

I Prefer Pi

Corey Sinnamon

February 3, 2015

3/14/15

3/14/15

Themes

3/14/15

Themes

- ▶ History

3/14/15

Themes

- ▶ History
- ▶ Irrationality and Transcendence

3/14/15

Themes

- ▶ History
- ▶ Irrationality and Transcendence
- ▶ $\zeta(2) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$

3/14/15

Themes

- ▶ History
- ▶ Irrationality and Transcendence
- ▶ $\zeta(2) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$
- ▶ Series and Products for π

3/14/15

Themes

- ▶ History
- ▶ Irrationality and Transcendence
- ▶ $\zeta(2) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$
- ▶ Series and Products for π
- ▶ Computation

Machin-like Formulae

In 1706, John Machin gave the following formula for π

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 4 \arctan \frac{1}{5} - \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

Machin-like Formulae

In 1706, John Machin gave the following formula for π

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 4 \arctan \frac{1}{5} - \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

Machin used this to calculate 100 digits of π using Gregory's series for \arctan ,

$$\arctan x = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^7}{7} + \dots$$

Machin-like Formulae

In 1706, John Machin gave the following formula for π

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 4 \arctan \frac{1}{5} - \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

Machin used this to calculate 100 digits of π using Gregory's series for \arctan ,

$$\arctan x = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^7}{7} + \dots$$

There are countless variations on Machin's Formula, e.g.

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = \arctan \frac{1}{2} + \arctan \frac{1}{5} + \arctan \frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 5 \arctan \frac{1}{7} + 2 \arctan \frac{3}{79}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 12 \arctan \frac{1}{38} + 20 \arctan \frac{1}{57} + 7 \arctan \frac{1}{239} + 24 \arctan \frac{1}{268}$$

Machin-like Formulae

In a 1938 paper, Lehmer gave a simple method for comparing the computational complexity of arctan relations.

Machin-like Formulae

In a 1938 paper, Lehmer gave a simple method for comparing the computational complexity of arctan relations.

Consider the Gregory series for $\frac{1}{x}$,

$$\arctan \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{3x^3} + \frac{1}{5x^5} - \dots$$

Machin-like Formulae

In a 1938 paper, Lehmer gave a simple method for comparing the computational complexity of arctan relations.

Consider the Gregory series for $\frac{1}{x}$,

$$\arctan \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{3x^3} + \frac{1}{5x^5} - \dots$$

Lehmer observed that the number of terms that must be calculated to acquire n digits of π is approximately $\frac{n}{\log x}$, since

$$x^{-i} < 10^{-n} \iff i > \frac{n}{\log_{10} x}.$$

Machin-like Formulae

Thus, given a Machin-like formula of the form

$$\frac{k\pi}{4} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \arctan \frac{1}{m_i}$$

Lehmer defined its *measure* as

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\log m_i}$$

Machin-like Formulae

Thus, given a Machin-like formula of the form

$$\frac{k\pi}{4} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \arctan \frac{1}{m_i}$$

Lehmer defined its *measure* as

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\log m_i}$$

Using the shorthand $[x] = \arctan \frac{1}{x}$, Lehmer computed the measures of most of the interesting Machin-like formulae of the time.

Machin-like Formulae

- (14) $[1] = [2] + [3]$, (5.4178) (Hutton, Euler)
- (15) $[1] = [2] + [5] + [8]$, (5.8599) (Daze)
- (16) $[1] = 2[3] + [7]$, (3.2792) (Clausen)
- (17) $[1] = 3[4] + [19.8]$, (2.4322)
- (18) $[1] = 4[5] - [239]$, (1.8511) (Machin)
- (19) $[1] = 4[5] - [70] + [99]$, (2.4737) (Euler, Rutherford)
- (20) $[1] = 5[6] - [31.4375] - [117]$, (2.4364)
- (21) $[1] = 5[7] + 2[79/3]$, (1.8873) (Hutton, Euler)
- (22) $[1] = 6[8] + [19.8] - 3[268]$, (2.2904)
- (23) $[1] = 8[10] - [239] - 4[515]$, (1.2892) (Klingensstierna)
- (24) $[1] = 8[10] + 3[18] + 2[100] + 2[307] - 3[515] + 2[9901]$, (2.3177)
- (25) $[1] = 8[10] - 2[452761/2543] - [1393]$, (1.2624)
- (26) $[1] = 8[10] - [100] - [515] - [371498882/3583]$, (1.0681)
- (27) $[1] = 8[10] - [100] - 2[1000] + 5[100000] - [719160] - \dots$, ($<.8414$)
- (28) $[1] = 7[10] + 2[50] + 4[100] + [682] + 4[1000] + 3[1303] - 4[90109]$,
(1.9644) (Wrench)
- (29) $[1] = 7[10] + 8[100] + [682] + 4[1000] + 3[1303] - 4[90109] - 2[500150]$,
(1.5513) (Wrench)
- (30) $[1] = 8[10.1] - [239] + 4[52525]$, (1.6280)
- (31) $[1] = 12[15] - [239] - 4[433.1]$, (1.6500)
- (32) $[1] = 12[18] + 8[57] - 5[239]$, (1.7866) (Gauss)
- (33) $[1] = 12[18] + 3[70] + 5[99] + 8[307]$, (2.2418) (Bennett)
- (34) $[1] = 12[18] + 8[99] + 3[239] + 8[307]$, (2.1203)
- (35) $[1] = 16[20.05] - [239] - 4[515] + 8[1620050]$, (1.7182)
- (36) $[1] = 22[26] - 2[2057] - 5[3240647/38479]$, (1.5279)

