



# Mathematics In Sports

BY: REBECCA BLITZER AND BARBARA BARONE

# MATH IN BASEBALL:

## Ratio and proportion and rounding

The pitcher's "earned run average," number of runs in a specified number of innings, or more commonly known as his ERA.

Win-loss percentages

Ratio and proportion

Rounding to two decimal places



# MATH IN HOCKEY:

- ▶ Translating to algebra
- ▶ Solving equations and inequalities
- ▶ The hockey team needs 60 points to make the playoffs
- ▶ Wins,  $w$ , is worth 2 points
- ▶ Ties,  $t$ , worth 1 point
- ▶  $2w + t \geq 60$



# MATH IN TRACK AND FIELD

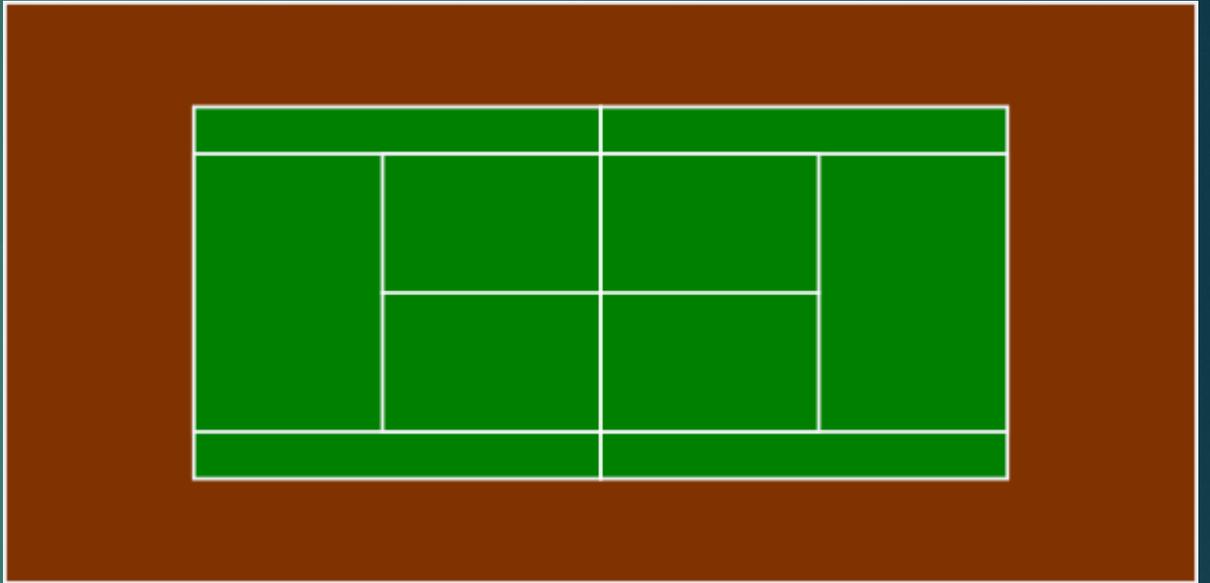
- ▶ Inner runners distances = outer runners distances
- ▶ Meter marks are staggered to make the running distances equal, although the finish line is one line for all of the runners.
- ▶ Calculating allowances for the weather conditions on the track for that day, i.e. energy cost of air resistance.
- ▶ Runners must pace themselves if they are in a race or they could easily become winded and not perform as well as they should.
- ▶ Runners with a best 5,000 meter/3-mile time of 15 minutes would have problems if they completed the first two laps in less than two minutes



# MATH IN TENNIS

(adapted from Math Anyone by Reyes and Reyes)

