

APPLIED MATH
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First Place, Poetry

Now that I see how it applies to my life, I'm glad I studied math. All those formulas to explain how things add up the way they do. Applied mathematics: start with eternity and break it down. That little sideways 8, two mystical fours, four two's, two is one plus one, you and me: one unit of two ones. For all eternity, I think we said. For all eternity, as if there could be just *some* eternity. Which, as it turns out, there could. As I move through the time and space continuum...but wait, that's physics and physics is all about energy and attractions and how things work, or don't. But for all eternity I will wonder what went wrong. And the farther I get from our point on that convoluted line of the sideways 8, the smaller the vast distance between us will seem. Just like one seems closer to two when you look at it from, say, one million, or from an unreliable memory, when really there's an infinite space between them; space that can be filled with so many things: lies, for example, or betrayal. But here's a simple equation for it: two minus one equals oneX (me). X equals devastated. X is a constant.