



Education Afternoon at the
53rd Annual Meeting
of the **Australian Mathematical Society**

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Sponsored by the International Centre of Excellence for Education in Mathematics

Inverse Symbolic Calculation: symbols from numbers

Jonathan Borwein, FRSC www.carma.newcastle.edu.au/~jb616

Laureate Professor University of Newcastle, NSW

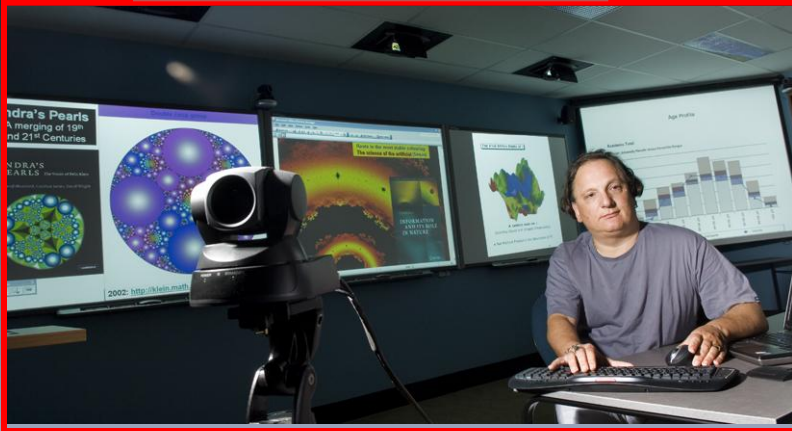
Director, Centre for **Computer Assisted Research Mathematics and Applications**
CARMA



Jonathan M. Borwein

Director

Newcastle Centre for
Computer Assisted Research Mathematics
and its Applications (CARMA)



We are all familiar with the uses and misuses of calculators in the classroom and may take it for granted that they require mathematics as input and typically give numbers as output. I wish to show the power of calculators that invert this process: numbers go in and mathematics comes out. I shall demonstrate the *Inverse Symbolic Calculator*, at <http://ddrive.cs.dal.ca/~isc>, and its implementation inside *Maple* as the **identify** function and will illustrate their use in teaching and research as tools of discovery.

"The object of mathematical rigor is to sanction and legitimize the conquests of intuition, and there was never any other object for it." – Jacques Hadamard

THE COMPUTER AS CRUCIBLE

AN INTRODUCTION TO EXPERIMENTAL MATHEMATICS

JONATHAN BORWEIN • KEITH DEVLIN

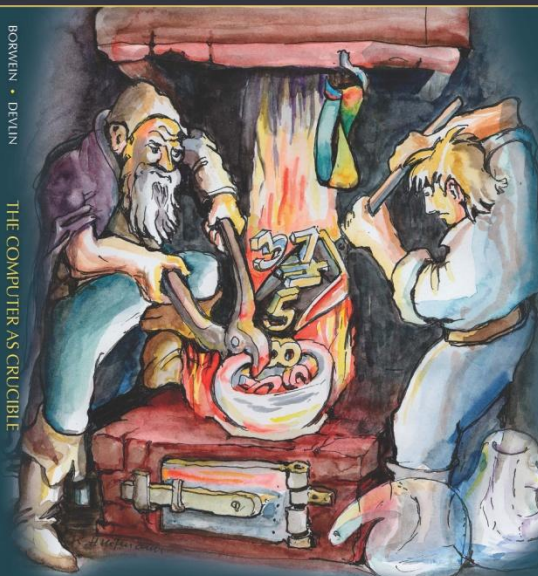


For a long time, pencil and paper were considered the only tools needed by a mathematician (some might add the waste basket). As in many other areas, computers play an increasingly important role in mathematics and have vastly expanded and legitimized the role of experimentation in mathematics. How can a mathematician use a computer as a tool? What about as more than just a tool, but as a collaborator?

Keith Devlin and Jonathan Borwein, two well-known mathematicians with expertise in different mathematical specialties but with a common interest in experimentation in mathematics, have joined forces to create this introduction to experimental mathematics. They cover a variety of topics and examples to give the reader a good sense of the current state of play in the rapidly growing new field of experimental mathematics. The writing is clear and the explanations are enhanced by relevant historical facts and stories of mathematicians and their encounters with the field over time.

BORWEIN • DEVLIN

THE COMPUTER AS CRUCIBLE



THE COMPUTER AS CRUCIBLE

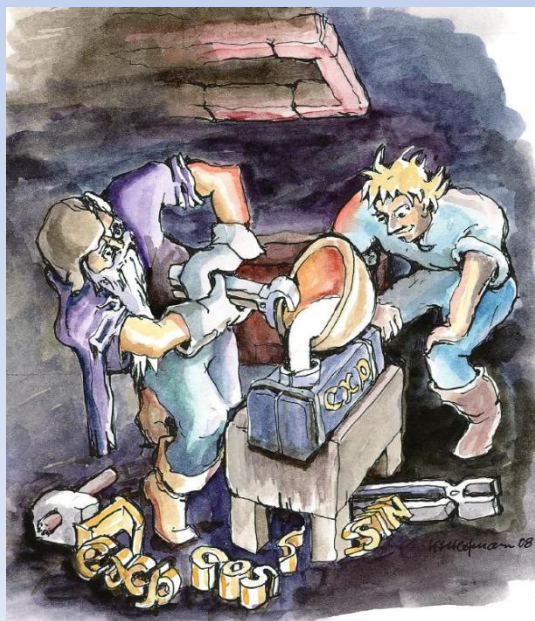
AN INTRODUCTION TO EXPERIMENTAL MATHEMATICS

JONATHAN BORWEIN • KEITH DEVLIN



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A K PETERS



Jonathan Borwein

Keith Devlin

with illustrations by Karl H. Hofmann

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Francois Vieta (1540-1603)

Arithmetic is absolutely as much science as geometry [is]. Rational magnitudes are conveniently designated by numbers and irrational [magnitudes by irrational [numbers]]. If someone measures magnitudes with numbers and by his calculation get them different from what they really are, it is not the reckoning's fault but the reckoner's.

Rather, says Proclus, ARITHMETIC IS MORE EXACT THAN GEOMETRY. To an accurate calculator, if the diameter is set to one unit, the circumference of the inscribed dodecagon will be the side of the binomial [i.e. square root of the difference $72 - \sqrt{3888}$]. Whoever declares any other result, will be mistaken, either the geometer in his measurements or the calculator in his numbers.

- The inventor of 'x' and 'y'

