

Meeting: 1002, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, SS 3A, Special Session on The History of Mathematics

1002-01-105 **Robert E. Bradley*** (bradley@adelphi.edu), Dept. of Mathematics & Computer Science,
Adelphi University, Garden City, NY 11530. *Graphs and Equations: an 18th Century Paridigm
Shift.*

In *La Géometrie*, Descartes addressed the problem of finding the equation of a given curve. In modern times, we are much more likely to speak in terms of finding the curve of a given equation. This shift in point of view, emblematic of the rise of algebra at the expense of geometry, seems to have happened during the first half of the 18th century. I will discuss this paradigm shift, drawing specifics from the work of l'Hôpital and Gua de Malves. (Received September 08, 2004)