**Biography of a mathematician**

**Project:** Write a 6-8 page paper (12pt, double spaced, 1-inch margins on all sides) on the life and mathematical contributions of a particular mathematician.

**Specific Instructions:**
1. Choose a mathematician who has made reasonably significant contributions to the development of the subject. I’d prefer that you pick a mathematician from more modern mathematics (say 1600 A.D. on) as you already completed a project on ancient mathematics.
2. Read about your chosen mathematician in our textbook (if possible). Find at least four other reliable sources detailing the mathematician’s life, history, or mathematical work. These can be encyclopedic resources, books, articles, or original sources (papers written by the mathematician, etc.).
3. For the first part of the paper (2-3 pages), write about the history and life of the mathematician. Where were they from? What was their educational background? What influenced them to work in this particular field? Talk about their personal life, anecdotes, and whatever other information you find interesting. You should also include details about the status of mathematics at the time, for example, explain what was already known in their field of research.
4. In the second part of the paper (4-5) pages, write about the mathematical contributions of your mathematician. This should be a heavily mathematics-based section. You might want to go over the proof of a particular theorem or include several results and write up a proof for one. You might take a complex idea of your mathematician and explain the ideas in a clearer form with examples. In some cases you might show the exact mathematics that your mathematician did, while in other cases you might choose a simpler problem in the same area of mathematics. You should also include an explanation on the significance of your mathematician’s contribution(s) to the overall development of mathematics.
5. Depending on the flow of your paper, you can keep the history and mathematics separate or you can intertwine the two sections, as long as the two parts satisfy the requirements above.
6. By Thursday, March 31, you’ll need to turn in a project proposal to me (email by 11:59pm), detailing the mathematician you’ve chosen, what you plan to write about, and including at least three of the sources you’ll use. You should also write a short paragraph on why you’ve picked this particular mathematician.
7. Write your paper in LaTeX with bibliography included.
   Proposal Due: Thursday, March 31st (11:59pm by email).
   Rough Draft Due: Thursday, April 14th (11:59pm by email).
   Final Draft Due: Tuesday, April 26th, in class, 9:40AM.