OUTLINE

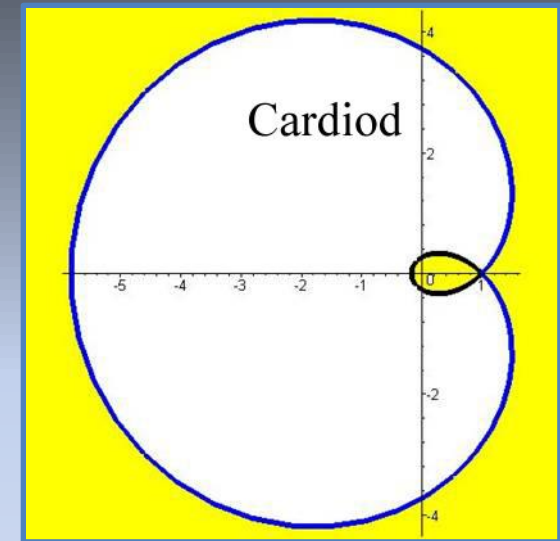
- Background and History

Part I. ISC1.0 and Colour Calculator in Action

- Examples of **Identify** in action

Part II. Integer Relations

- What they are
- What they do
 - Elementary examples
 - Advanced examples

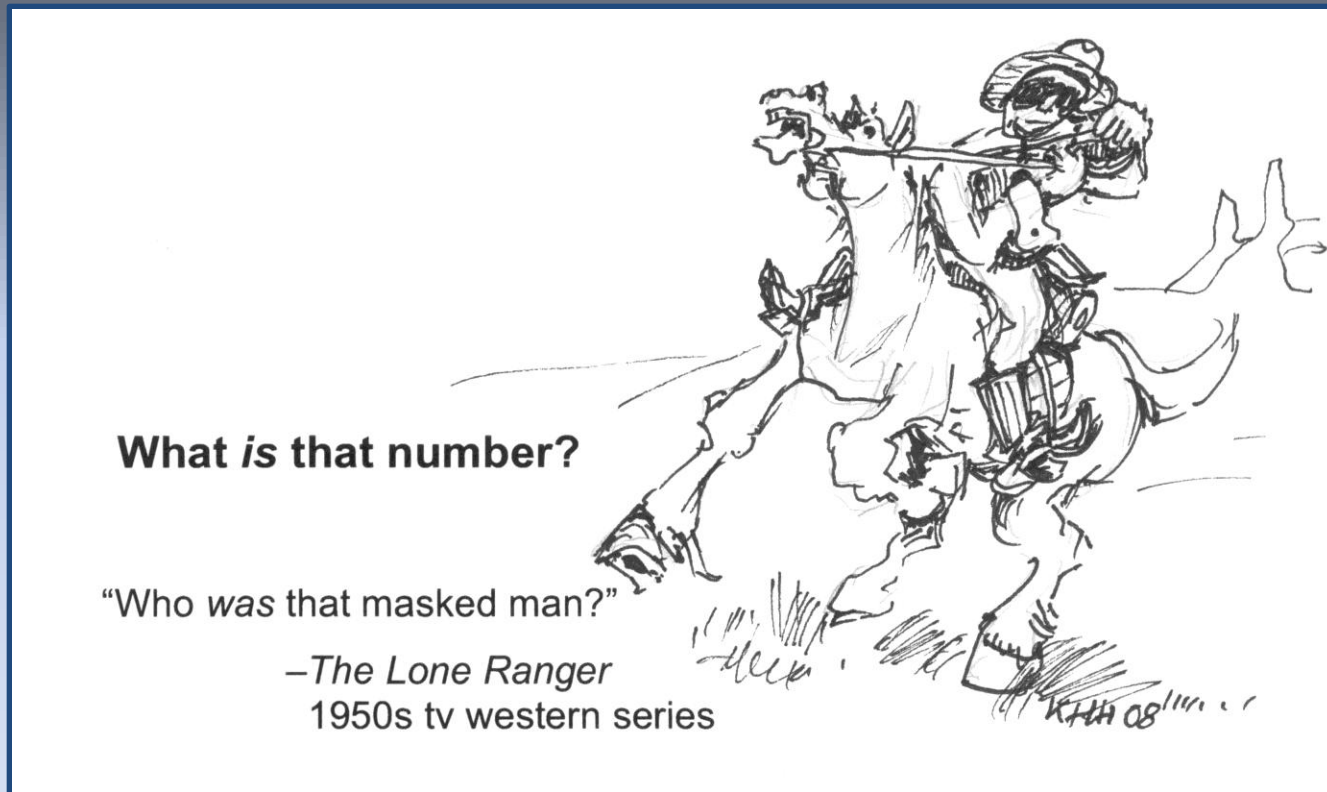


A Scatterplot Discovery

“The new availability of huge amounts of data, along with the statistical tools to crunch these numbers, offers a whole new way of understanding the world. Correlation supersedes causation, and science can advance even without coherent models, unified theories, or really any mechanistic explanation at all. There's no reason to cling to our old ways. It's time to ask: What can science learn from Google?” - Wired, 2008

BACKGROUND

- Knowing the answer is more-than-half the battle
 - Archimedes, Gauss, Hadamard, Russell, etc... all agree



"And yet since truth will sooner come out of error than from confusion."

- Francis Bacon, 1561-1626

CHRONLOGY of ISC and FRIENDS

- 1973** Sloane's Handbook of Integer Sequences
- 1978** Ferguson finds PSLQ Integer Relation Algorithm
- 1985** Sloane's Encyclopaedia of Integer Sequences
 - with Plouffe (5,000 entries)
- 1990** Handbook of Real Numbers (100,000:16Mb)
- 1995** The Inverse Symbolic Calculator (ISC)
 - binscripts/JAVA (10Gb: wanted by GNU)
- 1995** The Colour Calculator
- 1996** Sloane's Online Encyclopaedia (OEIS) (150,000)
- 1999** "Identify" added to Maple
- 2007** ISC2.0 (Python + Cherry Pie) multi-threaded
 - less lookup, more preprocessing and computing

1988-90 A DICTIONARY of REAL NUMBERS

8 pages of preface and 424 of numbers in [0,1]

0000 0000 id: 0
 0000 0001 $10^2: 3-4e$
 0000 0002 $10^2: 1/2-3e$
 0000 0003 $10^2: 2-3\pi$
 0000 0004 $10^2: 3e/4-3\pi$
 0000 0006 $10^2: 1-4\sqrt{3}$
 0000 0007 $10^2: 1-3e$
 0000 0008 $10^2: 3/4-\sqrt{3}/3$
 0000 0010 $10^2: 2-4\sqrt{3}$
 0000 0011 $10^2: (e+\pi)^{-2}$
 0000 0013 $10^2: 4-3e$
 0000 0014 $10^2: -\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{e}-\sqrt{70000}$
 0000 0015 $10^2: 4/3-3e$
 0000 0017 $J_0: (3\pi)^{-2}$
 0000 0018 $10^2: e-3\pi$
 0000 0020 $10^2: 1/4-4\sqrt{3}$
 0000 0022 $10^2: 3/2-3e$
 0000 0023 $10^2: 4\sqrt{3}/3-4\sqrt{e}$
 0000 0024 $10^2: -\sqrt{3}-\sqrt{e}-\sqrt{10000}$
 0000 0025 $10^2: 1/2-4\sqrt{3}$
 0000 0026 $10^2: \sqrt{2}/4-4\sqrt{3}$
 0000 0028 $10^2: -\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{3}-\sqrt{e}$
 0000 0029 $10^2: 2/3-e/4$
 0000 0030 $J_0: (2\pi)^{-2}$
 0000 0031 $10^2: 2\sqrt{3}/3-3\sqrt{5}$
 0000 0032 $J_0: (3\pi)^{-2}$
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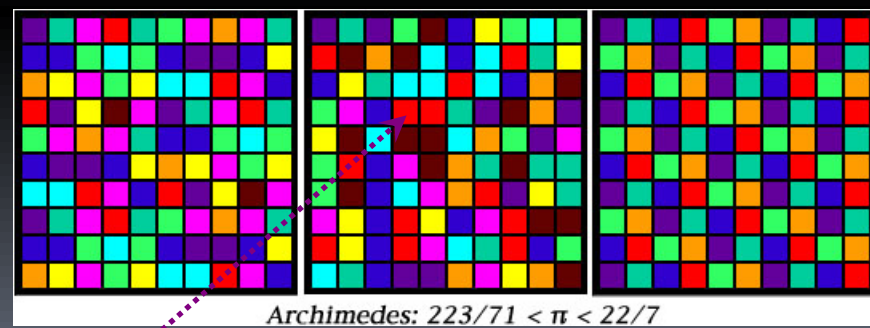
**A
 Dictionary
 of
 Real
 Numbers**
 Jonathan Borwein

9999 9254
 9999 9254 tanh: 25/4
 9999 9270 erf: 7e/6
 9999 9302 tanh: 2π
 9999 9312 λ: exp(-3π/14)
 9999 9320 tanh: √2 + √5 + √7
 9999 9325 tanh: 5√2
 9999 9358 cu: 3 + 4√5/3
 9999 9369 tanh: 19/3
 9999 9374 erf: 10√5/7
 9999 9380 tanh: 7e/3
 9999 9382 J₀: (e + π)⁻³
 9999 9387 erf: 16/5
 9999 9406 tanh: 9√2/2
 9999 9407 erf: 3eπ/8
 9999 9419 erf: 8ζ(3)/3
 9999 9428 tanh: 1/ln(√5/2)
 9999 9433 tanh: 3e/4
 9999 9527 erf: √2 - √5 - √6
 9999 9540 tanh: √3 + √5 + √7
 9999 9558 erf: (2e/3)²
 9999 9559 tanh: 7eπ/9
 9999 9562 erf: 23/7
 9999 9572 erf: π²/3
 9999 9576 tanh: 20/3
 9999 9593 erf: 7√2/3
 9999 9595 tanh: 8(e + π)/7
 9999 9701 tanh: 3√5
 9999 9722 erf: (ln 3/2)⁻²
 9999 9725 tanh: (√3/3)⁻³
 9999 9727 erf: √11
 9999 9734 eπ: e/2 + π
 9999 9841 tanh: √5π
 9999 9843 tanh: 6(e + π)/5
 9999 9845 erf: 5e/4
 9999 9847 erf: 17/5
 9999 9849 tanh: 5π²/7
 9999 9850 tanh: exp((e + π)/3)
 9999 9855 tanh: 9π/4
 9999 9864 erf: 2eπ/5
 9999 9867 erf: 2√5
 9999 9870 eπ: √2 + √3 - √7
 9999 9875 erf: 24/7
 9999 9891 tanh: 6ζ(3)
 9999 9898 tanh: 8e/3
 9999 9955 erf: 25/7
 9999 9956 tanh: 23/3
 9999 9957 tanh: 7π²/9
 9999 9958 tanh: √6π
 9999 9961 erf: 8π/7
 9999 9964 J₀: (3π)⁻³
 9999 9965 erf: √13
 9999 9966 tanh: 9√3/2
 9999 9967 tanh: 4(e + π)/3
 9999 9968 tanh: 7√5/2
 9999 9969 tanh: 5π/2
 9999 9970 λ: exp(-3π/17)
 9999 9972 tanh: 4π²/5
 9999 9977 tanh: 8

