



# How to Compute $\pi$ to 1'000 Decimals



Walter Gander

ETH and HKBU

Qian Weichang College  
Shanghai University

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## Why this talk?

$$\pi = \frac{\text{circumference}}{\text{diameter}} \text{ of a circle}$$

Using a **computer algebra system** e.g. MAPLE we get

```
Digits:=1000;
```

```
1000
```

```
evalf(Pi);
```

```
3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375105820974944
59230781640628620899862803482534211706798214808651328230664709
38446095505822317253594081284811174502841027019385211055596446
22948954930381964428810975665933446128475648233786783165271201
90914564856692346034861045432664821339360726024914127372458700
66063155881748815209209628292540917153643678925903600113305305
48820466521384146951941511609433057270365759591953092186117381
93261179310511854807446237996274956735188575272489122793818301
19491298336733624406566430860213949463952247371907021798609437
02770539217176293176752384674818467669405132000568127145263560
82778577134275778960917363717872146844090122495343014654958537
10507922796892589235420199561121290219608640344181598136297747
71309960518707211349999998372978049951059731732816096318595024
45945534690830264252230825334468503526193118817101000313783875
28865875332083814206171776691473035982534904287554687311595628
63882353787593751957781857780532171226806613001927876611195909
216420199
```



## Questions

- How does MAPLE do this?
- Can we develop a program?
- What kind of algorithms are available?



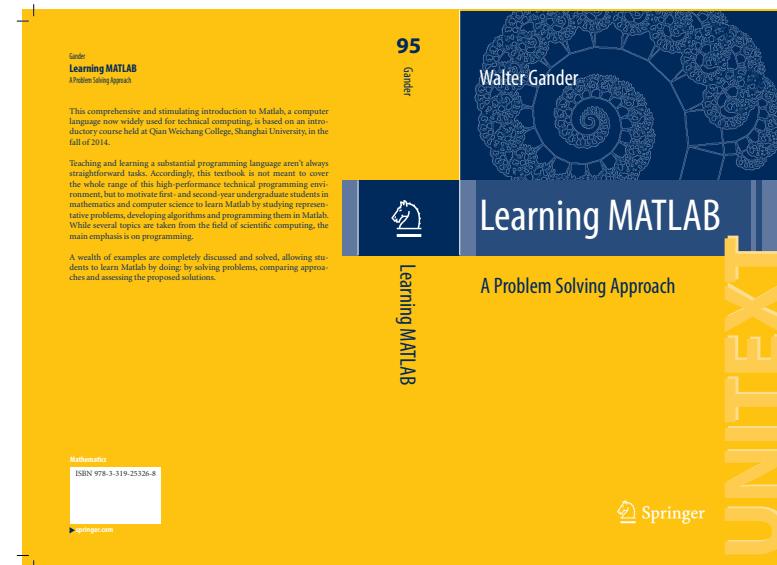
## Student Programming Problem

- MATLAB-course Fall 2014 at Qian Weichang College
- Script has become a book:

WALTER GANDER, **Learning Matlab - A Problem Solving Approach.**

Springer, 2015, ISBN: 978-3-319-25327-5, 149p.

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319253268>





## $\pi$ is a Fascinating Number

- Unsolved problem in ancient Greece:  
construct with compass and straightedge a square with same area as a given circle
- Galois theory proved: impossible
- We know circle area is  $\pi r^2$
- $\pi = 3.1415\dots$  a transcendental number
- Idiomatic expression:  
“squaring the circle”  $\iff$  try to do the impossible!



# Calculations of $\pi$

(incomplete selection – many contributors)

Archimedes of Syracuse (287-212 BC)	$22/7 = 3.14\dots$	Greek
Claudius Ptolemy (90-168 )	3.1416	Roman
Zu Chongzhi (429-500)	$355/113 = 3.141592\dots$	Chinese
Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi (780-850 )	3.1416	Arab
Jamshid al-Kashi (1380-1429)	3.1415926535897	Iranian
François Viète (1540-1603)	3.14159265	France
Adriaan van Roomen (1561-1615)	3.1415926535897932	Belgium
Ludolph van Ceulen (1540-1610)	35 decimals	German-Dutch
John Machin (1686-1751)	100 decimals	British

Calculations using computers <sup>a</sup>	decimals	
Takahashi Kanada Sept 1999	206 158 430 000	Japan
Yasumasa Kanada 2002	1 241 100 000 000	Japan