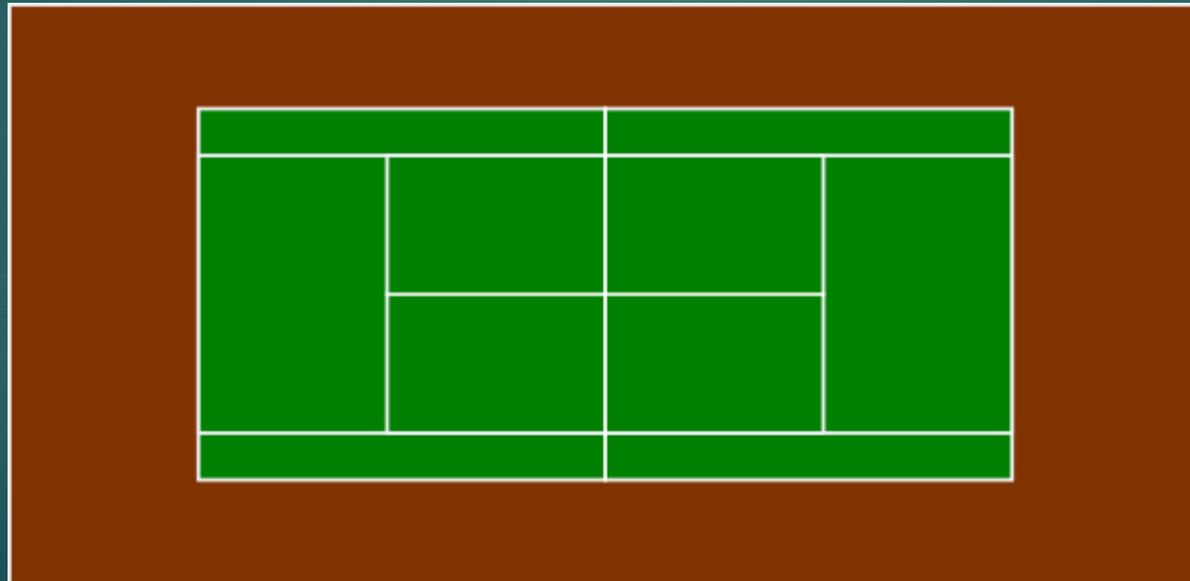
- ▶ In tennis, math is EVERYWHERE.
- ▶ We use geometry (congruence and similarity), measurement (perimeter and area), Pythagorean Theorem, ratio and proportion, algebra and probability.
- ▶ In doing so, we use whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents.



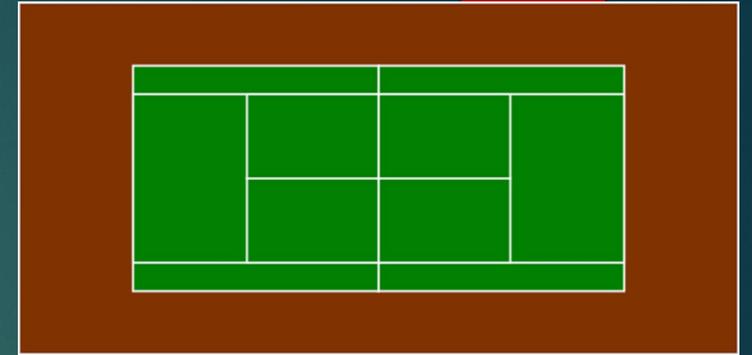
# MATH IN TENNIS:

## Geometry

- ▶ The tennis courts, themselves, are rectangles.
  - ▶ On a tennis court there are “obvious and embedded rectangles.”  
How many rectangles can you find in this green tennis court?  
There are 31!



# MATH IN TENNIS: Congruence and Symmetry

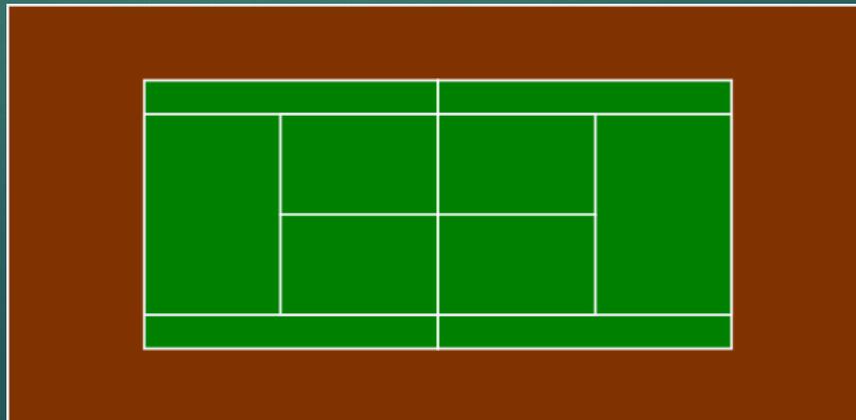


- ▶ One side of the court is the mirror image of the other.
- ▶ The net serves as one line of symmetry
- ▶ The centerline provides a second line of symmetry for both sides of the court.
- ▶ Each rectangle on one side of the net has a congruent rectangle on the other.
- ▶ Every shape on one side of the court has a congruent shape on the other side of the court.