9999 9254 tanh: 25/4
 9999 9270 erf: 7e/6
 9999 9302 tanh: 2π
 9999 9312 λ: exp(-3π/14)
 9999 9320 tanh: √2 + √5 + √7
 9999 9325 tanh: 5√2
 9999 9358 cu: 3 + 4√5/3
 9999 9369 tanh: 19/3
 9999 9374 erf: 10√5/7
 9999 9380 tanh: 7e/3
 9999 9382 J₀: (e + π)⁻³
 9999 9387 erf: 16/5
 9999 9406 tanh: 9√2/2
 9999 9407 erf: 3eπ/8
 9999 9419 erf: 8ζ(3)/3
 9999 9428 tanh: 1/ln(√5/2)
 9999 9433 tanh: 3e/4
 9999 9527 erf: √2 - √5 - √6
 9999 9540 tanh: √3 + √5 + √7
 9999 9558 erf: (2e/3)²
 9999 9559 tanh: 7eπ/9
 9999 9562 erf: 23/7
 9999 9572 erf: π²/3
 9999 9576 tanh: 20/3
 9999 9593 erf: 7√2/3
 9999 9595 tanh: 8(e + π)/7
 9999 9701 tanh: 3√5
 9999 9722 erf: (ln 3/2)⁻²
 9999 9725 tanh: (√3/3)⁻³
 9999 9727 erf: √11
 9999 9734 eπ: e/2 + π
 9999 9841 tanh: √5π
 9999 9843 tanh: 6(e + π)/5
 9999 9845 erf: 5e/4
 9999 9847 erf: 17/5
 9999 9849 tanh: 5π²/7
 9999 9850 tanh: exp((e + π)/3)
 9999 9855 tanh: 9π/4
 9999 9864 erf: 2eπ/5
 9999 9867 erf: 2√5
 9999 9870 eπ: √2 + √3 - √7
 9999 9875 erf: 24/7
 9999 9891 tanh: 6ζ(3)
 9999 9898 tanh: 8e/3
 9999 9955 erf: 25/7
 9999 9956 tanh: 23/3
 9999 9957 tanh: 7π²/9
 9999 9958 tanh: √6π
 9999 9961 erf: 8π/7
 9999 9964 J₀: (3π)⁻³
 9999 9965 erf: √13
 9999 9966 tanh: 9√3/2
 9999 9967 tanh: 4(e + π)/3
 9999 9968 tanh: 7√5/2
 9999 9969 tanh: 5π/2
 9999 9970 λ: exp(-3π/17)
 9999 9972 tanh: 4π²/5
 9999 9977 tanh: 8

8 digits after the decimal point: $1 + \tanh(\sqrt{5}\pi) = 1.9999984175$

COLOR and INVERSE CALCULATORS (1995)



Inverse Symbolic Computation

Inferring mathematical structure from numerical data

- Mixes *large table lookup*, integer relation methods and intelligent preprocessing – needs *micro-parallelism*
- It faces the “curse of exponentiality”
- Implemented as **identify** in [Maple](#)

Input of π

ROWS: COLS: MOD: DIGIT: 36 36 10 0

3.141592653593793238462643
0899862803482534211706798

3.14159265358979

COLORCALC

URL: VARIABLE NAME: VARIABLE LIST: VARIABLE VALUE:

`identify(sqrt(2.)+sqrt(3.))`

$$\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}$$

INVERSE SYMBOLIC CALCULATOR

Please enter a number or a Maple expression:

Run Clear

- Simple Lookup and Browser for any number.
- Smart Lookup for any number.
- Generalized Expansions for real numbers of at least 16 digits.
- Integer Relation Algorithms for any number.

Home, Help, Print, Settings icons

Expressions that are **not** numeric like $\ln(\pi * \sqrt{2})$ are evaluated in [Maple](#) in symbolic form first, followed by a floating point evaluation followed by a lookup.

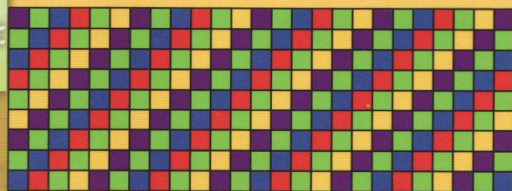
MATHEMATICS and BEAUTY 2006

$1/7 =$

142857142857142857142857142857142857142857142857
428571428571428571428571428571428571428571428571
285714285714285714285714285714285714285714285714
8571428571428571428571428571428571428571428571428
571428571428571428571428571428571428571428571428

Mathematics and Beauty

Aesthetic Approaches to Teaching Children



Nathalie Sinclair
Foreword by William Higginson

2857142857
8571428571
5714285714
7142857142
1428571428
4285714285
857142857

"This is an exceptionally important book. . . . It could be the starting point for many cognitive, social, and educational benefits."

—From the Foreword by **William Higginson**,
Queen's University, Canada

"In a time of much sterile math teaching and grimly utilitarian school reform, this elegant and beautiful book brings to life a whole new vision. . . . Nathalie Sinclair makes a brilliant case for rethinking math instruction so that an aesthetically rich learning environment becomes the path to meaning, intellectual journeys, and—dare we say the word?—pleasure."

—**Joseph Featherstone**,
Michigan State University

In this innovative book, Nathalie Sinclair makes a compelling case for the inclusion of the aesthetic in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Using a provocative set of philosophical, psychological, mathematical, technological, and educational insights, she illuminates how the materials and approaches we use in the mathematics classroom can be enriched for the benefit of all learners. While ranging in scope from the young learner to the professional mathematician, there is a particular focus on middle school, where negative feelings toward mathematics frequently begin. Offering specific recommendations to help teachers evoke and nurture their students' aesthetic abilities, this book:

- Features powerful episodes from the classroom that show students in the act of developing a sense of mathematical aesthetics.
- Analyzes how aesthetic sensibilities to qualities such as connectedness, fruitfulness, apparent simplicity, visual appeal, and surprise are fundamental to mathematical inquiry.
- Includes examples of mathematical inquiry in computer-based learning environments, revealing some of the roles they play in supporting students' aesthetic inclinations.

Nathalie Sinclair is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at Michigan State University.

ALSO OF INTEREST—

Improving Access to Mathematics: Diversity and Equity in the Classroom
Na'ilah Suad Nasir and Paul Cobb, Editors
2007/Paper and cloth

Photo of fern by John Spavin
Photo of nautilus by Peter Werner
Background photo of cabbage by Piero Marsiaj



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9 780807 747223

Knuth asked : $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{k^k}{k! e^k} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi k}} \right\} = ?$

evalf(Sum(k^k/k!/exp(k)-1/sqrt(2*Pi*k),k=1..infinity),16)

'Simple Lookup' fails.
'Smart Lookup' gives:

INVERSE SYMBOLIC CALCULATOR

The ISC is the **Inverse Symbolic Calculator**, a set of programs and specialized tables of mathematical constants dedicated to the identification of real numbers. It also serves as a way to produce identities with functions and real numbers. It is one of the main ongoing projects at the Centre for Experimental and Constructive Mathematics (CECM).

INVERSE SYMBOLIC CALCULATOR

Results of the search:

Maple output:

.08406950872765600

.8406950872765600e-1

Value to be looked up: .8406950872765600e-1 = K

Performing a smart lookup on .8406950872765600e-1:

Function	Result	Precision	Matches
<u>K-2/3</u>	.5825971579390106666666666666	16	1

INVERSE SYMBOLIC CALCULATOR

579390106 was probably generated by one of the tables or found in one of the given tables.