Formula used by John Machin: 
$$\pi = 16 \arctan \frac{1}{5} - 4 \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

<sup>a</sup> [http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/HistTopics/Pi\\_chronology.html](http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/HistTopics/Pi_chronology.html)



## Machin-like Formulas

- Carl Størmer, Norwegian mathematician (1874-1957), developed Machin-like formulas:

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 6 \arctan \frac{1}{8} + 2 \arctan \frac{1}{57} + \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 3 \arctan \frac{1}{4} + \arctan \frac{1}{20} + \arctan \frac{1}{1985}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 44 \arctan \frac{1}{57} + 7 \arctan \frac{1}{239} - 12 \arctan \frac{1}{682} + 24 \arctan \frac{1}{12943}$$

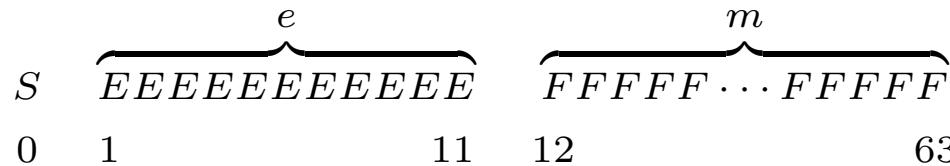
- Takahashi Kanada (206'158'430'000 decimals) used a formula by K. Takano (1982)

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 12 \arctan \frac{1}{49} + 32 \arctan \frac{1}{57} - 5 \arctan \frac{1}{239} + 12 \arctan \frac{1}{110443}$$

- Derivation of such formulas:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machin-like\\_formula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machin-like_formula)

- IEEE-Standard for Floating Point Numbers since 1986:  
using 64 bits, about 16 decimal digits.



S 1 bit for the sign

e 11 bits for the exponent

m 52 bits for the mantissa

- normal case:  $0 < e < 2047$ ,  $(2^{11} = 2048)$

$$\tilde{a} = (-1)^S \times 2^{e-1023} \times 1.m$$

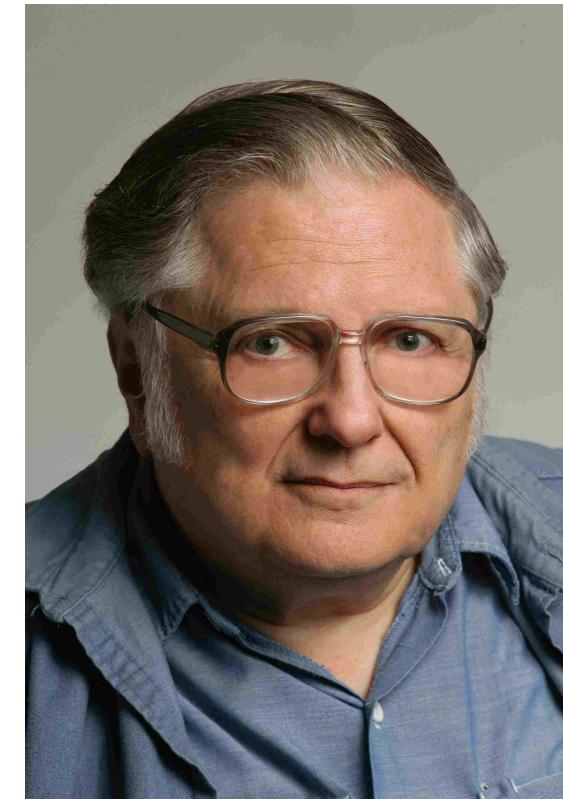
- Examples:

$$\pi = 3.141592653589793e+00$$

$$1/7 = 1.428571428571428e-01$$

$$\sqrt{2} = 1.414213562373095e + 00$$

$$e^{10} = 2.202646579480672e + 04$$



WILLIAM KAHAN (\*1933)  
Father IEEE FP-Standard



## Computing With More Digits

- **Hardware:** IEEE-Standard, floating point numbers only 16 digits.
- For more digits use **software**: simulate multiple precision arithmetic.
- **Data structure:** store digits of a multiple precision number in a integer array. In MATLAB use `uint32` (unsigned integers).
- Perform **integer operations** with the array elements.  
In MATLAB e.g. `mod` and `idivide`.
- Example: Division  $14/3 = 4 R 2 = 4\frac{2}{3}$ . In MATLAB:  
`idivide(14, 3) = 4` and `mod(14, 3) = 2`