# MATH IN TENNIS:

## Perimeter and Area

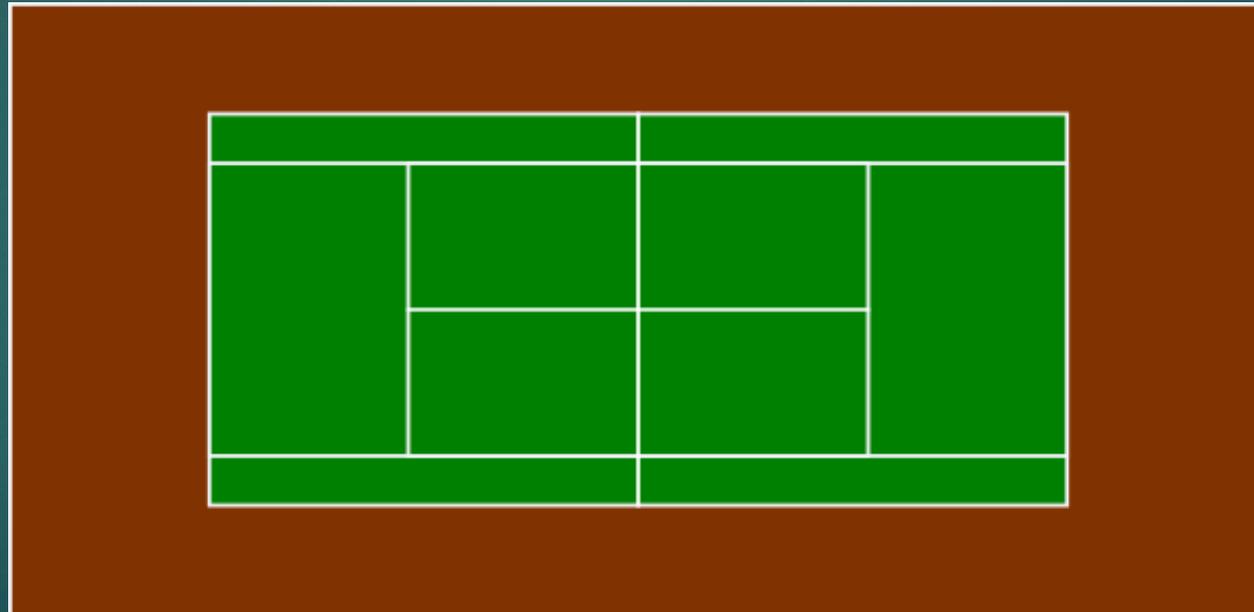
- ▶ All tennis courts have the same dimensions (whether it be clay, grass, hard, or carpet).
- ▶ If a player has to run the long lines from baseline to baseline or one side to the other, they need to take into consideration the perimeter of half of the court.
- ▶ Ever wonder how much of the court is covered by each player? We need to find the area in order to compute this.



# MATH IN TENNIS:

## Probability

- ▶ How one can determine whether they will be able to hit the ball in a certain area is a probability question and is based on the area of the different parts of the court.



# MATH IN TENNIS:

## The Speed of the Serve vs Reaction Time

$$\text{At } 60 \text{ mph} = \frac{60 \text{ mi.}}{1 \text{ hr.}} * \frac{5280 \text{ ft.}}{1 \text{ mi.}} * \frac{1 \text{ hr.}}{60 \text{ min.}} * \frac{1 \text{ min.}}{60 \text{ sec.}} * \frac{88 \text{ ft.}}{1 \text{ sec.}} = 88 \text{ ft. per sec.}$$

