

Contents

Preface	ix
1	1
1.1	Of what is everything made?
1.2	The golden rectangle
1.3	The Eye, and the arithmetic of φ
1.4	The Fibonacci (Hemachandra) sequence
1.5	A continued fraction for φ
1.6	φ is irrational
1.7	The arithmetic geometric mean inequality
1.8	Further content
	Constructing φ geometrically
	Binet's formula: $F_n = (\varphi^n - \tau^n)/\sqrt{5}$
	The harmonic-geometric-arithmetic right triangle
	The continued fraction for φ converges (via graphing)
	$\sqrt{5}$ is irrational (via algebra)
	$\sqrt{5}$ is irrational (via geometry)
	φ is irrational (via its continued fraction)
	$\sqrt{5}$ is irrational (via ternary arithmetic)
2	29
2.1	Liu Hui approximates π using polygons
2.2	Nilakantha's arctangent series
2.3	Machin's arctangent formula
2.4	Wallis's formula for $\pi/2$ (via calculus)
2.5	A connection to probability

2.6	Wallis's formula for $\pi/2$ via $(\sin x)/x$	41
2.7	The generalized binomial theorem	42
2.8	Euler's $(1/2)! = \sqrt{\pi}/2$	44
2.9	The Basel problem: $\sum 1/k^2 = \pi^2/6$	47
2.10	π is irrational	49
2.11	Further content	52
	A geometric derivation of a formula for π	52
	Wallis's formula for $\pi/2$ (via algebra)	54
	Converting an infinite product to a continued fraction	57
	A harmonic continued fraction for π	58
	Finding the n th digit of π	59
3	<i>e</i>	65
3.1	The money puzzle	65
3.2	Euler's $e = \sum 1/k!$	67
3.3	The maximum of $x^{1/x}$	69
3.4	The limit of $(1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$	73
3.5	A modern proof that $e = \sum 1/k!$	77
3.6	e is irrational	79
3.7	Stirling's formula	80
3.8	Turning a series into a continued fraction	86
3.9	Further content	89
	The probability of derangement	89
	Deranged matchings	91
	Euler's constant γ	94
	Euler's constant γ via e and π	96
	The probability integral $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi}$	98
4	<i>i</i>	99
4.1	Proportions	100
4.2	Negatives	102
4.3	Chimeras	103
4.4	Cubics	104
4.5	A truly curious thing	107
4.6	The complex plane	109
4.7	$\ln(i)$	113

4.8	$i\theta = \ln(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$	115
4.9	$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$	118
4.10	The shortest path	120
4.11	$\varphi = e^{i\pi/5} + e^{-i\pi/5}$	122
4.12	Further content	123
	Khayyám’s geometric solution to a cubic	123
	Viète’s trigonometric approach to cubics	125
	A complex approach to the Basel problem	126
	Hamilton discovers the quaternions	128
A	Wallis’s original derivation of his formula for π	131
B	Newton’s original generalized binomial theorem	139
	Bibliography	145
	Extra Help	149
	Index	175