## Teach Division to a Computer (red: remainder)

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad : \quad 7 \quad = \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 7 \quad 6 \\ 0 \\ \hline 1 \quad 2 \\ 7 \\ \hline 5 \quad 3 \\ 4 \quad 9 \\ \hline 4 \quad 4 \\ 4 \quad 2 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$

Thus we computed

$$\frac{1234}{7} = 176 \quad R = 2$$

## DivideExample.m

## Divide a Multiprecision Number by a Small Integer



## Using a Formula of Machin

$$\pi = 24 \arctan \frac{1}{8} + 8 \arctan \frac{1}{57} + 4 \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

- Check formula with floating point hardware:

```
>> 24*atan(1/8)+8*atan(1/57)+4*atan(1/239)
ans =
3.141592653589793
```

- We have **no** multiple precision function arctan.

**Solution:** compute arctan with Taylor series

$$\frac{d}{dx} \arctan x = \frac{1}{1+x^2} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k x^{2k}, \quad |x| < 1, \quad \text{geom. series}$$

$$\text{By integration } \implies \arctan x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \dots$$



TestArcusT

## Program arctan Function (Test first with FP-arithmetic)

```
function s=ArcusT(p)
% ARCUSST computes the function arctan(1/p) for integer p>1
s=1/p; t=1/p; k=1;
while abs(t)>1e-16*s
    k=k+2; t=-t/p/p;      % update power
    s=s+t/k;              % add term to sum
end

for p=2:2:10
    [ArcusT(p) atan(1/p)]
end
ans = 0.463647609000806 0.463647609000806
ans = 0.244978663126864 0.244978663126864
ans = 0.165148677414627 0.165148677414627
ans = 0.124354994546761 0.124354994546761
ans = 0.099668652491162 0.099668652491162
```



## Multiprecision *arctan*

By comparing with function ArcusT:

- The only variables to become multiprecision numbers are **s** and **t**
- **k** and **p** are simple integer variables
- Operations:
  - Multiprecision addition and subtraction
  - Division of multiprecision number by small integer number
- Terminate summation if multiprecision **t** is all zero



## Addition is simple:

```
function r=Add(imin,s,a);
% ADD adds the multiprecision number a to s without carry. It is
% supposed that s>a and that imin leading components of a are zero
n=length(s);
r=s;
for i=imin+1:n
    r(i)=s(i)+a(i);
end
imin = 3
      1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   0
      0   0   0   6   5   3   7   8   2   1
      1   2   3   10  10  9   14  16  11  1
```

but we need a carry-operation afterwards:

```
function s=Carry(s);
% CARRY normalizes the component of s such that 0 <= s(i) < 10
% and moves the carry to the next component
n=length(s);
for i=n:-1:2
    while s(i)>=10
        s(i)=s(i)-10; s(i-1)=s(i-1)+1;
    end
end
      1   2   4   1   1   0   5   7   1   1
```



## Subtraction

TestSub

We have to be careful, not to compute negative intermediate results.  
`uint32` are **unsigned** integers!

```
function r=Sub(a,b)
% SUB computes r=a-b where a and b are multiprecision numbers
% with a>b.
n=length(a);
r=a;
for i=n:-1:1
    while a(i)<b(i)                      % need to borrow from left
        a(i)=a(i)+10; b(i-1)=b(i-1)+1;
    end
    r(i)=a(i)-b(i);
end
```

$$\begin{array}{r}
 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 5 & 7 & 1 & 1 \\
 - & \underline{\color{red}0} & \underline{\color{red}0} & 4 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 5 & 7 & 2 & 1 \\
 & 2 & 1 & 9 & 9 & 9 & 9 & 9 & 9 & 9 & 0
 \end{array}$$



## Multiplication and Division by Small Integer

- Multiplication

multiply each digit, after that a carry-operation.

