

#### Greece

- Also brought cultural influences like Egyptian geometry and Babylonian algebra and commercial arithmetic.
- Coinage in precious metals was invented around 700 BC and gave rise to a money economy based not only on agriculture but also on movable goods.
- This brought Magna Greece ("greater Greece") prosperity.

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# Greece

- This prosperous Greek society accumulated enough wealth to support a leisure class.
- Intellectuals and artists with enough time on their hands to study mathematics for its own sake, and generally, seeking knowledge for its own sake.
- They realized that non-practical activity is important in the advancement of knowledge.

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#### Greece

- As noted by David M. Burton in his book The History of Mathematics,
  - "The miracle of Greece was not single but twofold—first the unrivaled rapidity and variety and quality of its achievement; then its success in permeating and imposing its values on alien civilizations."

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#### The Greeks

- Made mathematics into one discipline.
- More profound, more rational, and more abstract (more remote from the uses of everyday life).
- In Egypt and Babylon, mathematics was a tool for practical applications or as special knowledge of a privileged class of scribes.

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#### The Greeks

- Made mathematics a detached intellectual subject for the connoisseur instead of being monopolized by the powerful priesthood.
- They weren't concerned with triangular fields, but with "triangles" and the characteristics of "triangularity."
- The Greeks had a preference for the abstract.

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# The Greeks

- Best seen in the attitude toward the square root of 2.
  - ☐ The Babylonians computed it with high accuracy
  - ☐ The Greeks proved it was irrational
- Changed the nature of the subject of mathematics by applying reasoning to it ⇒ Proofs!
  - □ Mathematical 'truths' must be proven!
  - □ Mathematics builds on itself.

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#### The Greeks

- Plato's inscription over the door of his academy, "Let no man ignorant of geometry enter here."
- The Greeks believed that through inquiry and logic one could understand their place in the universe
- The rise of Greek mathematics begins in the sixth century BC with Thales and Pythagoras.
- Later reaching its zenith with Euclid, Archimedes, and Apollonius.
- Followed by Ptolemy, Pappus, and Diophantus.

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## Thales of Miletus

- Born in Miletus, and lived from about 624 BC to about 547 BC.
- Thales was a merchant in his younger days, a statesman in his middle life, and a mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher in his later years.
- Extremely successful in his business ventures.

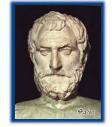
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#### Thales of Miletus

- Thales used his skills to deduce that the next season's olive crop would be a very large one.
- He secured control of all the oil presses in Miletus and Chios in a year when olives promised to be plentiful, subletting them at his own rental when the season came.



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#### Thales

- Traveled to Egypt, and probably Babylon, on commercial ventures, studying in those places and then bringing back the knowledge he learned about astronomy and geometry to Greece
- He is hailed as the first to introduce using logical proof based on deductive reasoning rather than experiment and intuition to support an argument.

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#### Thales

- Proclus states,
  - "Thales was the first to go into Egypt and bring back this learning [geometry] into Greece. He discovered many propositions himself and he disclosed to his successors the underlying principles of many others, in some cases his methods being more general, in others more empirical."

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#### Thales

- Founded the Ionian (Milesian) school of Greek astronomy.
- Considered the father of Greek astronomy, geometry, and arithmetic.
- Thales is designated as the first mathematician.
- The first of the Seven Sages of Greece.

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Thales

- His philosophy was that "Water is the principle, or the element, of things. All things are water."
- He believed that the Earth floats on water and all things come to be from water.
- For him the Earth was a flat disc floating on an infinite ocean.

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- "Know thyself" and "nothing overmuch" were some of Thales philosophical ideas.
- Asked what was most difficult, he said, "To know thyself."
- Asked what was easiest, he answered, "To give advice."