Machin-like Formulae

Although they were not the lowest-measure relations, Lehmer recommended the following for practical computing,

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 8 \arctan \frac{1}{10} - \arctan \frac{1}{239} - 4 \arctan \frac{1}{515}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 12 \arctan \frac{1}{18} + 8 \arctan \frac{1}{57} - 5 \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

Why?

Machin-like Formulae

Lehmer recognized that this measure could be grossly inaccurate when a relation involves some repeated calculations. For example, in 1939 J. P. Ballantine observed that

$$\arctan \frac{1}{18} = 18 \left(\frac{1}{325} + \frac{2}{3 \cdot 325^2} + \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 325^3} + \dots \right)$$

$$\arctan \frac{1}{57} = 57 \left(\frac{1}{3250} + \frac{2}{3 \cdot 3250^2} + \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 3250^3} + \dots \right)$$

Machin-like Formulae

Lehmer recognized that this measure could be grossly inaccurate when a relation involves some repeated calculations. For example, in 1939 J. P. Ballantine observed that

$$\arctan \frac{1}{18} = 18 \left(\frac{1}{325} + \frac{2}{3 \cdot 325^2} + \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 325^3} + \dots \right)$$

$$\arctan \frac{1}{57} = 57 \left(\frac{1}{3250} + \frac{2}{3 \cdot 3250^2} + \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 3250^3} + \dots \right)$$

This produces the lovely relation

$$\pi = \frac{864}{18} \arctan \frac{1}{18} + \frac{1824}{57} \arctan \frac{1}{57} - 5 \arctan \frac{1}{239},$$

which (according to Ballantine) was the fastest known method for computing π to many digits.

Monroe Calculator

MONROE
REGISTERED TRADE MARK
HIGH SPEED ADDING CALCULATOR



Infinite Products for πe and $\frac{\pi}{e}$

Z. A. Melzak (1961)

Infinite Products for πe and $\frac{\pi}{e}$

Z. A. Melzak (1961)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} V(C_n)/V(S_n) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi e}}$$

Infinite Products for πe and $\frac{\pi}{e}$

Two simple products,

$$\frac{\pi}{2e} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^{n+1}n}$$

$$\frac{6}{\pi e} = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^n n}$$

Infinite Products for πe and $\frac{\pi}{e}$

Two simple products,

$$\frac{\pi}{2e} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^{n+1}n}$$

$$\frac{6}{\pi e} = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^n n}$$

But then

$$\frac{\pi}{6e} = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^{n+1}n} = \frac{\pi e}{6}$$

Infinite Products for πe and $\frac{\pi}{e}$

Two simple products,

$$\frac{\pi}{2e} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^{n+1}n}$$

$$\frac{6}{\pi e} = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^n n}$$

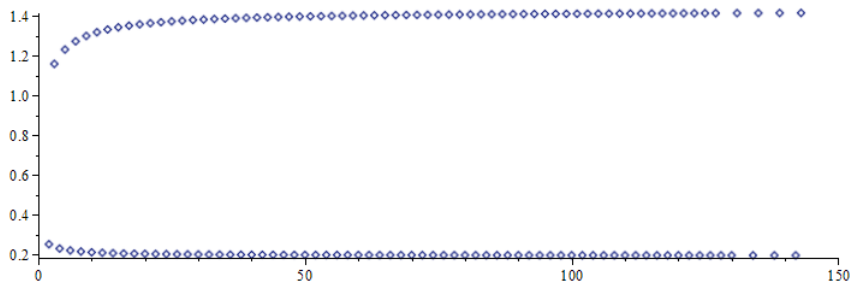
But then

$$\frac{\pi}{6e} = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^{n+1}n} = \frac{\pi e}{6}$$

What's going on here?