Answers are given from shortest to longest description

Mixed constants with 5 operations
 $5825971579390106 = \text{Zeta}(1/2)/\text{sr}(2)/\text{sr}(\text{Pi})$

Browse around .5825971579390106.

$$\frac{\zeta(1/2)}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

The inverse symbolic
Calculator (ISC) uses a
combination of lookup
tables and integer
relation algorithms in
order to associate
with a user-defined,
truncated decimal
expansion
(represented as a
floating point
expression) a closed
form representation
for the real number.



The ISC in Action



Standard lookup results for 12.587886229548403854

$\exp(1)+\pi^2$

ISC The original ISC

The Dev Team: Nathan Singer , Andrew Shouldice , Lingyun Ye ,
Tomas Daske , Peter Dobcsanyi , Dante Manna , O-Yeat Chan , Jon Borwein

3.146264370

19.99909998

ISC The original ISC

The Dev Team: Nathan Singer , Andrew Shouldice , Lingyun Ye ,
Tomas Daske , Peter Dobcsanyi , Dante Manna , O-Yeat Chan , Jon Borwein

The ISC presently
accepts either floating
point expressions or
correct Maple syntax
as input. However, for
Maple syntax requiring
too long for
evaluation, a timeout
has been
implemented.

Visit

[Jon Borwein's
Webpage](#)

[David Bailey's
Webpage](#)

[Math Resources Portal](#)

- **ISC+** runs on [Glooscap](#)
- Less lookup & more algorithms than 1995

IDENTIFY and ISC IN ACTION

ISC does more for a naive user

identify does more for an experienced user

19.999099979

Advanced lookup results for **19.999099979**

exp(Pi)-Pi	1999909997918947
Pi-exp(Pi)	

ISC The original ISC

$$\prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 - 1}{n^2 + 1} = 0.2720290549821332\dots$$

Advanced lookup results for **0.2720290549821332**

Transform (K=0.2720290549821332)	Searched for	Description
K*1/2	.13601452749106660000000000	Pi/(exp(-Pi)-exp(Pi))

$$\prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^3 - 1}{n^3 + 1} = 0.6666666666666667$$

$$> \text{identify}(3.140845070422535) = \frac{223}{71}$$

$$\int_0^1 |e^{i\pi x} + 1| dx = 1.273239544735163$$

$$> \text{identify}(1.273239544735163) = \frac{4}{\pi}$$

4.599873743272336

```
> ps1q(4.599873743272336, [1, Pi^2, Pi^4]);
[-360, 0, 0, -17], "Error is", -4.730194857 10^-13, "checking to", 26, places
4.599873743272336 = 17/360 pi^4
```

A HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

What are

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \left\{ \frac{n}{k} \right\}^2 = 0.26066140150781262295414\dots,$$

and

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n n^2} = 0.5822405264650125059\dots ?$$

The answers are

$$\log(2\pi) - 1 - \gamma$$

and

$$\frac{\pi^2}{12} - \frac{1}{2} \log(2)^2.$$

Here

$$\gamma := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} - \log n = 0.5772156649015328\dots$$

is Euler's mysterious (irrational?) constant.

How about 0.438017879485942412114... ?

Hint: first find 0.63092975357145743710... (Answer by email)

Greetings from [The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!](#)

[Hints](#)

Search: **1, 1, 4, 9, 25, 64, 169**

Displaying 1-1 of 1 results found.

page 1

Format: [long](#) | [short](#) | [internal](#) | [text](#) Sort: [relevance](#) | [references](#) | [number](#) Highlight: [on](#) | [off](#)

[A007598](#) $F(n)^2$, where $F()$ = Fibonacci numbers [A000045](#). +20
41
(Formerly M3364)

0, **1, 1, 4, 9, 25, 64, 169**, 441, 1156, 3025, 7921, 20736, 54289, 142129, 372100, 974169, 2550409, 6677056, 17480761, 45765225, 119814916, 313679521, 821223649, 2149991424, 5628750625, 14736260449, 38580030724 ([list](#); [graph](#); [listen](#))

OFFSET

0, 4

COMMENT

$a(n) \cdot (-1)^{n+1} = (2 \cdot (1 - T(n, -3/2))) / 5$, $n \geq 0$, with Chebyshev's polynomials $T(n, x)$ of the first kind, is the $r = -1$ member of the r -family of sequences $S_r(n)$ defined in [A092184](#) where more information can be found. W. Lang (Wolf Dieter Lang AT physik DOT uni-karlsruhe DOT de), Oct 18 2004
Contribution from Giorgio Balzarotti (greenblue(AT)tiscali.it), Mar 11 2009: (Start)
Determinant of power series with alternate signs of gamma matrix with determinant 1!
 $a(n) = \text{Determinant}(A - A^2 + A^3 - A^4 + A^5 - \dots A^n)$
where A is the submatrix $A(1..2, 1..2) =$ of the matrix with factorial determinant
 $A = \begin{bmatrix} [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, \dots], [1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, \dots], [1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, \dots], \\ [1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, \dots], [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, \dots], [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots], \dots \end{bmatrix}$
note: Determinant $A(1..n, 1..n) = (n-1)!$
 $a(n)$ is even with respect to signs of power of A .
See [A158039](#)...[A158050](#) for sequence with matrix $2!, 3! \dots$ (End)
Contribution from Gary W. Adamson (qntmpkt(AT)yahoo.com), Apr 27 2009: (Start)
Equals the INVERT transform of $(1, 3, 2, 2, 2, \dots)$. Example: $a(7) = 169 = (1, 1, 4, 9, 25, 64) \text{ dot } (2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 1) = (2 + 2 + 8 + 18 + 75 + 64) = 169$. (End)

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A. T. Benjamin and J. J. Quinn, Proofs that really count: the art of combinatorial proof, M.A.A. 2003, id. 8.
R. Honsberger, Mathematical Gems III, M.A.A., 1985, p. 130.
R. P. Stanley, Enumerative Combinatorics I, Example 4.7.14, p. 251.