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#### Thales

- Thales is credited with proving six propositions of elementary geometry:
  - A circle is bisected by its diameter.
  - 2. The base angles of an isosceles triangle are equal.
  - 3. If two straight lines intersect, the opposite angles are equal.
  - Two triangles are congruent if they have one side and two adjacent angles equal.
  - 5. The sides of similar triangles are proportional.
  - 6. An angle inscribed in a semicircle is a right angle. (\*)

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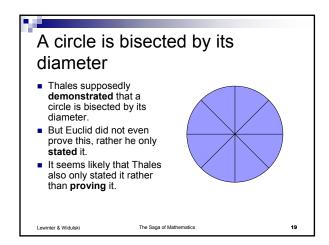
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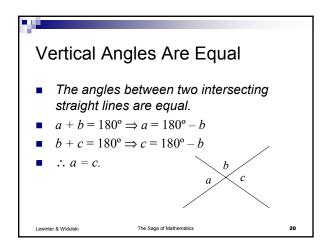
Thales

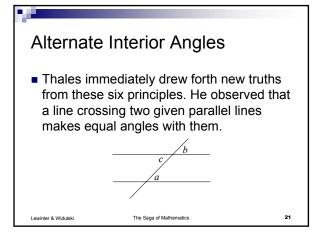
- Thales measured the height of pyramids.
  - ☐ Thales discovered how to obtain the height of pyramids and all other similar objects, namely, by measuring the shadow of the object at the time when a body and its shadow are equal in length.
- Thales showed how to find the distances of ships from the shore necessarily involves the use of this theorem (iv).

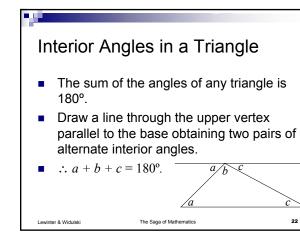
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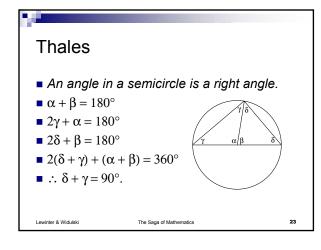
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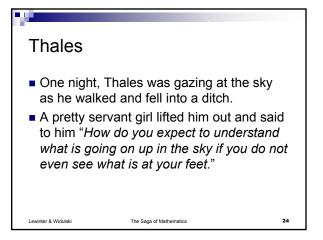


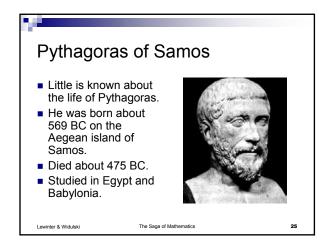


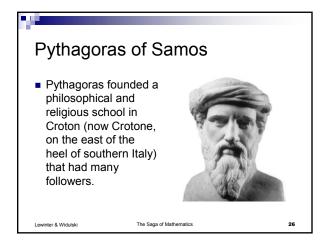












# Pythagorean Brotherhood

- Pythagoras was the head of the society with an inner circle of followers known as mathematikoi.
- The mathematikoi lived permanently with the Society, had no personal possessions and were vegetarians.
- They were taught by Pythagoras himself and obeyed strict rules.

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# Pythagoreans

- Both men and women were permitted to become members of the Society, in fact several later women Pythagoreans became famous philosophers.
- The outer circle of the Society were known as the akousmatics (listeners) and they lived in their own houses, only coming to the Society during the day
- The members were bound not to disclose anything taught or discovered to outsiders.

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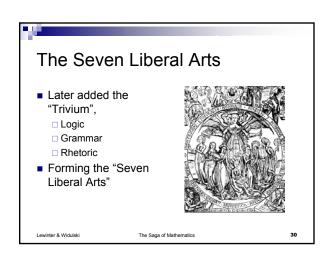
The Quadrivium

They studied the "Quadrivium"
Arithmetica (Number Theory)
Harmonia (Music)
Geometria (Geometry)
Astrologia (Astronomy)

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## Pythagoreans



- The symbol they swore their oath on was called the "tetractys".
- It represented the four basic elements of antiquity: fire, air, water, and earth.
- It was represented geometrically by an equilateral triangle made up of ten dots and arithmetically by the sum

 $\Box$ 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10

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#### Pythagoreans



- The five pointed star, or pentagram, was used as a sign so Pythagoreans could recognize one another
- Believed the soul could leave the body, I.e., transmigration of the soul.
- "Knowledge is the greatest purification"
- Mathematics was an essential part of life and religion.

