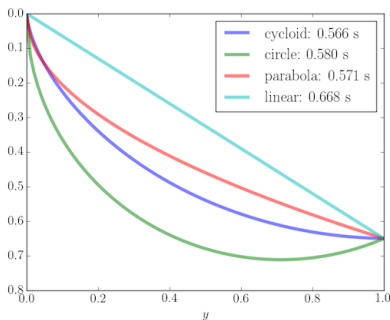


SARAH GLAZ

Fall

There is always too much
or too little.
Too much – like floods after torrential rains,
too little – one dewdrop after a long drought.
But actually today is an exception.
The leaves
turn golden in the sun
and the tall tree in our yard,
whose presence is a menace
when the winds blow strong,
watches them fall
so gently on the lawn
along the curve
of least resistance,
the *brachistochrone* –
arriving fastest at the grave.
Perhaps my fears
have voiced their worst
and now can join
the moldy vegetation papering the grass
with brilliant colors
and whispering:
It's only Fall.



Note: The *brachistochrone* (Greek for “shortest time”) is the curve along which a ball rolls from a point A to a point B, which lies below A and not directly under it, in the shortest time. This curve, an upside-down cycloid, was discovered in 1697 by Johann Bernoulli.