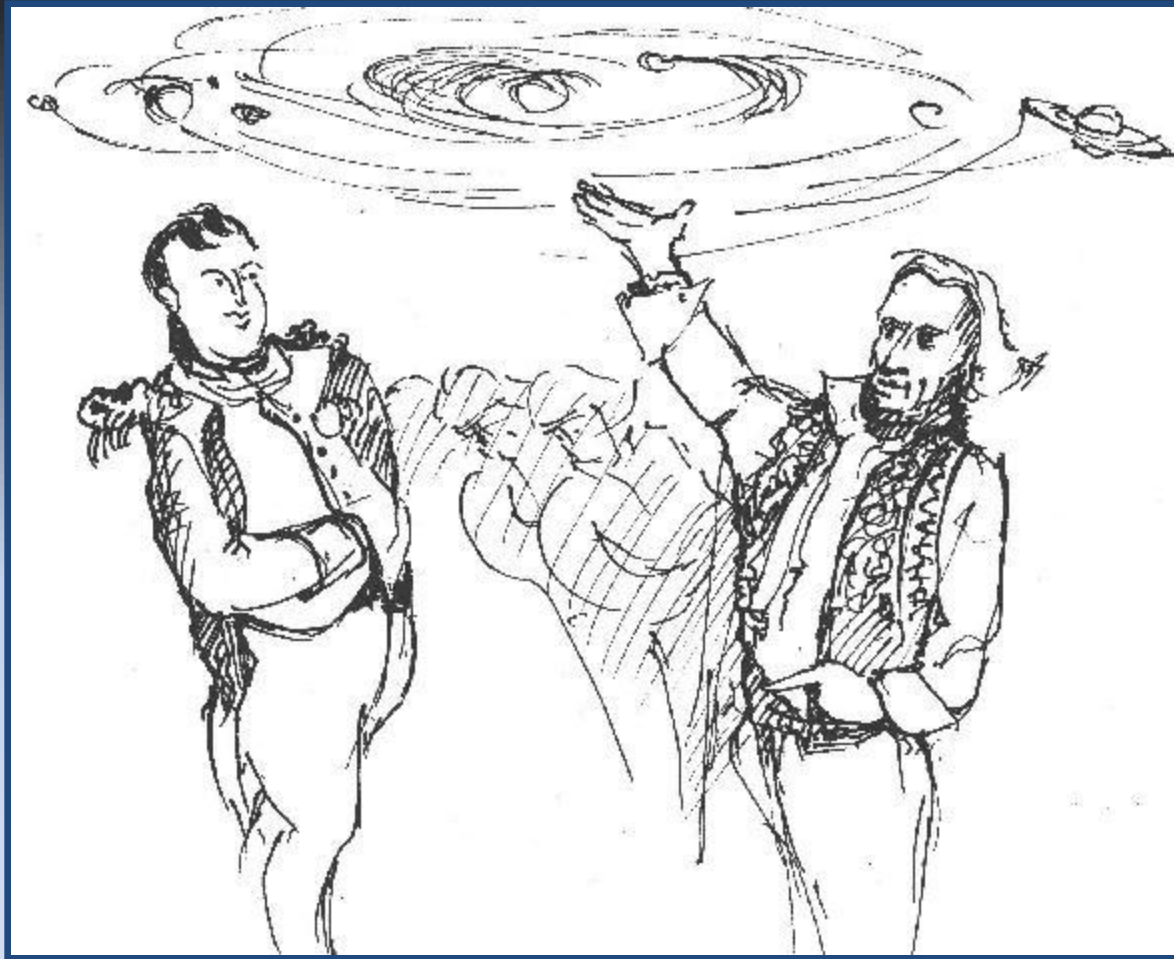
LINKS

T. D. Noe, [Table of \$n, a\(n\)\$ for \$n=0..200\$](#)
[Index entries for two-way infinite sequences](#)
[Index entries for sequences related to linear recurrences with constant coefficients](#)
D. Foata and G.-N. Han, [Nombres de Fibonacci et polynomes orthogonaux](#),
T. Mansour, [A note on sum of k-th power of Horadam's sequence](#)
T. Mansour, [Squaring the terms of an ell-th order linear recurrence](#)
P. Stanica, [Generating functions, weighted and non-weighted sums of powers...](#)

FORMULA

$a(0) = 0$, $a(1) = 1$; $a(n) = a(n-1) + \text{Sum}(a(n-i)) + k$, $0 \leq i < n$ where $k = 1$ when n is odd, or $k = -1$ when n is even. E.g. $a(2) = 1 = 1 + (1 + 1 + 0) - 1$, $a(3) = 4 = 1 + (1 + 1 + 0) + 1$, $a(4) = 9 = 4 + (4 + 1 + 1 + 0) - 1$, $a(5) = 25 = 9 + (9 + 4 + 1 + 1 + 0) + 1$. - Sadrul Habib Chowdhury

“Nature laughs at the difficulty of Integration” - Lagrange



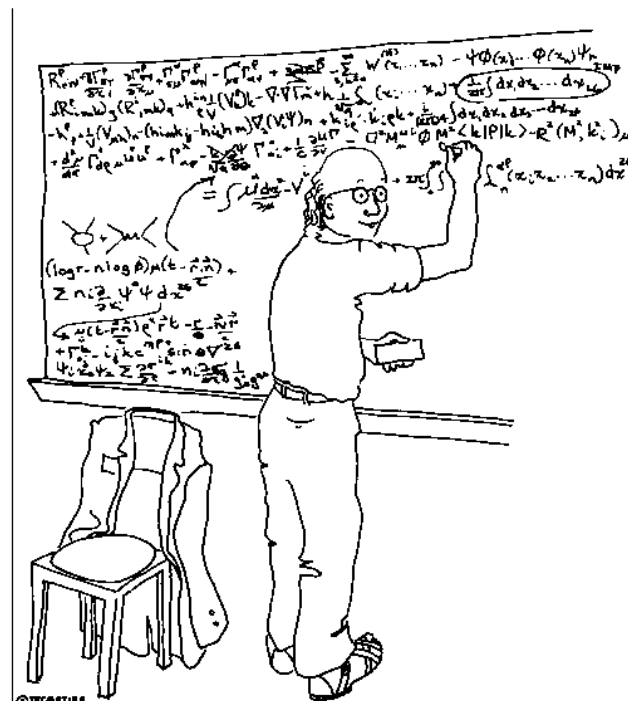
"A heavy warning used to be given [by lecturers] that pictures are not rigorous; this has never had its bluff called and has permanently frightened its victims into playing for safety. Some pictures, of course, are not rigorous, but I should say most are (and I use them whenever possible myself)." - J. E. Littlewood, 1885-1977

End of Part I

Part II on Integer Relation Methods is at

www.carma.newcastle.edu.au/~jb616/papers.html#TALKS

Some More Scenes from a Scientist's Life ...



"At this point we notice that this equation is beautifully simplified if we assume that space-time has 92 dimensions."

PSLQ: INTEGER RELATION ALGORITHMS: WHAT THEY ARE

Let (x_n) be a vector of real numbers. An **integer relation algorithm** finds integers (a_n) such that

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = 0$$

or provides an **exclusion bound**

– i.e., testing linear independence over \mathbf{Q}

- At present, the PSLQ algorithm of mathematician-sculptor *Helaman Ferguson* is the **best** known integer relation algorithm.
- High precision arithmetic software is required: at least $d \times n$ digits, where d is the size (in digits) of the largest of the integers a_k .

INTEGER RELATION ALGORITHMS: HOW THEY WORK

Let (x_n) be a vector of real numbers. An **integer relation algorithm** finds integers (a_n) such that

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = 0$$

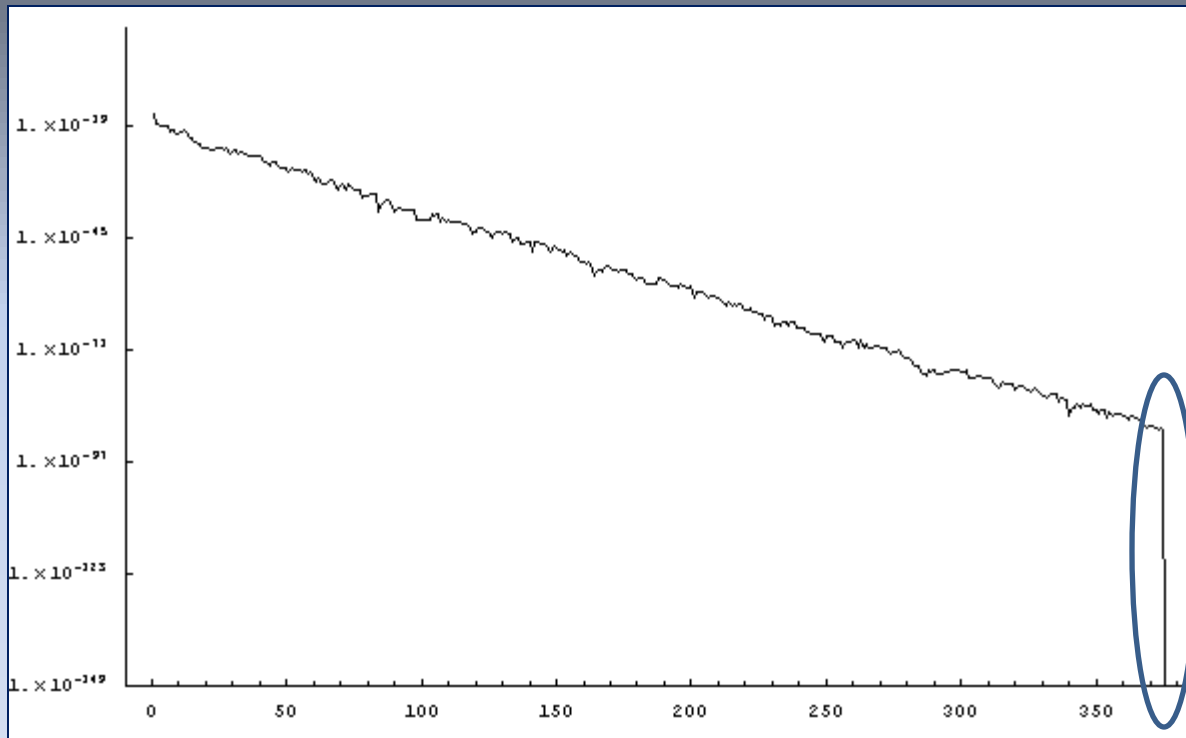
or provides an **exclusion bound**.

PSLQ operates by developing, iteratively, an integer matrix A that successively reduces the maximum absolute value of the entries of the vector $y = Ax$, until one of the entries of y is either zero or within roughly 10^{-p} of zero, where p is the numeric precision used.

