

Rhetorical notation

In rhetorical terms, the modern expression

$$4x^3 - 6x^2 = 2x + 3$$

translates into the following statement:

If we are given a quantity such that six times its square is subtracted from four times its cube, the result is twice that quantity plus 3.

On page 348 of Burton various syncopated (shorthand) and symbolic expressions for the same equation are presented. These use notations due to various individuals from Diophantus to Descartes.