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# Pythagoras' Philosophy

- Theorized that everything, physical and spiritual, had been assigned its alotted number and form.
- "Everything is number."
- According to Aristotle, "The Pythagoreans devoted themselves to mathematics, they were the first to advance this study and having been brought up in it they thought its principles were the principles of all things."

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Why?

- Music
  - He discovered that notes sounded by a vibrating string depended on the string's length.
  - Harmonious sounds were produced by plucking two equally taut strings whose lengths were in proportion to one another.
  - Proportions related to the tetractys!

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# Harmonious Musical Intervals

- If one string was twice as long as the other, i.e., their lengths were in ratio 1:2, then an octave sounded.
- If their lengths were in ratio 2:3, then a fifth sounded.
- If their lengths were in ratio 3:4, then an fourth sounded.

 $\textbf{Hear Pythagoras' Intervals at} \underline{\text{http://www.aboutscotland.com/harmony/prop.html}}$ 

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Pythagoras' Astronomy

- An extension of the doctrine of harmonious intervals.
- Each of the 7 known planets (which included the Sun and Moon) was carried around the Earth on its own crystal sphere.
- Each body would produce a certain sound according to its distance from the center.
- Producing a celestial harmony, "The Music of the Spheres."

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## Pythagorean Doctrine

- Mixture of cosmic philosophy and number mysticism.
- A supernumerology that assigned to everything material or spiritual a definite integer.
- They believed that mathematics was the key to the nature of all things and that mathematics was everywhere.

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# Numerology

- A mystical belief that was common in many ancient societies.
- Various numbers represented things like love, gender, and hate.
- Even numbers were female while odd numbers were male.
- The number 1 was the omnipotent One and the generator of all numbers.
- The number 2 was the first female number and represented diversity.

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# Numerology

- 3 = 1 + 2 was the first male number composed of unity and diversity.
- 4 = 2 + 2 was the number for justice since it is so well balanced.
- 5 = 2 + 3 was the number of marriage.
- Earth, air, water and fire, were composed of hexahedrons, octahedrons, icosahedrons, and pyramids – geometric solids differing in the number of faces.

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# Classification of Numbers

- He observed that some integers have many factors while others have relatively few.
- For example,
  - ☐ The factors of 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. (He didn't consider the number a factor of itself, i.e., he only considered *proper* factors.)
  - ☐ The proper factors of 10 are 1, 2, and 5. (Another word for factor is *divisor*.)
- Pythagoras decided to compare a number with the sum of its divisors.

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#### **Deficient Numbers**

- A number is deficient if the sum of its proper divisors is less than the number itself.
- For example,
  - $\Box$  The proper divisors of 15 are 1, 3, and 5.
  - $\Box$  The sum 1 + 3 + 5 = 9 < 15.
  - ☐ Therefore. 15 is deficient.

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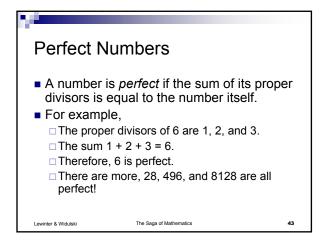
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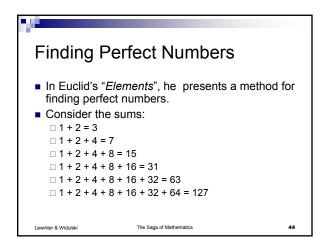
#### **Abundant Numbers**

- A number is abundant if the sum of its proper divisors is greater than the number itself.
- For example,
  - □ The proper divisors of 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.
  - $\Box$  The sum 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 6 = 16 > 12.
  - ☐ Therefore. 12 is abundant.

