

a proof of the function me

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step one.

find u .

step two.

add u to me and watch how the whole graph shifts upwards to make a u sized space where before it was only me until we're floating above the x-axis, $u + me$, an infinite line that stretches on past billions of little boxes on this graph paper grid. let yourself think that maybe, just maybe, we were made for this - let yourself solve for the limits of the function and find that $u + me$ approaches infinity.

step three.

square it all, square everything - make us into the parabola that my smile can't help but curve into when you pull our pinkies together and hold on real tight and you just want me to smile so square it all again and then again and again and notice that i'm not smiling enough so square it once more and maybe exponential was too fast but we're too far gone now so just-

step four.

don't think about the way the slopes of your laughs are growing sharper. don't think about the way our curves have hardened into vertices that jab into your ribcage whenever you try to breathe. don't think that we may be growing too fast because it might be true so just don't think, don't think, stop *thinking*, please. our limit was supposed to be infinity.

step five.

recalculate. breathe. flip back the pages and double check your equations to find where you'd made the error. find it hidden there, in the smudged out parts of the page - a forgotten negative sign, an easy mistake. don't blame yourself though. i didn't catch it either.

step six.

erase. erase, erase, erase.

step seven.

let yourself remember, later, once sharp vertices soften
back out into rounded quadratics. remember that all lines go on
for forever, and remember that the function $u + me$ is no more infinite
than either the function u or the function me . remember this. let yourself
remember this until the slope turns positive and your smile is able to curve up
into a soft parabola once more.

step eight.

subtract u .

this is your final step.

once u is gone, after all, i'll be the one
to solve for what's left. i'll be the one
to find the solution to the irrational, to the real; i'll be the one
to find the solution to the function of me .