

# SAM SCHWARTZ

## Ruler of the Mathematician's Domain

By  
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Illustrated by J. C. Holden

Historians generally dismiss with contempt the notion that mathematicians once dominated a glorious era of human history. We here relate a portion of that dubious history, reconstructed from discrete fragments into a piecewise continuous narrative, which, unfortunately, won't be fully coherent.<sup>(1)</sup>

The earliest civilization of mathematicians emerged during the late Stochastic era, when some tribes migrated from the planes of Euclid, through the Dedekind cut, to the Kronecker delta. There they found relatively prime agricultural land, where they settled and multiplied. But when locus plagues repeatedly wiped out their lemma groves, they abandoned the area and took to the forests, grubbing for square roots to sustain themselves.

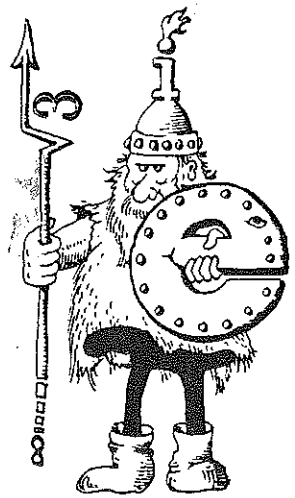
Others migrated to the higher planes, seeking purer air where they could enjoy the exhilaration of having their heads in the clouds. There they founded the kingdom of Summaria. But soon they succumbed to disease--the dreaded Lipschitz condition, which kills by excruciating attacks of Kurtosis.<sup>(3)</sup>



"...and stuck down by a plague of the dreaded Lipschitz condition, which kills by excruciating attacks of Kurtosis."

In the aftermath of these disasters, the remainder of the mathematicians dispersed into numerous local groups. One of these inhabited the insignificant province of Outer Automorphism. Here was born, of humble origin, a man destined to lead the mathematicians to their greatest glory. His name was Sam Schwartz.

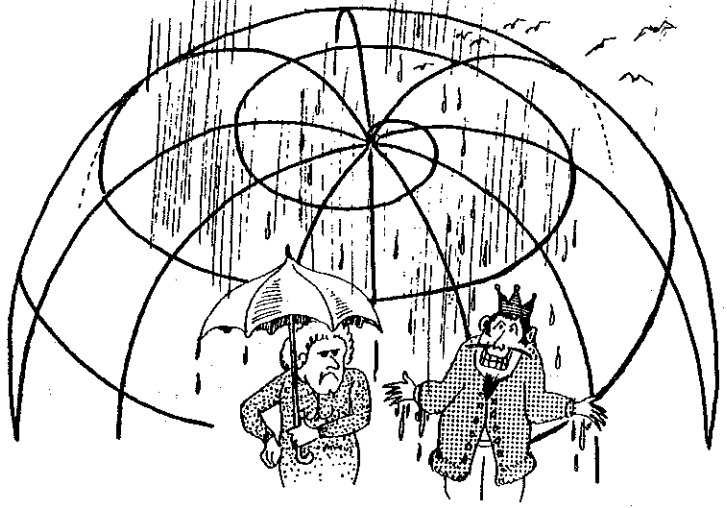
Sam's military victories were frequently recounted with awe. In battle he skewed his enemies right and left. His greatest triumph came when he drove the rebellious Surds from his domain.



Still, his ambition knew no bounds. Through a process of integration by parts he unified the diverse tribes one by one into an empire. Thus he brought peace to all lands within his compass, which included an area from the Dyadic trace to the Jordan curve. Finally tired of conquest, Schwartz turned reflexive, realizing that military conquest was all for nought. So he normalized relations with adjoining domains and turned his attention to domestic affairs. For a while everything seemed affine.

Schwartz was asymptotic to the plight of the poor, so he decreed a distributive law to eliminate inequalities. Other decrees promoted increased degrees of freedom. When called upon to adjudicate disputes between divergent fractions, he brought all of his powers of attenuation to bear on the case. His decisions demonstrated him to be an exponent of rationality. Schwartz was revered as a singular ruler, a statesman of first rank. A man who held to first principles, his rectilinearity was without parallel.

He built an elegant palace, the Loxodrome,



"He built an elegant palace, the Loxodrome"

and beside it a university devoted to art, music, and mathematics. The university was constructed on the premises so Schwartz could more frequently consult with the faculty. Never content with the least common denominator, Schwartz promoted excellence in all functions of his royal court.