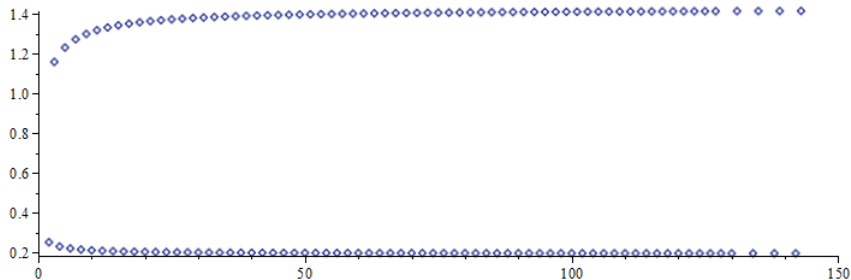
Infinite Products for πe and $\frac{\pi}{e}$

$$\prod_{n=2}^N \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^{n+1}}$$



Infinite Products for πe and $\frac{\pi}{e}$

$$\prod_{n=2}^N \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^{n+1}}$$



$$\frac{\pi}{6e} \approx 0.1926212250 \quad \frac{\pi e}{6} \approx 1.423289037$$

Infinite Products for πe and $\frac{\pi}{e}$

Two not-as-simple products,

$$\frac{\pi}{2e} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{n=1}^{2N} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^{n+1}n}$$

$$\frac{6}{\pi e} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{n=2}^{2N+1} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^{(-1)^n n}$$

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Rabinowitz and Wagon (1995)

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Rabinowitz and Wagon (1995)

Presented an algorithm to compute digits of π that

- ▶ "drips" digits of π one by one and does not use them afterwards,
- ▶ is easy to implement,
- ▶ uses only integer arithmetic

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Column Head $\frac{a_i}{b_i} = \frac{i}{2i+1}$ Column Number $c_i = 2$.

	Digits of π	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{4}{9}$	$\frac{5}{11}$	$\frac{6}{13}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	$\frac{8}{17}$	$\frac{9}{19}$	$\frac{10}{21}$	$\frac{11}{23}$	$\frac{12}{25}$
Initialize		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
$\times 10$		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Carry	3	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Remainders		30	32	32	32	30	32	27	28	29	20	20	20
$\times 10$		0	20	20	40	30	100	10	130	120	10	200	200
Carry	1	<u>+13</u>	<u>+20</u>	<u>+33</u>	<u>+40</u>	<u>+65</u>	<u>+48</u>	<u>+98</u>	<u>+88</u>	<u>+72</u>	<u>+150</u>	<u>+132</u>	<u>+96</u>
Remainders		13	40	53	80	95	148	108	218	192	160	332	296
		3	1	3	3	5	5	4	8	5	8	17	20

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Column Head $\frac{a_i}{b_i} = \frac{i}{2i+1}$ Column Number $c_i = 2$.

	Digits of π	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{4}{9}$	$\frac{5}{11}$	$\frac{6}{13}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	$\frac{8}{17}$	$\frac{9}{19}$	$\frac{10}{21}$	$\frac{11}{23}$	$\frac{12}{25}$
Initialize		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
$\times 10$		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Carry	3	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Remainders		30	32	32	32	30	32	27	28	29	20	20	20
$\times 10$		0	20	20	40	30	100	10	130	120	10	200	200
Carry	1	<u>+13</u>	<u>+20</u>	<u>+33</u>	<u>+40</u>	<u>+65</u>	<u>+48</u>	<u>+98</u>	<u>+88</u>	<u>+72</u>	<u>+150</u>	<u>+132</u>	<u>+96</u>
Remainders		13	40	53	80	95	148	108	218	192	160	332	296
		3	1	3	3	5	5	4	8	5	8	17	20

Algorithm:

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Column Head $\frac{a_i}{b_i} = \frac{i}{2i+1}$ Column Number $c_i = 2$.

	Digits of π	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{4}{9}$	$\frac{5}{11}$	$\frac{6}{13}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	$\frac{8}{17}$	$\frac{9}{19}$	$\frac{10}{21}$	$\frac{11}{23}$	$\frac{12}{25}$
Initialize		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
$\times 10$		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Carry	3	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Remainders		30	32	32	32	30	32	27	28	29	20	20	20
$\times 10$		0	20	20	40	30	100	10	130	120	10	200	200
Carry	1	<u>+13</u>	<u>+20</u>	<u>+33</u>	<u>+40</u>	<u>+65</u>	<u>+48</u>	<u>+98</u>	<u>+88</u>	<u>+72</u>	<u>+150</u>	<u>+132</u>	<u>+96</u>
Remainders		13	40	53	80	95	148	108	218	192	160	332	296
		3	1	3	3	5	5	4	8	5	8	17	20

Algorithm:

- ▶ Multiply each c_i by 10.