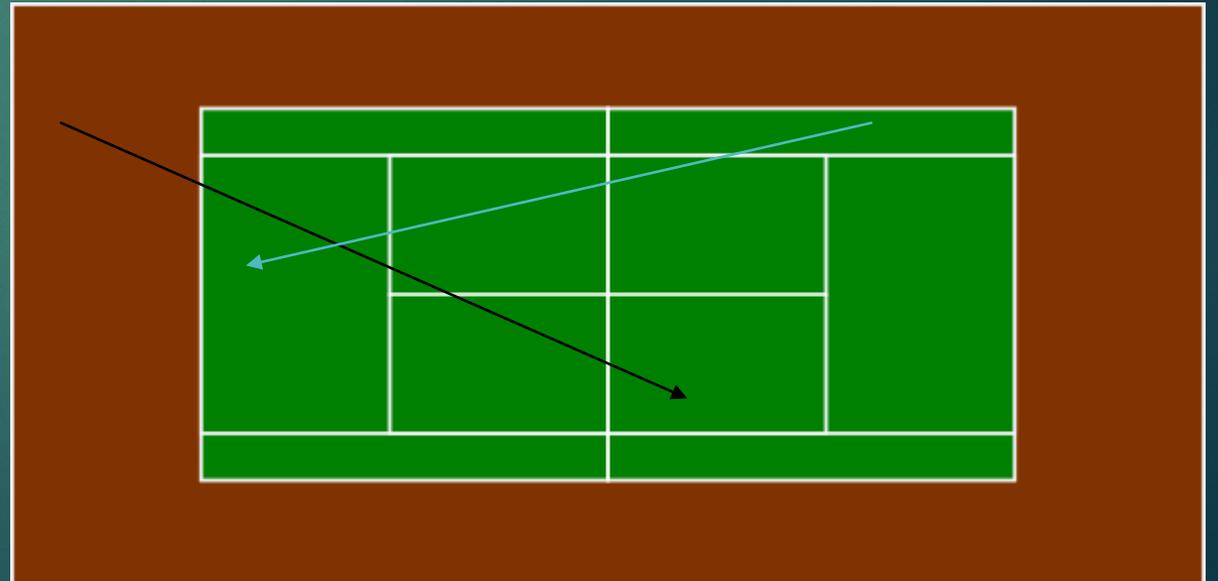
So a 60 mph serve would travel from one baseline to the other in less than 1 second. Typical speed range from **100 to 130 miles per hour**, but some tennis players serves have surpassed this range!



# MATH IN TENNIS:

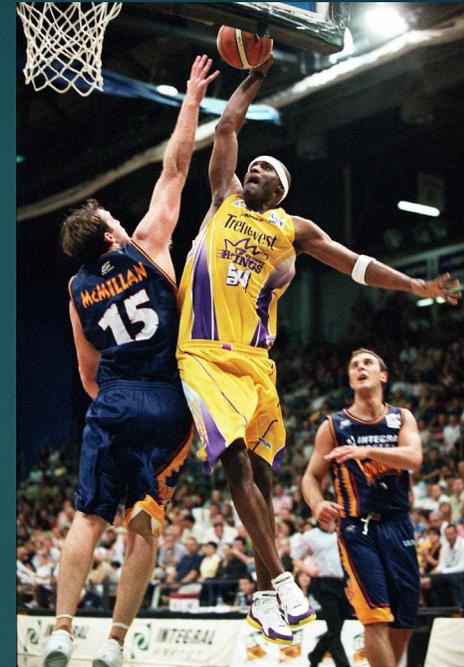
## The Pythagorean Theorem

- ▶ When a tennis player serves or hits the tennis ball cross-court, they are hitting the ball along the hypotenuse of a right triangle, which means that we can utilize the Pythagorean Theorem to help explain the hit.
- ▶ The maximum distance from one corner of the court to the other is the hypotenuse of the right triangle.



# MATH IN BASKETBALL: Combinatorics, Probability

- ▶ NBA Draft uses Combinatorics and Probability to determine draft order
- ▶ Coaches formula for drafting players
- ▶ Velocity a basketball player must throw the ball for it to land in the basket uses trigonometry and angle measures



# MATH IN FOOTBALL



- ▶ Roman Numerals are used to denote the Super Bowl
- ▶ Angles are used in offense in the predetermined path in which the receiver runs and in defense when they are trying to determine the best angle of path to tackle
- ▶ <https://prezi.com/4fec7sfqaix1/how-is-math-used-in-football/>

# MATH IN GOLF:

## Geometry and Integers

- ▶ shapes: the ball approximates a sphere.
- ▶ The "dimples" on the ball are circular.
- ▶ The shaft of the club is a cylinder.
- ▶ The face of the club is often trapezoidal.
- ▶ The fairways are roughly rectangular,
- ▶ The sand traps are sometimes circular.
- ▶ circumference of circles, radius and diameter
- ▶ parallel lines
- ▶ Triangles and angle measurement.



# MATH IN BOWLING

- ▶ Arranged in a triangle
- ▶ Kinetic friction  $\mu_k = F_k / mg$ .  $\mu_k$  stands for the coefficient of kinetic friction and  $F_k$  stands for the Force due to kinetic friction,  $m$  is the mass of the ball and  $g$  stands for gravity.
- ▶  $p$  (momentum) = mass ( $m$ ) times velocity ( $v$ ).



# MATH IN SOCCER

- ▶ The goalkeeper needs to know where to stand and uses the angle bisector of the line from the player to the goal post
- ▶ The ball is the intersection of two Platonic solids
- ▶ The player needs to know how much exertion to get the ball away as well as speed and velocity