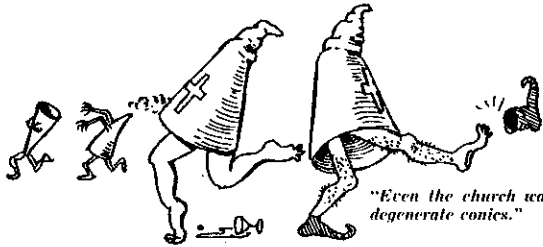
"But in his later years, Schwartz became eccentric."

But in his later years, Schwartz's behavior became eccentric. He seemed to have lost his powers of differentiation, and even became indefinite about integrals. His character was transformed.

He tolerated numerous deviations and inversions in his court. Rumors circulated that the palace was rife with homomorphisms, and Schwartz himself was suspected of convoluting with a trisectrix. (This was probably untrue, since historians suspect Schwartz was idempotent.)

The palace became a center of isometry and reversion. Some in the court developed an inclination toward mystical philosophies. They frequently attended transcendental functions where they tended to go to extrema. Many were addicted to trivial solutions which led to hyperbolic behavior; and in that state they were capable of only weak convergence. (5)

Even the Church was infested with degenerate conics, of deviant declinations. (4)



The Church had risen to a position of undue power. Its cardinal number had become excessive, and the entire Church hierarchy was riddled with corruption right down to the level of the local curtate.

Auditors determined that the finance minister, Pierre Charlier, had decimated the royal treasury by applying undetermined multipliers to the budget. Checks issued over his signature--Charlier checks--bounced.

The government bureaucracy had grown oblate. Taxes were recursive. Diverse fractions harbored a sense of inequality. The citizens no longer trusted Schwartz's word. His confidence interval was reduced to the vanishing point.

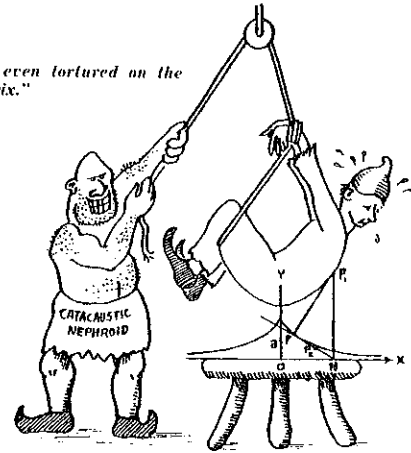


Many of Schwartz's decrees provoked negative reaction, as when he realigned the province boundaries by a devious conformal mapping. Popular sentiment finally turned against Schwartz when he began to dispense justice arbitrarily. Frustrum and outrage at Schwartz's inequality provoked many to call him "Regula Falsi!" (4)

Schwartz seemed unaware of the magnitude of this coefficient of alienation. He took a lacunary attitude toward rumors of covered activities against him. He rationalized these as merely an insignificant product of regression among the common factors and the vulgar fractions of the population.

The police were determined to circumvent any axis of revolution. Anyone suspected of aggressive inclinations could be taken to the interrogation center and subjected to third degree equations. Intransitive suspects were tortured on the dreaded tractrix, which could render victims disjoint. The inquisitors were expert at extracting answers by the method of exhaustion.

"Some were even tortured on the dreaded tractrix."

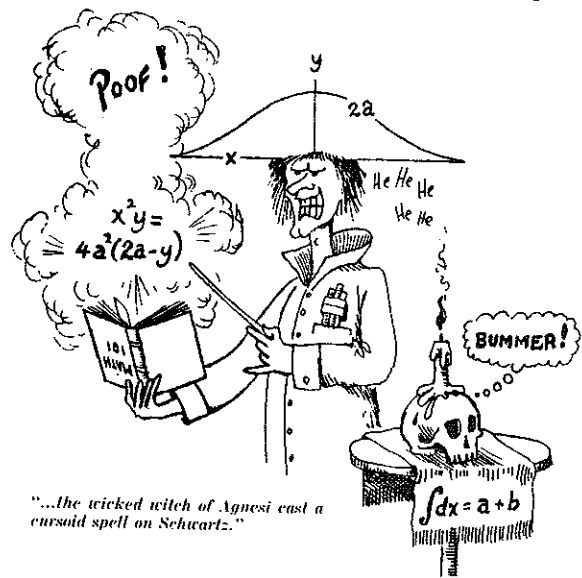


The police had regressed to meanness, and were a force to be reckoned with. Summary trials became the rule, and the prisms were soon filled.