Any integer relation detection scheme needs data to at least nd -digit precision: via a simple pigeonhole analysis. Assume the x vector does not satisfy an integer relation, with $|x_j| \leq 1$. Suppose all a_j satisfy $|a_j| \leq 10^d$. Then $\sum_{1 \leq j \leq n} a_j x_j$ will assume one of $2^n 10^{nd}$ values in $[-n10^d, n10^d]$, depending on a . The average distance between these values is $2n2^{-n}10^{d-nd}$. Thus, an interval of size 10^{-p} around zero is likely to contain a spurious “relation” unless p is significantly larger than $nd - d$.

INTEGER RELATION ALGORITHMS: HOW THEY WORK

PSLQ is a combinatorial optimization algorithm designed for (pure) mathematics



The method is “self-diagnosing” ---- the error drops precipitously when an identity is found. And basis coefficients are “small”.

TOP TEN ALGORITHMS

► Integer Relation Detection was recently ranked among “the 10 algorithms with the greatest influence on the development and practice of science and engineering in the 20th century.” J. Dongarra, F. Sullivan, *Computing in Science & Engineering* 2 (2000), 22–23.

Also: Monte Carlo, Simplex, Krylov Subspace, QR Decomposition, Quicksort, ..., FFT, Fast Multipole Method.

- integer relation detection (PSLQ, 1997) was the most recent of the top ten

HELAMAN FERGUSON

SCULPTOR and MATHEMATICIAN

NEWSFOCUS



PROFILE: HELAMAN FERGUSON

Carving His Own Unique Niche, In Symbols and Stone

By refusing to choose between mathematics and art, a self-described “misfit” has found the place where parallel careers meet

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND—Helaman Ferguson’s sculpture studio is set back from the road, hidden behind a construction site. Inside, pieces of art line shelves and cover tabletops. Ferguson, clad in a yellow plastic apron and a black T-shirt, serenely makes his way through the room. The 66-year-old is tall and white-haired, his bare arms revealing a strength requisite for his avocation.

The most striking work in the studio is a more than 2-meter-tall, 5-ton chunk of granite. When it is finished, it will stand in the entry to the science building at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Right now, it is a mass of curving surfaces sloping in different directions, its surface still jagged with the rough grains left by the diamond-toothed chainsaw Ferguson uses to carve through the stone.

“I’m in my negative-Gaussian-curvature phase,” Ferguson says. “Say we’re going to shake hands, but we don’t quite touch. OK, see the space between the two hands?” That saddle-shaped void, he explains, is a perfect example of negative Gaussian curvature. Our bodies contain many others, he adds: the line between the first finger’s knuckle and the wrist, for instance, and where the neck meets the shoulders.

The topological jargon is no surprise: Ferguson spent 17 years as a mathematics professor at Brigham Young University

(BYU) in Provo, Utah. What is unusual is how successfully he has pursued a dual career as mathematician and artist and the ease with which he blurs the categories. Math inspires and figures in almost all of Ferguson’s artistic works. Through them, he has helped some mathematicians appreciate the artist’s craft and aesthetic. And he’s persuaded perhaps even more artists that math may not be as frighteningly elusive as they believe, or even if it is out of their reach, it’s as beautiful as any work of art they might imagine. “The way he has brought together the worlds of science and the arts—this is an admirable thing,” says Harvey Bricker, Ferguson’s former college roommate.

Twin callings
Ferguson himself finds it hard to say which calling came first. As a teenager in upstate New York, he learned stone carving as an informal apprentice to his adopted father, a stonemason. Artistically, however, he was



Function-al form. The Fibonacci Fountain at the Maryland Science and Technology Center was inspired by the “golden ratio.”

10 algorithms of the 20th century.

Meanwhile, Ferguson’s artistic career also developed apace. When he married Claire, a painter, the two struck a deal: “I get the floors, she gets the walls,” he says. He began focusing more on sculpture. The art department at BYU

more drawn to painting. After finishing high school in 1958, he wanted to study art as well as math. He chose Hamilton College, a liberal arts school in upstate New York near where he had spent most of his childhood, where he could do both.

After getting his math degree, he enrolled in a doctoral program in math at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He paid for some of his living expenses by selling paintings. He also met and began dating an undergraduate art student, Claire. The couple married in 1963 and had their first child (of an eventual seven) in 1964. Ferguson dropped out of school for a couple of years to work as a computer programmer, then resumed his math studies. He obtained his master’s degree in mathematics at BYU and a doctorate in group representations—a broad area of math that involves algebra, geometry, topology, and analysis—at the University of Washington, Seattle. In 1971, he accepted an appointment as assistant professor at BYU.

As a mathematician, Ferguson is perhaps best known for the algorithm he developed with BYU colleague Rodney Forcade. The algorithm, called PSLQ, finds mathematical relations among seemingly unrelated real numbers. Among many other applications, PSLQ provided an efficient way of computing isolated digits within pi and blazed a path for modeling hard-to-calculate particle interactions in quantum physics.

In 2000, the journal *Computing in Science and Engineering* named it one of the top

allotted him some studio space, and he turned out a regular stream of work. He’s done commissions for the Maryland Science and Technology Center, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of

St. Thomas in St. Paul, and many other institutions. He has also designed small sculptures for awards presented by the Clay Mathematics Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Canadian Mathematical Society in Ontario, and the Association for Computing Machinery in New York City.

He has worked to keep a foot in each of the “two cultures.” While at BYU, he taught a course each year for honors students called Qualitative Mathematics and Its Aesthetics. Both art students and math students enrolled: the artists looking for a palatable way to take in a math requirement, and the math students lured by the promise of higher level mathematics. Ferguson delivered on both ends. He taught concepts mathematicians don’t normally encounter until graduate school, such as braid theory. Artists could relate to braids as physical objects, rope or hair that can be woven into a specific form. But students were also asked to write down an algebra to go along with how the braid was formed—a noncommutative algebra.

“Some of these folks were in there because they were either afraid of or hated math,” says Ferguson. At the end of the semester, however, “quite a few art students wanted a follow-on semester—more math, more art.”

Bridging

Ferguson, who left BYU in 1988, now devotes most of his time to his art. For his large-scale or complicated pieces, he uses computer programs such as Mathematica to form and refine the shape he wants the finished piece to take. “With sculpture, you want a piece to be a unit so it has direct impact as a form,” he says. “Sculptures are complicated enough already.” With computer programs, he says, before even putting hand to stone “you can walk around [the piece] and see a different view; you can touch it and reshape it to make it simpler and more direct.”

Once the design is in place, Ferguson turns to the task of carving the stone. He works alone, without assistants, using both chisels and assorted power tools. Finally comes a lengthy smoothing process, going from 20-grit sandpaper to as fine as 8500-grit. Ferguson has to work “wet” much of the time, using

water to wash down the fine particles of stone that could otherwise become deposited in his lungs. For some of the work, he dons gloves made of woven stainless steel and a positive-pressure facemask. A large sculpture can take several months to complete, working flat-out.

Granite is Ferguson’s favorite medium. “Mathematics is kind of timeless,” he says, “so incorporating mathematical themes and ideas into geologically old stone—that’s something that has great aesthetic appeal to me.” He also likes the idea that his sculptures will be around for millions or even billions of years.

The finished sculptures vary widely in appearance. Some are delicate, with looped projections or intricate imprints, and are small enough to hold in one’s hand. Others are massive, meant to be touched, even climbed on (as many children have discovered). As a rule, they also contain much more detail than meets the eye. “My work generally involves a circle of ideas,”



Twisted. Braids and knots turn up in many of Ferguson’s works, including these small metal sculptures

says Ferguson. People he interacts with, new information he obtains, mathematics he has had on his mind—all of these become “part of the design consideration.” As an example, he cites an architectural-scale sculpture recently installed outside his alma mater Hamilton

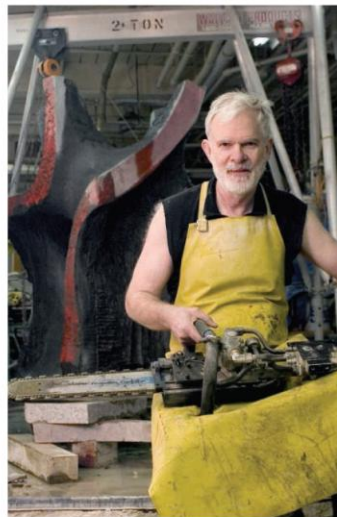
College’s new science building. The work, made of 10-centimeter-thick granite, centers on a pair of massive disks representing the planets Mars and Venus. “Venus” is exactly 161 centimeters in diameter—the height of the average female Hamilton student, taken from the records of one of the college’s psychology professors. “Mars” is 174 centimeters in diameter—the average male student’s height. The disks are inlaid with tiles in a pattern defined by the Poincaré and Beltrami-Klein models of plane hyperbolic geometry.