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Finding Perfect Numbers

The sums 3, 7, 15, 31, 63 and 127 are each one less than a power of two.

Looking at the sums 3, 7, 15, 31, 63 and 127, notice that the sums 3, 7, 31 and 127 are prime numbers.

Euclid noticed that when the sum is a prime number, if you multiply the sum by the last power of two in the sum, you get a perfect number!

Perfect Numbers

1 + 2 = 3
1 + 2 + 4 = 7
1 + 2 + 4 + 8 = 15
1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + 16 = 31
1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + 16 + 32 = 63
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Pythagorean Theorem
Pythagoras' Theorem claims that the sum of the squares of the legs of a right triangle equals the square of the hypotenuse.
In algebraic terms, a² + b² = c² where c is the hypotenuse while a and b are the sides of the triangle.
A Pythagorean triple is a set of three positive integers (a,b,c) that satisfy the equation a² + b² = c².

Pythagorean Triples
For example, (3, 4, 5) and (5, 12, 13) are Pythagorean triples, so are (6, 8, 10) and (15, 36, 39).
We make a distinction between them.
Triples that contain no common factors, like (3, 4, 5) and (5, 12, 13), are called primitive Pythagorean triples.

#### Primitive Pythagorean Triples

- Take two numbers p and q that satisfy:
  - 1. p > q,
  - p and q have different parity (i.e. one is even and the other is odd), and
  - 3. p and q have no common divisor except 1.

 $a = p^2 - q^2$ 

b = 2pq

 $c = p^2 + q^2$ 

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## Examples

- **EXAMPLE**: Find the Pythagorean triple for the generators p = 2 and q = 1.
  - □ Using the equations for a, b and c we get
  - $a = 2^2 1^2 = 3$ ,  $b = 2 \times 2 \times 1 = 4$ , and  $c = 2^2 + 1^2 = 5$ . Wow! We get the beautiful triple 3, 4, 5.
- **EXAMPLE**: Find the Pythagorean triple for the
  - generators p = 3 and q = 2. Using the equations for a, b and c we get
  - $a = 3^2 2^2 = 5$ ,  $b = 2 \times 3 \times 2 = 12$ , and  $c = 3^2 + 2^2 = 13$ .
  - □ Amazing! This is the famous 5, 12, 13 triple.

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# Rationals

- The Greeks believed that starting with integer lengths like 7 and 38, and then subdividing them into fractions like 7/3 and 38/9, they could express any length.
- We call such quantities the rational numbers, because they are ratios of integers.
- For example,  $3\frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{2}$ ,  $0.13 = \frac{13}{100}$ , and  $2.4 = \frac{24}{10}$

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Irrationals



- The Pythagoreans realized that this cannot be done for some numbers, i.e., some numbers are irrational.
- They encountered their first irrational in the hypotenuse of a simple right triangle whose legs are both 1.
- The Greeks called these lengths 1 and  $\sqrt{2}$  incommensurable, meaning that they cannot equal the same length multiplied by (different) whole numbers.

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# The Irrationality of $\sqrt{2}$

- Basic Facts:
  - 1. The ratio of two integers can always be reduced to lowest terms.
  - Squaring a number preserves the parity of that number.
  - The ratio of two odd numbers may or may not be in lowest terms, while the ratio of two even numbers is never in lowest terms.

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The Irrationality of  $\sqrt{2}$ 

- Proof by contradiction
- Assume that  $\sqrt{2}$  is a rational number and it is a/b, reduced to lowest terms, i.e., a and b have no common divisor.
- Squaring both sides and multiplying both sides by b<sup>2</sup> yields the last equation which implies that a<sup>2</sup> is even.

