Imaginary Numbers: A history

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Abstract

This presentation takes a brief look at the events that helped to validate square roots of negative numbers. Scipione del Ferro, Antonio Maria Fior, Tartaglia, Girolama Cardano, Rafael Bombelli, and Leonhard Euler all played a role in moving $\sqrt{-1}$ from mystery to understanding. An overview of deriving the solutions to the depressed cubic $x^3 + px = q$ is given in this presentation in addition to a description of the geometrical representation of i.