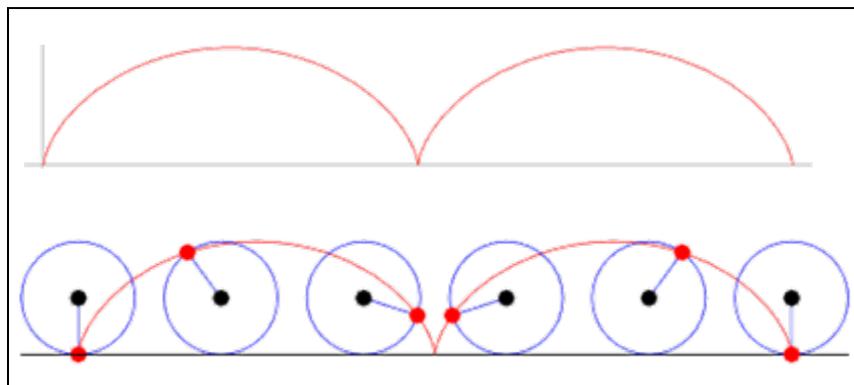


Today in Math History...

-20 October 1632

Christopher Wren, noted architect, born. In 1673 he was the first to find the arc length of one branch of the “*cycloid*”, $L=8r$.



The “cycloid” is the answer to the Brachistochrone Problem:

“Find the curve down which a bead sliding from rest and accelerated by gravity will slip (without friction) from one point to another in the least amount of time.”

Newton was challenged to solve this problem in 1696, and did so the very next day! Solutions were also found by Leibnitz, L’Hospital, & Jakob & Johann Bernoulli.

The term “Brachistochrone” is derived from the Greek brachistos, “the shortest”, and chronos, “time delay.”