A subgroup of the supposedly loyal palace Quaternions converged to form an axis of revolution to plot Schwartz's downfall. From that point, Schwartz's days were numbered.

Their first plot, to drown Schwartz in a Cartesian well, had to be abandoned, for it was the dry season. At a royal banquet for the Italian ambassador, they slipped an extract of limaçon tree kernels into Schwartz's riccati. But the poisson ratio was incorrect, and Schwartz only suffered an attack of nausea, which responded to a stiff dose of parametric. (5)

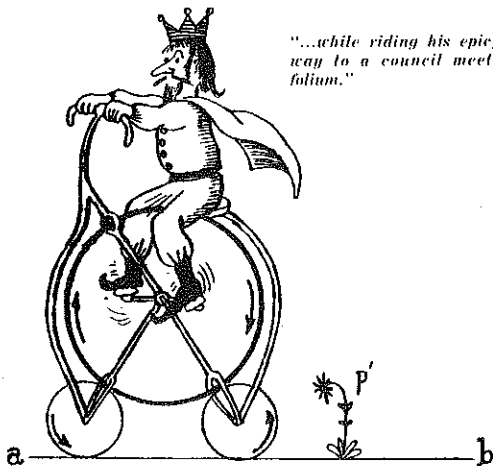
In desperation they enlisted the aid of the wicked witch of Agnesi to cast a cursoid spell on Schwartz. But she had flunked math at the University, so her magic square had faulty sums.



Its attenuated power merely gave Schwartz a mild case of strophoid fever. After a brief stay in L'Hospital, where homeoethetic medicines were administered, he fully recovered.

Still, Schwartz was unaware of these radical plots, and of those fomenting a convolution against him. Thus he was taken by surprise and assassinated by a hired annihilator while riding his epicycle on his way to a council meeting at the folium. (6)

Schwartz's funeral was a magnificent state function. He was ceremoniously interred in the royal barycenter, alongside Napier's bones, and a strange bottle containing Klein's ashes. His soul was commended to the higher powers. Both



"...while riding his epicycle on his way to a council meeting at the folium."

his friends and enemies united in wishing that Schwartz would find peace in the Noether World.<sup>(7)</sup>

(1) You won't get much out of this unless you have a degree in mathematics. It may help to have a math dictionary handy. Then, again, it may not.

(2) The author acknowledges the inspiration obtained from the Mathematics Dictionary by James and James (James?) They, however, are not to be held in any way responsible for this.

(3) If you've read this far, you are a glutton for punishment.

( $\sqrt{3}$ ) If this seems clear to you, please explain it to me.

(4) You might as well give up here; it won't get any better.

(5) I never expected you to read this far. Now that you have, I suppose I'll have to finish writing the darn thing.

(6) Threw you a curve with that one!

(7) Now aren't you sorry you didn't quit before you began?

The above article was reprinted by permission of the International Stop Continental Society Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 4, February, 1984. The Authors real name is Dr. Donald Simanek of the Physics Department of Loch Haven State College. Let me know if you enjoy this kind of article.

#### INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE -- FT. LEWIS COLLEGE --

I became Chair. (that period is deliberate, so that I can let people read into it what they have to read into it) in Fall of 1983. Since then we have hired two people in our computer science area, Dr. James Wixom, Ph.D. (Utah), who had been working for Motorola in Phoenix and decided to work here instead. Then Dr. Laszlo Szuecs came this year from the University of Colorado, where he just finished a Master's in Computer Science, already holding a Ph.D. from John Hopkins and having taught for some years in Austria. Dr. Szuecs is a Hungarian native, and an avid cross-country skier and hiker.

We do not require an outdoor fitness test of our faculty, but we seem to attract quite a few outdoor enthusiasts. Currently the record holder for climbing all of the fourteen thousand foot mountains (53 of them) in Colorado in the shortest time is held by Dr. Richard Walker, who came here from Colorado School of Mines in 1982. He did them all in 18 days.

If you write any of this for a newsletter, you might decide on a consistent omission or inclusion of the "Dr.". Don't make us stand out from anyone else that way. It makes little difference to me which it is--so long as folks do realize that we are not a junior college, but rather have over 3700 students, 125 math majors, and 15 department members.

(Written by Bill Ramaley in his unique style).