

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$A$	$B$	$C$
$F$	$H$	$D$
$G$	$I$	$E$

- 4 In Box  $F$ , place the number you multiply by Box  $G$  to get Box  $A$ .
- 5 In Box  $H$ , place the number you multiply by Box  $F$  to get Box  $D$ .
- 6 In Box  $I$ , place the number you multiply by Box  $G$  to get Box  $E$ .

**Solution:** The binomial factors whose product gives the trinomial are  $(Fx + I)(Gx + H)$ .

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so...

Find two numbers whose sum is 14 and whose product is 48.

$$(x + 6)(x + 8)$$

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# EXAMPLE: FACTORING USING THE STRUCTURE OF EXPRESSIONS

Day 3 Draft. Do not cite or quote.

g.  $49x^2 - 35x + 6$

$$(7x)^2 - 5(7x) + 6$$

$$y^2 - 5y + 6$$

$$(y-3)(y-2)$$

$$\hookrightarrow (7x-3)(7x-2)$$

h.  $x^6 - 1$

Let  $y = x^3$

$$y^2 - 1 = (y-1)(y+1)$$

$$\hookrightarrow (x^3-1)(x^3+1)$$

i.  $4x^2 + 36x + 45$

$$(2x)^2 + 18(2x) + 45$$

$$y^2 + 18y + 45$$

$$(y+15)(y+3)$$

$$(2x+15)(2x+3)$$

j.  $6x^2 - 5x - 21$

$$(3x-7)(2x+3)$$

# EXAMPLE: FACTORING USING THE STRUCTURE OF EXPRESSIONS

$$\begin{aligned} (x^6 - 1) &= (x^2)^3 - 1 && a^3 - 1 \\ &= (x^2 - 1)(x^2 + x^2 + 1) \\ &= (x^2 - 1)(x^4 + x^2 + 1) \\ &= (x - 1)(x^2 + x + 1)(x + 1)(x^2 - x + 1) \end{aligned}$$

# EXAMPLE: FACTORING USING THE STRUCTURE OF EXPRESSIONS

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \underbrace{X^4 + X^2 + 1 + X^2 - X^2}_{X^4 + 2X^2 + 1 - X^2} \\
 & \underbrace{X^4 + 2X^2 + 1}_{(X^2)^2 + 2(X^2) + 1} - X^2 \\
 & (X^2 + 1)(X^2 + 1) - X^2 \\
 & (X^2 + 1)^2 - X^2 \\
 & (X^2 + 1 + X)(X^2 + 1 - X)
 \end{aligned}$$

Factor  $x^4 + 4$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (x^2)^2 + 4x^2 + 4 - 4x^2 \\
 & (x^2 + 2)^2 - (2x)^2 \\
 & (x^2 + 2 + 2x)(x^2 + 2 - 2x)
 \end{aligned}$$

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## OTHER EXAMPLES WHERE CHUNKING IS USEFUL

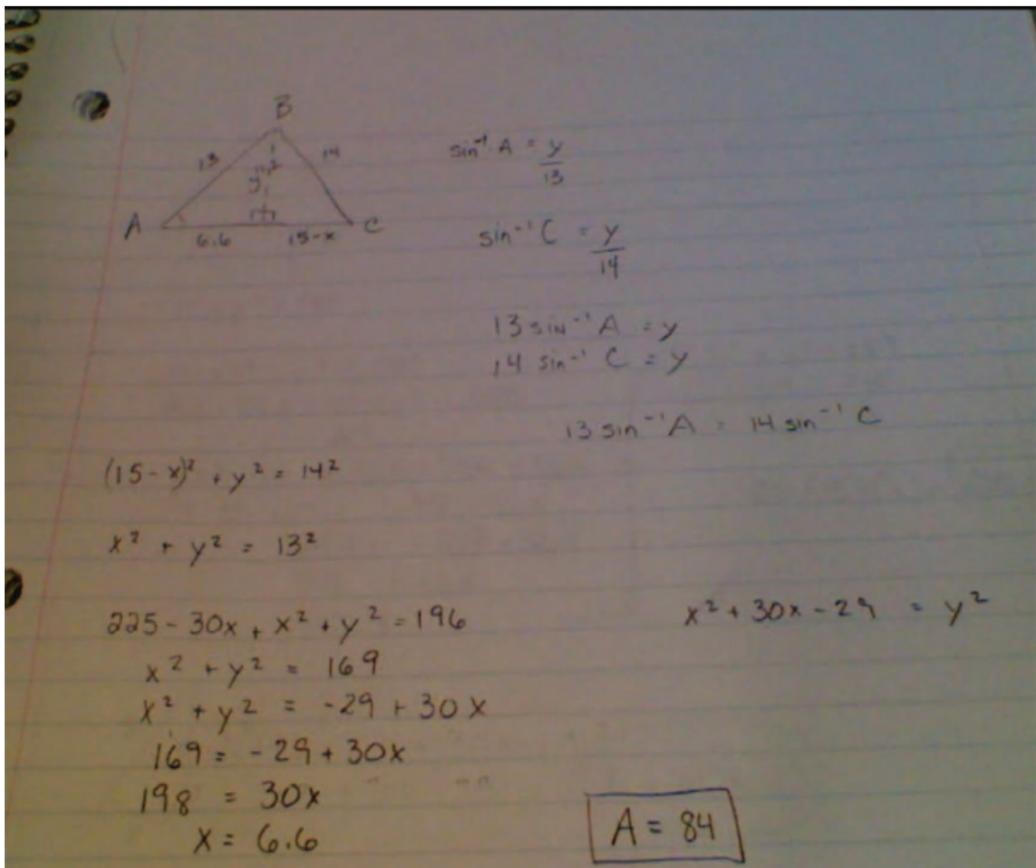
- Completing the square and removing terms
- Solving trig equations
- Analyzing conics and other curves
- All over calculus
- Interpreting results from a computer algebra system