Ferguson’s admirers say his artwork goes far beyond academic exercises. David Broadhurst, a physicist at the Open University in Milton Keynes, U.K., learned about Ferguson’s sculpture after using the PSLQ algorithm in his research in quantum mechanics. He compares Ferguson’s artistic renderings of math to Fourier playing the Bach cello suites, “giving expression to abstract forms, whose beauty is preexistent to the interpretation, yet recreated in a widely accessible medium.”

For his part, Ferguson says his lifelong project to embody mathematics in mass and form is very much in the spirit of the times—and he credits technology with making it all possible. “We’re living in the golden age of art, we really are. But it’s also the golden age of science,” he says. “Today, young people have seen more art and science in, say, their first 25 years of life than anyone in the years before that.” With the collaborations between computer scientists and artists, and tools for art being used as tools for scientific exploration and invention, Ferguson suggests we may be in the midst of a second Renaissance. “It’s a great time to be alive,” says Ferguson, “because there are more places for misfits like myself to survive.”

—KATHERINE UNGER

Katherine Unger is a writer in Washington, D.C.



Tough medium. A diamond-toothed chainsaw helps Ferguson carve through granite rocks that are up to a billion years old.

CREDITS: J. HOLLAND/SCIENCE

Peter Borwein
in front of
Helaman Ferguson's
work

CMS Meeting
December 2003
SFU Harbour Centre

Ferguson uses high
tech tools and micro
engineering at NIST
to build monumental
math sculptures



MADELUNG's CONSTANT

David Borwein CMS Career Award



$$= \sum'_{n,m,p} \frac{(-1)^{n+m+p}}{\sqrt{n^2 + m^2 + p^2}}$$

This polished solid silicon bronze sculpture is inspired by the work of David Borwein, his sons and colleagues, on the [conditional series](#) above for salt, **Madelung's constant**. This series can be summed to uncountably many constants; one is [Madelung's constant](#) for **electro-chemical stability of sodium chloride**.

This constant is a period of an elliptic curve, a real surface in four dimensions. There are uncountably many ways to imagine that surface in three dimensions; one has negative gaussian curvature and is the tangible form of this sculpture. ([As described by the artist.](#))



INTEGER RELATION ALGORITHMS: WHAT THEY DO: ELEMENTARY EXAMPLES

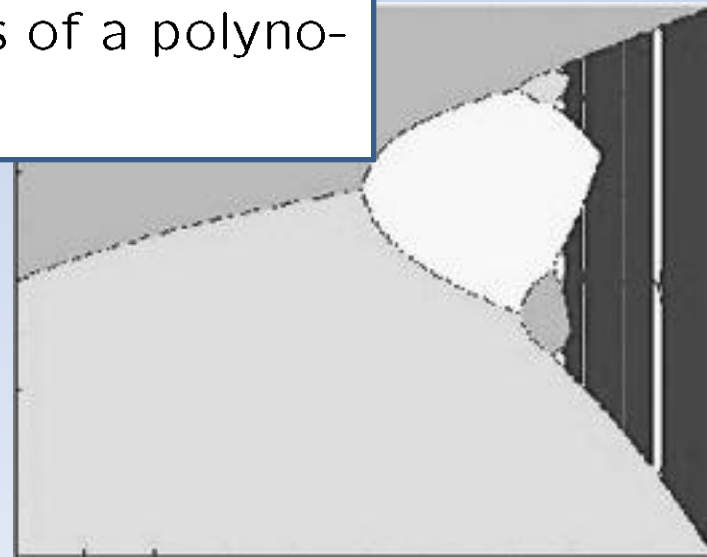
ALGEBRAIC NUMBERS

Compute α to sufficiently high precision ($O(n^2)$) and apply LLL to the vector

$$(1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \dots, \alpha^{n-1}).$$

- Solution integers a_i are coefficients of a polynomial likely satisfied by α .

An application was to determine explicitly the 4th and 5th bifurcation points of the logistics curve have degrees 256.



FINALIZING FORMULAE

► If we suspect an identity PSLQ is powerful.

- (*Machin's Formula*) We try **PSLQ** on

$$\left[\arctan(1), \arctan\left(\frac{1}{5}\right), \arctan\left(\frac{1}{239}\right)\right]$$

and recover $[1, -4, 1]$. That is,

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 4 \arctan\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) - \arctan\left(\frac{1}{239}\right).$$

[Used on all serious computations of π from 1706 (100 digits) to 1973 (1 million).]

If we try with $\arctan(1/238)$ we obtain huge integers

- (*Dase's 'mental' Formula*) We try **PSLQ** on

$$\left[\arctan(1), \arctan\left(\frac{1}{2}\right), \arctan\left(\frac{1}{5}\right), \arctan\left(\frac{1}{8}\right)\right]$$

and recover $[-1, 1, 1, 1]$. That is,

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = \arctan\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \arctan\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) + \arctan\left(\frac{1}{8}\right).$$

[Used by Dase for 200 digits in 1844.]

In his head

INTEGER RELATIONS in MAPLE

```
> with(IntegerRelations); Digits:=25;  
    [LLL, LinearDependency, PSLQ]  
    Digits := 25
```

 (2)

```
> PSLQ([Pi, arctan(1/2), arctan(1/5), arctan(1/8)]);  
    [1, -4, -4, -4]
```

 (3)

```
> PSLQ([Pi, arctan(1/2), arctan(1/5), arctan(1/9)]);  
    [10129, 2473744, -4734091, -2207521]
```

 (4)

```
> pslq(Pi, [arctan(1/2), arctan(1/5), arctan(1/8)]);  
    [1, 4, 4, 4], "Error is", -2. 10-35, "checking to", 35, places  
     $\pi = 4 \arctan\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + 4 \arctan\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) + 4 \arctan\left(\frac{1}{8}\right)$ 
```

 (5)

```
> a:=evalf(sqrt(3)+sqrt(5)); identify(a);  
    a := 3.968118785068666989936620  
     $\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5}$ 
```

 (6)

```
> ?identify
```

- *Maple* also implements the Wilf-Zeilberger algorithm
- *Mathematica* can only recognize algebraic numbers

INTEGER RELATION ALGORITHMS: WHAT THEY DO: ADVANCED EXAMPLES

- THE BBP FORMULA FOR PI
- PHYSICAL INTEGRALS
 - ISING AND QUANTUM FIELD THEORY
- APERY SUMS
 - AND GENERATING FUNCTIONS
- RAMANUJAN SERIES FOR $1/\pi^N$

The BBP FORMULA for Pi

In 1996 Bailey, P. Borwein and Plouffe, using PSLQ for months, discovered this formula for π :

$$\pi = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{16^k} \left(\frac{4}{8k+1} - \frac{2}{8k+4} - \frac{1}{8k+5} - \frac{1}{8k+6} \right)$$

Indeed, this formula permits one to directly calculate binary or hexadecimal (base-16) digits of π beginning at an arbitrary starting position n , without needing to calculate any of the first $n-1$ digits.

A finalist for the **Edge of Computation Prize**, it has been used in compilers, in a record web computation, and in a trillion-digit computation of Pi.

