



Background

General didactic background

The idea can be used as a wonderful intuitive path to understanding. Basically we need to define no new concepts, which is often a problem. A skilful teacher can use the idea to approach students and attract their attention by referring to everyday concepts which are known to everybody. Interesting and challenging questions can be put out at the very beginning. Essential didactical principles of 'questioning and challenging what we know' in order to deepen the knowledge and understanding, can be developed.

Mathematical background

The idea requires basically just primary school arithmetic but offers a profound understanding of a simple principle. By that essential beauty and usability of mathematics is promoted, namely how complex concepts (of life) can be simply stated (when understood) in mathematical language.

The idea of teaching implementation

The mathematics concept behind this idea is so simple, that it basically fits nowhere and everywhere. It can be used as an independent lecture – presentation to promote usability and the beauty of mathematics. The presentation can be adapted to very different levels, from primary school pupils to university students, by emphasizing different parts. But in order for the idea to be truly put to good use in teaching, the interesting content is definitely not sufficient. It requires deep and profound understanding of the teacher and a superb didactical performance in order to make it a teaching success.