Math 117 – Precalculus I

Spring 2020

Section 005: TTh 2:30 – 3:45 pm (235 Dumbach Hall)

- Ground Rules
- Syllabus
- Piazza
- Class Discussion
- Homework
- Practice Tests (t1)
- Quiz solutions (qz 1, qz 2, qz 3)
- Tutoring Services and Schedule
- Advice from Hall & Knight
- Essay topics
- Useful References (Greek alphabet; related websites and articles)
- History of Algebra (I, II, III)
“Every minute dies a man. Every minute one is born.” I need hardly point out to you that this calculation would tend to keep the sum total of the world’s population in a state of perpetual equipoise, whereas it is a well-known fact that the said sum total is constantly on the increase. I would, therefore, take the liberty of suggesting that in the next edition of your excellent poem the erroneous calculation to which I refer should be corrected as follows: “Every moment dies a man, And one and a sixteenth is born.” I may add that the exact figures are 1.067, but something must, of course, be conceded to the laws of meter.

– Charles Babbage, letter to Alfred Lord Tennyson, about a couplet in his “The Vision of Sin.”