PHYSICAL INTEGRALS (2006-2008)

The following integrals arise independently in mathematical physics in **Quantum Field Theory** and in **Ising Theory**:

$$C_n = \frac{4}{n!} \int_0^\infty \cdots \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\left(\sum_{j=1}^n (u_j + 1/u_j)\right)^2} \frac{du_1}{u_1} \cdots \frac{du_n}{u_n}$$

We first showed that this can be transformed to a 1-D integral:

$$C_n = \frac{2^n}{n!} \int_0^\infty t K_0^n(t) dt$$

where K_0 is a **modified Bessel function**. We then (**with care**) computed 400-digit numerical values (**over-kill but who knew**), from which we found with **PSLQ** these (now proven) **arithmetic** results:

$$\begin{aligned} C_3 &= L_{-3}(2) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \left\{ \frac{1}{(3n+1)^2} - \frac{1}{(3n+2)^2} \right\} \\ C_4 &= \frac{7}{12} \zeta(3) \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_n &= 2e^{-2\gamma} \end{aligned}$$

IDENTIFYING THE LIMIT WITH THE ISC (2.0)

We discovered the limit result as follows: We first calculated:

$$C_{1024} = 0.630473503374386796122040192710878904354587\dots$$

We then used the Inverse Symbolic Calculator, the online numerical constant recognition facility available at:

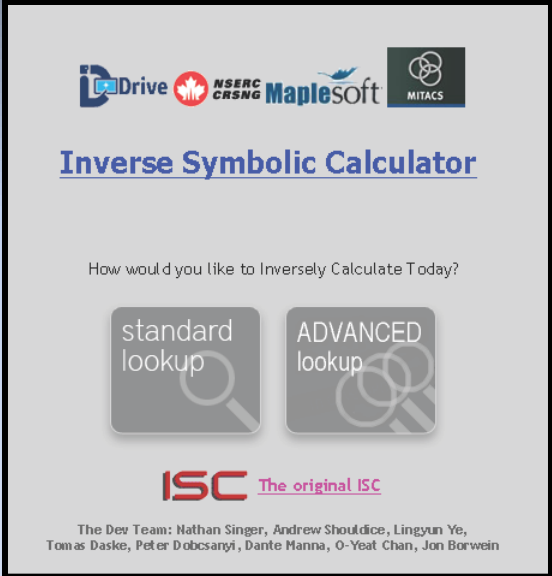
<http://ddrive.cs.dal.ca/~isc/portal>

Output: Mixed constants, 2 with elementary transforms.

$$.6304735033743867 = \text{sr}(2)^2 / \exp(\gamma)^2$$

In other words,

$$C_{1024} \approx 2e^{-2\gamma}$$



Inverse Symbolic Calculator

How would you like to Inversely Calculate Today?

standard lookup ADVANCED lookup

ISC The original ISC

The Dev Team: Nathan Singer, Andrew Shouldice, Lingyun Ye, Tomas Daske, Peter Dobcsanyi, Dante Manna, O-Yeat Chan, Jon Borwein

References. Bailey, Borwein and Crandall, "Integrals of the Ising Class," *J. Phys. A.*, **39** (2006)

Bailey, Borwein, Broadhurst and Glasser, "Elliptic integral representation of Bessel moments," *J. Phys. A*, **41** (2008) [IoP Select]

APERY-LIKE SUMMATIONS

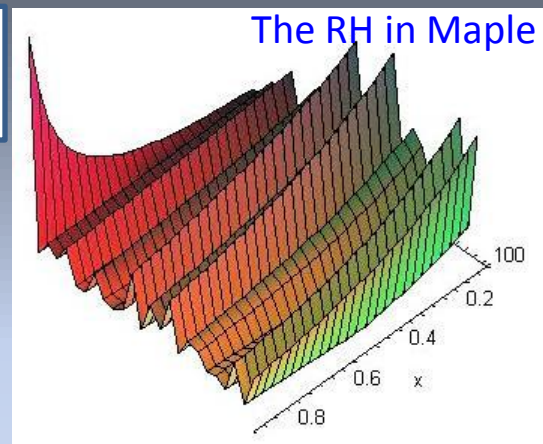
The following formulas for $\zeta(s)$ have been known for many decades:

$$\zeta(2) = 3 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2 \binom{2k}{k}},$$

$$\zeta(3) = \frac{5}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k^3 \binom{2k}{k}},$$

$$\zeta(4) = \frac{36}{17} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^4 \binom{2k}{k}}.$$

for $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$
 $\zeta(s) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$



These results have led many to speculate that

$$Q_5 := \zeta(5) / \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k^5 \binom{2k}{k}}$$

might be some nice rational or algebraic value.

Sadly (?), PSLQ calculations have established that if Q_5 satisfies a polynomial with **degree** at most **25**, then at least **one coefficient** has **380** digits. But positive results exist.

APERY OGF'S



1. via PSLQ to 5,000 digits (120 terms)

2005 Bailey, Bradley & JMB discovered and proved - in 3Ms - three equivalent binomial identities

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$$

Euler (1707-73)



$$\zeta(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}, \zeta(4) = \frac{\pi^4}{90}, \zeta(6) = \frac{\pi^6}{945}, \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned} Z(x) &= 3 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\binom{2k}{k} (k^2 - x^2)} \prod_{n=1}^{k-1} \frac{4x^2 - n^2}{x^2 - n^2} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \zeta(2k + 2) x^{2k} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 - x^2} \\ &= \frac{1 - \pi x \cot(\pi x)}{2x^2} \end{aligned}$$

2. reduced as hoped

$$3n^2 \sum_{k=n+1}^{2n} \frac{\prod_{m=n+1}^{k-1} \frac{4n^2 - m^2}{n^2 - m^2}}{\binom{2k}{k} (k^2 - n^2)} = \frac{1}{\binom{2n}{n}} - \frac{1}{\binom{3n}{n}}$$

$${}_3F_2 \left(\begin{matrix} 3n, n+1, -n \\ 2n+1, n+1/2 \end{matrix}; \frac{1}{4} \right) = \frac{\binom{2n}{n}}{\binom{3n}{n}}$$

3. was easily computer proven (Wilf-Zeilberger) (now 2 human proofs)

NEW RAMANUJAN-LIKE IDENTITIES

Guillera (around 2003) found Ramanujan-like identities, including:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{128}{\pi^2} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n r(n)^5 (13 + 180n + 820n^2) \left(\frac{1}{32}\right)^{2n} \\ \frac{8}{\pi^2} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n r(n)^5 (1 + 8n + 20n^2) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2n} \\ \frac{32}{\pi^3} &\stackrel{?}{=} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r(n)^7 (1 + 14n + 76n^2 + 168n^3) \left(\frac{1}{8}\right)^{2n}.\end{aligned}$$

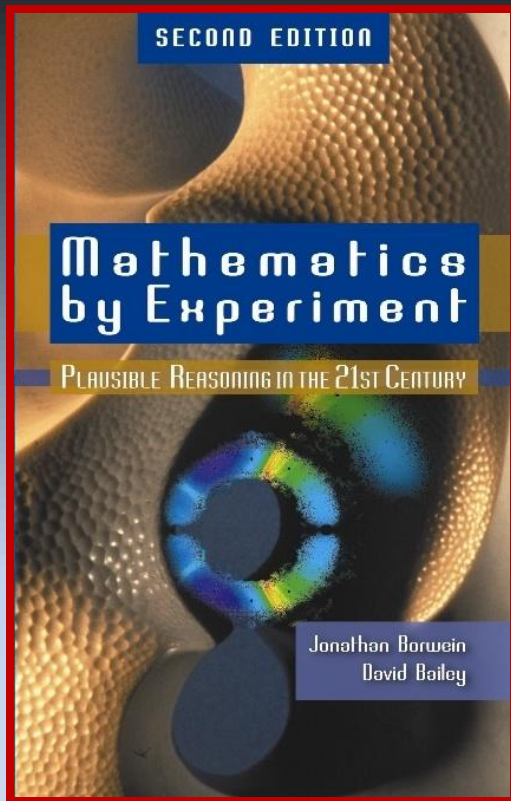
where

$$r(n) = \frac{(1/2)_n}{n!} = \frac{1/2 \cdot 3/2 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n-1)/2}{n!} = \frac{\Gamma(n+1/2)}{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(n+1)}$$

Guillera proved the first two using the Wilf-Zeilberger algorithm. He ascribed the third to Gourevich, who found it using integer relation methods. **It is true but has no hint of a proof...**

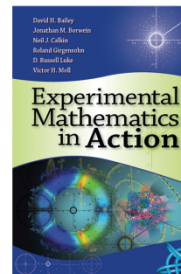
As far as we can tell there are no higher-order analogues!

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Experimental Mathematics in Action

David H. Bailey, Jonathan M. Borwein, Neil J. Calkin, Roland Girgensohn, D. Russell Luke, Victor H. Moll



“David H. Bailey et al. have done a fantastic job to provide very comprehensive and fruitful examples and demonstrations on how experimental mathematics acts in a very broad area of both pure and applied mathematical research, in both academic and industry. Anyone who is interested in experimental mathematics should, without any doubt, read this book!”

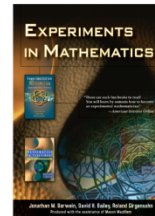
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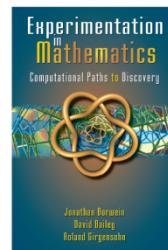
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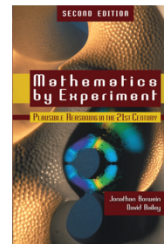
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D.H. Bailey and JMB, “PSLQ: an Algorithm to Discover Integer Relations,” *Computeralgebra Rundbrief*, October 2009.

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