⋮

## EXAMPLE: SSS AND AREA

- 1 Find the area of a triangle whose side-lengths are 13, 14, 15.
- 2 Find the area of a triangle whose side-lengths are 6, 25, 29.
- 3 Find the area of a triangle whose side-lengths are 8, 29, 35.
- 4 Find the area of a triangle whose side-lengths are 6, 25, 26.
- 5 Find the area of a triangle whose side-lengths are  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ .

# EXAMPLE: SSS AND AREA



$\sin^{-1} A = \frac{y}{13}$   
 $\sin^{-1} C = \frac{y}{14}$   
 $13 \sin^{-1} A = y$   
 $14 \sin^{-1} C = y$   
 $13 \sin^{-1} A = 14 \sin^{-1} C$

$(15-x)^2 + y^2 = 14^2$   
 $x^2 + y^2 = 13^2$   
 $225 - 30x + x^2 + y^2 = 196$   
 $x^2 + y^2 = 169$   
 $x^2 + y^2 = -29 + 30x$   
 $169 = -29 + 30x$   
 $198 = 30x$   
 $x = 6.6$

$x^2 + 30x - 29 = y^2$

$A = 84$

# EXAMPLE: SSS AND AREA

$a^2 - x^2 = h^2$

$b^2 - (c-x)^2 = h^2$

$b^2 - (c^2 - 2cx + x^2) = h^2$

$b^2 - c^2 + 2cx - x^2 = h^2$

$a^2 - x^2 = b^2 - c^2 + 2cx - x^2$

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

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

$\frac{a^2 - b^2 + c^2}{2c} = x$

$\sqrt{a^2 - \left(\frac{a^2 - b^2 + c^2}{2c}\right)^2} = h$

$\sqrt{a^2 - \left(\frac{a^2 - b^2 + c^2}{2c}\right)^2} = \frac{h \cdot c}{2} = A$

$A = 15.28$

289  
 - 625  
 + 784

7210 units

# EXAMPLE: SSS AND AREA

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{a^2 - \left(\frac{a^2 - b^2 + c^2}{2c}\right)^2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{4c^2 a^2 - (a^2 - b^2 + c^2)^2}{4c^2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{(2ac - (a^2 - b^2 + c^2))(2ac + (a^2 - b^2 + c^2))} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{(2ac - a^2 + b^2 - c^2)(2ac + a^2 - b^2 + c^2)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{[b^2 - (a^2 - 2ac + c^2)][(a^2 + 2ac + c^2) - b^2]} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{[b^2 - (a-c)^2][(a+c)^2 - b^2]} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{(b - (a-c))(b + (a-c))(a+c - b)(a+c + b)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{(b-a+c)(b+a-c)(a+c-b)(a+c+b)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{(a+b+c-2a)(a+b+c-2c) \cdot \frac{1}{2}(a+b+c-2b) \cdot \frac{1}{2}(a+b+c)} \\
 &= \sqrt{(s-a)(s-b)(s-c) \cdot s}
 \end{aligned}$$

# OUTLINE

- 1 THE HABITS-O-MIND APPROACH
- 2 STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE
- 3 DEVELOPING MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE
- 4 PARTING THOUGHTS

# CONCLUSIONS

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- There is a practice of mathematics, just as there is a practice of medicine or teaching.
- These Standards for Mathematical Practice capture some essential features of this practice.
- Elevating the habits of mind used to create results to the same level of importance as the results themselves can go a long way to connect school mathematics to the real thing.
- But the Standards for Mathematical Practice will be trivialized if they are not integrated into the Standards for Mathematical Content.



# THANKS

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