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Column Head $\frac{a_i}{b_i} = \frac{i}{2i+1}$ Column Number $c_i = 2$.

	Digits of π	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{4}{9}$	$\frac{5}{11}$	$\frac{6}{13}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	$\frac{8}{17}$	$\frac{9}{19}$	$\frac{10}{21}$	$\frac{11}{23}$	$\frac{12}{25}$
Initialize		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
$\times 10$		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Carry	3	10	12	12	12	10	12	7	8	9	0	0	0
Remainders		30	32	32	32	30	32	27	28	29	20	20	20
$\times 10$		0	20	20	40	30	100	10	130	120	10	200	200
Carry	1	13	20	33	40	65	48	98	88	72	150	132	96
Remainders		13	40	53	80	95	148	108	218	192	160	332	296
		3	1	3	3	5	5	4	8	5	8	17	20

Algorithm:

- ▶ Multiply each c_i by 10.
- ▶ Proceeding from the rightmost to the leftmost column, find positive integers q and r such that $q \cdot b_i + r = c_i$ with $0 < r < b_i$, then assign $c_i \leftarrow r$ and carry $q \cdot a_i$ left.

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Column Head $\frac{a_i}{b_i} = \frac{i}{2i+1}$ Column Number $c_i = 2$.

	Digits of π	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{4}{9}$	$\frac{5}{11}$	$\frac{6}{13}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	$\frac{8}{17}$	$\frac{9}{19}$	$\frac{10}{21}$	$\frac{11}{23}$	$\frac{12}{25}$
Initialize		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
$\times 10$		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Carry	3	10	12	12	12	10	12	7	8	9	0	0	0
Remainders		30	32	32	32	30	32	27	28	29	20	20	20
$\times 10$		0	20	20	40	30	100	10	130	120	10	200	200
Carry	1	13	20	33	40	65	48	98	88	72	150	132	96
Remainders		13	40	53	80	95	148	108	218	192	160	332	296
		3	1	3	3	5	5	4	8	5	8	17	20

Algorithm:

- ▶ Multiply each c_i by 10.
- ▶ Proceeding from the rightmost to the leftmost column, find positive integers q and r such that $q \cdot b_i + r = c_i$ with $0 < r < b_i$, then assign $c_i \leftarrow r$ and carry $q \cdot a_i$ left.
- ▶ On the leftmost column, output the first digit of the column number c_0 . This is the next digit of π !

A Spigot Algorithm for π

	Digits of π	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{4}{9}$	$\frac{5}{11}$	$\frac{6}{13}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	$\frac{8}{17}$	$\frac{9}{19}$	$\frac{10}{21}$	$\frac{11}{23}$	$\frac{12}{25}$
Initialize		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
$\times 10$		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Carry	3	<u>+10</u>	<u>+12</u>	<u>+12</u>	<u>+12</u>	<u>+10</u>	<u>+12</u>	<u>+7</u>	<u>+8</u>	<u>+9</u>	<u>+0</u>	<u>+0</u>	<u>+0</u>
Remainders		30	32	32	32	30	32	27	28	29	20	20	20
$\times 10$		0	20	20	40	30	100	10	130	120	10	200	200
Carry	1	<u>+13</u>	<u>+20</u>	<u>+33</u>	<u>+40</u>	<u>+65</u>	<u>+48</u>	<u>+98</u>	<u>+88</u>	<u>+72</u>	<u>+150</u>	<u>+132</u>	<u>+96</u>
Remainders		13	40	53	80	95	148	108	218	192	160	332	296
$\times 10$		30	10	30	30	50	50	40	80	50	80	170	200
Carry	4	<u>+11</u>	<u>+24</u>	<u>+30</u>	<u>+40</u>	<u>+40</u>	<u>+42</u>	<u>+63</u>	<u>+64</u>	<u>+90</u>	<u>+120</u>	<u>+88</u>	<u>+0</u>
Remainders		41	34	60	70	90	92	103	144	140	200	258	200
$\times 10$		10	10	0	0	0	40	120	90	40	100	60	160
Carry	1	<u>+4</u>	<u>+2</u>	<u>+9</u>	<u>+24</u>	<u>+55</u>	<u>+84</u>	<u>+63</u>	<u>+48</u>	<u>+72</u>	<u>+60</u>	<u>+66</u>	<u>+0</u>
Remainders		14	12	9	24	55	124	183	138	112	160	126	160

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Why does this work?

