



## Imaginary Numbers, Unsolvable Equations, and Newton's Method



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You might have been led to believe that math is all about solving equations. Sadly, however, most equations can't actually be solved. The best one can do is to try to approximate their solutions. Newton's method, usually taught in calculus, is one of the oldest and best methods for accomplishing this. The weakness to the method is that it depends on already having a reasonable guess at where the solution lies. In this talk, we look at what happens when you apply Newton's method with no clue about the solution and even allow yourself to do ridiculous things like use imaginary numbers as starting guesses. Despite the unpromising premise, this story has a happy ending and some nice pictures.