 $\sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b}$ 

 $2 = \frac{a^2}{b^2}$ 

 $2b^2 = a$ 

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# The Irrationality of $\sqrt{2}$

- Basic Fact #2 says that *a* must also be even, implying that a is divisible by 2.
- Then it is 2 times something, i.e., a = 2m for some integer m.
- Then  $a^2 = (2m)^2 = 2m2m = 4m^2$ .
- Substituting  $4m^2$  for  $a^2$  in the last equation  $2b^2$  =  $a^2$  on the previous slide, we get  $2b^2 = 4m^2$ .
- Dividing both sides by 2 yields  $b^2 = 2m^2$ .

The Irrationality of  $\sqrt{2}$ 

- This implies that  $b^2$  is even and therefore so is b.
- Where are we then? It seems that both a and b are even.
- But didn't we say that the fraction *a/b* was reduced to its lowest terms.
- This is impossible by Basic Fact #3 and we have obtained a contradiction. Thus, the original assumption – that it was rational – must be false.
- $\sqrt{2}$  is an irrational number!

Irrationals and the Infinite

- The simple geometrical concept of the diagonal of a square defies the integers and negates the Pythagorean philosophy.
- We can construct the diagonal geometrically, but we cannot measure it in any finite number of
- The square root of two can be calculated to any required finite number of decimal places (like 1.414), but the decimal never repeats nor terminates.

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Proof of Pythagoras' Theorem

$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$$
$$(a+b)^2 = c^2 + 4\left(\frac{1}{2}ab\right)$$

Equating these two equations gives  $a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = c^2 + 4\left(\frac{1}{2}ab\right)^2$ 

Subtracting the 2ab from both sides gives

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

Proof #2

- In right triangle  $\triangle ABC$ , the altitude CD is perpendicular to (makes a 90° angle with) hypotenuse AB.
- AD and DB have lengths x and y which add up to c, the length of the hypotenuse, i.e., c = x + y.



Proof #2 (continued)

- ∠1 = ∠2
- ∠3 = ∠4
- All three right triangles are similar so certain ratios are equal.
- By comparing triangles  $\triangle ACD$  and  $\triangle ABC$ , we get
- Comparing triangles  $\Delta BCD$  and  $\Delta ABC$ , gives b/y = c/b.

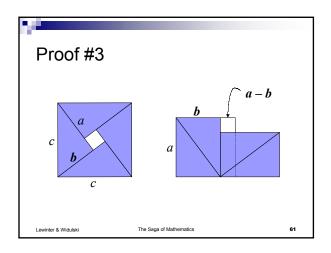


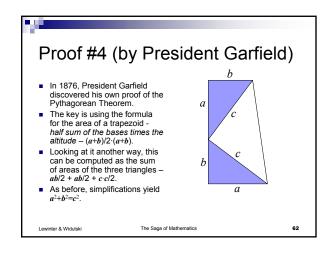
Cross multiplying gives a = cx

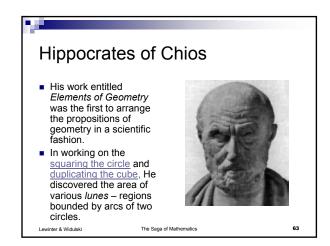
 $b^{\perp} = cv$ 

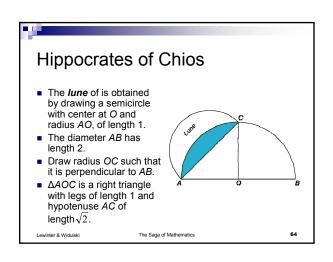
Adding these two equations gives

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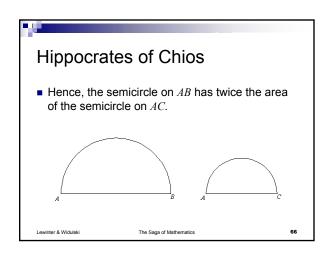