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Why does this work?

The algorithm is based on the following representation for $\frac{\pi}{2}$,

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{i!}{(2i+1)!!} = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1 \cdot 2}{3 \cdot 5} + \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} + \dots$$

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Why does this work?

The algorithm is based on the following representation for $\frac{\pi}{2}$,

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{i!}{(2i+1)!!} = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1 \cdot 2}{3 \cdot 5} + \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} + \dots$$

Observe that we can rewrite this as

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = 1 + \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + \frac{2}{5} \left(1 + \frac{3}{7} \left(1 + \dots \right) \right) \right)$$

A Spigot Algorithm for π

Why does this work?

The algorithm is based on the following representation for $\frac{\pi}{2}$,

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{i!}{(2i+1)!!} = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1 \cdot 2}{3 \cdot 5} + \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} + \dots$$

Observe that we can rewrite this as

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = 1 + \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + \frac{2}{5} \left(1 + \frac{3}{7} \left(1 + \dots \right) \right) \right)$$

or equivalently,

$$\pi = 2 + \frac{1}{3} \left(2 + \frac{2}{5} \left(2 + \frac{3}{7} \left(2 + \dots \right) \right) \right)$$

A Spigot Algorithm for π

In some ways, this *mixed-radix* form is similar to having a closed form for the digits of π in some base b , except the base changes with every term.

A Spigot Algorithm for π

In some ways, this *mixed-radix* form is similar to having a closed form for the digits of π in some base b , except the base changes with every term.

$$\pi = a_0 + \frac{1}{b} \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{b^2} \left(a_2 + \frac{1}{b^3} \left(a_3 + \cdots \right) \right) \right)$$

A Spigot Algorithm for π

In some ways, this *mixed-radix* form is similar to having a closed form for the digits of π in some base b , except the base changes with every term.

$$\pi = a_0 + \frac{1}{b} \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{b^2} \left(a_2 + \frac{1}{b^3} \left(a_3 + \dots \right) \right) \right)$$

$$\pi = a_0.a_1a_2a_3\dots_b$$

A Spigot Algorithm for π

In some ways, this *mixed-radix* form is similar to having a closed form for the digits of π in some base b , except the base changes with every term.

$$\pi = a_0 + \frac{1}{b} \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{b^2} \left(a_2 + \frac{1}{b^3} \left(a_3 + \dots \right) \right) \right)$$

$$\pi = a_0.a_1a_2a_3\dots_b$$

$$\pi = 2 + \frac{1}{3} \left(2 + \frac{2}{5} \left(2 + \frac{3}{7} \left(2 + \dots \right) \right) \right)$$

$$\pi = 2.222\dots_{[1, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \dots]}$$

A Spigot Algorithm for π

In some ways, this *mixed-radix* form is similar to having a closed form for the digits of π in some base b , except the base changes with every term.

$$\pi = a_0 + \frac{1}{b} \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{b^2} \left(a_2 + \frac{1}{b^3} \left(a_3 + \dots \right) \right) \right)$$

$$\pi = a_0.a_1a_2a_3\dots_b$$

$$\pi = 2 + \frac{1}{3} \left(2 + \frac{2}{5} \left(2 + \frac{3}{7} \left(2 + \dots \right) \right) \right)$$

$$\pi = 2.222\dots_{[1, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \dots]}$$

In this sense, the algorithm is simply changing the base of the representation.

Unbounded Spigot Algorithms for the Digits of π

Jeremy Gibbons (2006)

Developed an algorithm using the same principle, but much cleaner in the details. Particularly, it is unbounded - no need to decide on the number of digits before starting.

Assorted Series

Assorted Series

Wallis

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 6 \cdots}{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdots}$$

Assorted Series

Wallis

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 6 \cdots}{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdots}$$

Ramanujan

$$\frac{1}{\pi} = \frac{\sqrt{8}}{9801} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(4n)!}{(n!)^4} \frac{[1103 + 26390n]}{396^{4n}}$$

Assorted Series

Wallis

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 6 \cdots}{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdots}$$

Ramanujan

$$\frac{1}{\pi} = \frac{\sqrt{8}}{9801} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(4n)!}{(n!)^4} \frac{[1103 + 26390n]}{396^{4n}}$$

D. H. Bailey, P. Borwein, S. Plouffe

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