
In this talk, I will present some details of four families of curves presented by Alexis Clairaut when he was 12 years old. The curves all have applications in finding a number of means proportional between two given straight lines; one type is identical to the curves generated by Descartes’ mesolabe compass. Clairaut also concerns himself with tangents to all four families of curves. (Received September 21, 2015)