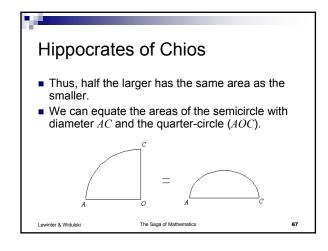
Hippocrates of Chios

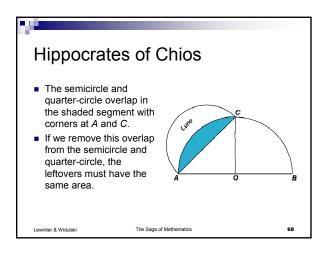
• Knew that the areas of two circles were proportional to the squares of their diameters.  $\frac{\text{area of semicircle on } AB}{\text{area of semicircle on } AC} = \frac{AB^2}{AC^2}$ • This ratio must equal 2, since the Pythagorean Theorem gives  $AB^2 = (2AO)^2 = 4AO^2 = 2(AO^2 + OC^2) = 2AC^2$ Lewinter & Widulski

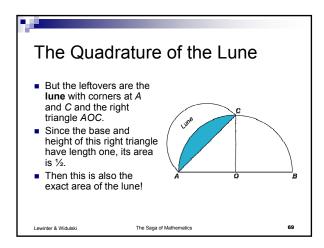
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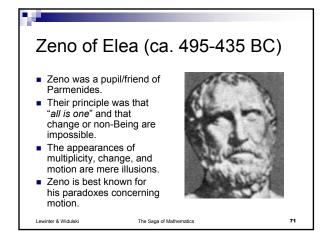


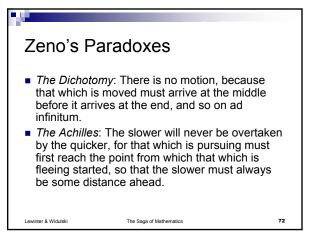






The Eleatic School
 The Eleatic school was founded by the religious thinker and poet Xenophanes.
 The greatest of the Eleatic philosophers was Parmenides.
 His philosophy of monism claimed that the many things which appear to exist are merely a single eternal reality which he called Being.
 In other words, the universe is singular, eternal, and unchanging.





#### Zeno's Paradoxes

- The Arrow: If everything is either at rest or moving when it occupies a space equal to itself, while the object moved is always in the instant, a moving arrow is unmoved.
- The Stadium: Consider two rows of bodies, each composed of an equal number of bodies of equal size. They pass each other as they travel with equal velocity in opposite directions. Thus, half a time is equal to the whole time.

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#### Zeno of Elea

- The Dichotomy: Motion is impossible!
  - ☐ An object moving from point *A* to point *B* must first get to the midpoint; let's call this point *C*.
  - □ Before the object can reach point *C*, it would have to get to the midpoint between *A* and *C*.
  - □ Let's call this new point *D*. This argument may be repeated ad infinitum, from which Zeno concluded that motion was impossible.
- It requires traversing infinitely many points in a finite amount of time.

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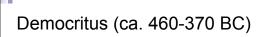
#### Democritus (ca. 460-370 BC)

- Known as the laughing philosopher.
- Best known for the atomic theory of matter, that is, the theory that matter and space are not infinitely divisible.
- Stated that motion was possible by positing the existence of ultimate indivisible particles, called atoms, out of which all things are constructed.
- He asserted that one couldn't continue to subdivide something indefinitely.

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- Discovered theorems in solid geometry:
  - The volume of a cone is one-third the volume of a cylinder having the same base and equal height.
  - The volume of a pyramid is one-third the volume of a prism having the same base and equal height.



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#### **Democritus**

- Wrote over 75 works on almost every subject, from physics and mathematics to logic, ethics, magnets, fevers, diets, agriculture, law, "the sacred writings in Babylon," "the right use of history," and even the growth of animals, horns, spiders, and their webs, and the eyes of owls.
- Was the Aristotle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century; and his views have led many to consider him the equal, and perhaps the superior, of Plato.

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Democritus

- Plato felt that his writings should be burned, perhaps because of his boastful comments.
  - "I have wandered over a larger part of the earth than any other man of my time, inquiring about things most remote; I have observed very many climates and lands and have listened to many learned men; but no one has ever yet surpassed me in the construction of lines with demonstration; no, not even the Egyptian rope-stretchers with whom I lived five years in all, in a foreign land."

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