$r =$	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
$s = 24$	$r =$	0	0	24	48	72	96	120	144	168	192	216
$s = \text{Carry}(s) =$	0	2	9	6	2	9	6	2	9	3	6	

pay attention to **overflow**: uint32 range: 0 to  $4'294'967'295 = 2^{32} - 1$

- Division: Skip leading zeros like in addition and update  $imin$

$r =$	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	$imin = 2$
$s = r/17 =$	0	0	0	0	7	2	6	2	1	6	4	$imin = 4$



## Division by Small Integer by skipping leading zeros

```
function [s,imin]=Divide(imin,p,s)
% DIVISION divides the multiple precision number s by the integer
% number p. The first imin components of s are zero. imin is updated
% after the division.
n=length(s);
if imin<n                                % if imin=n => s=0
    first=1;
    remainder=s(imin+1);
    for i=imin+1:n
        s(i)=idivide(remainder,p);
        if s(i)==0
            if first                      % update imin
                imin=i;
            end
        else
            first=0;
        end
        if i<n
            remainder=mod(remainder,p)*10+s(i+1);
        end
    end
end
```



## Multiprecision arctan

```
function s=AtanMultPrec(n,p)
% ATANMULTPREC computes n decimal digits of the function
% value s=arctan(1/p) where p>1 is an integer number
s=uint32(zeros(1,n));
s(1)=1;
imin=0; % imin counts leading zeros in t
[s,imin]=Divide(imin,p,s); % s=1/p
t=s; % first term
k=1;
sig=1; % the sign of the term
while imin<n
    k=k+2;
    [t,imin]=Divide(imin,p^2,t); % new nominator of term
    h=Divide(imin,k,t); % division without change of imin
    sig=-sig; % change sign
    if sig<0
        s=Sub(s,h); % subtract or
    else
        s=Add(imin,s,h); % add term h to s
        s=Carry(s);
    end
end
```



## Test of AtanMultPrec

n=20

```
for p=[4,8,20,57,239, 682,1985,12943]
    s=AtanMultPrec(n,p);sprintf('%.1d',s)
    atan(1/p)
end
```

p	AtanMultPrec	atan
4	02449786631268641544	0.244978663126864
8	01243549945467614352	0.124354994546761
20	00499583957219427615	0.049958395721943
57	00175420600574024877	0.017542060057402
239	00041840760020747239	0.004184076002075
682	00014662746090119564	0.001466274609012
1985	00005037782949130856	5.037782949130857e-04
12943	00000772618402233023	7.726184022330237e-05



Compute  $\pi$  with first formula of Størmer:

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 6 \arctan \frac{1}{8} + 2 \arctan \frac{1}{57} + \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

```
function s=Pi(n)
% PI computes n decimal digits of pi using the
% first formula of Stormer.

t1=24*AtanMultPrec(n,8);           % generate the 3 terms
t2=8*AtanMultPrec(n,57);
t3=4*AtanMultPrec(n,239);
s=t1;
s=Add(1,s,t2);                   % add the terms
s=Add(1,s,t3);
s=Carry(s);
```



Stoermer1

## Results

```
>> tic; s=Pi(1000); toc,sprintf('%01d',s)
```

Elapsed time is 28.777756 seconds.

ans =

```
3141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375105820974944
59230781640628620899862803482534211706798214808651328230664709
38446095505822317253594081284811174502841027019385211055596446
22948954930381964428810975665933446128475648233786783165271201
90914564856692346034861045432664821339360726024914127372458700
66063155881748815209209628292540917153643678925903600113305305
48820466521384146951941511609433057270365759591953092186117381
93261179310511854807446237996274956735188575272489122793818301
19491298336733624406566430860213949463952247371907021798609437
02770539217176293176752384674818467669405132000568127145263560
82778577134275778960917363717872146844090122495343014654958537
10507922796892589235420199561121290219608640344181598136297747
71309960518707211349999998372978049951059731732816096318595024
45945534690830264252230825334468503526193118817101000313783875
28865875332083814206171776691473035982534904287554687311595628
63882353787593751957781857780532171226806613001927876611195909
```

2164~~19964~~

Maple

216420199

s=Pi(1020)

21642019893809525720106548920



- Størmer, second formula

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 3 \arctan \frac{1}{4} + \arctan \frac{1}{20} + \arctan \frac{1}{1985}$$

```
function s=Pi2(n)
% PI2 computes n decimal digits of pi using the
% second Stoermer formula
s=12*AtanMultPrec(n,4);
t2=4*AtanMultPrec(n,20);
t3=4*AtanMultPrec(n,1985);
s=Add(1,s,t2);
s=Add(1,s,t3);
s=Carry(s);

>> tic,s=Pi2(1000); toc, sprintf('%01d',s)
Elapsed time is 37.637790 seconds.
...216420196
```



- Størmer, third formula

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 44 \arctan \frac{1}{57} + 7 \arctan \frac{1}{239} - 12 \arctan \frac{1}{682} + 24 \arctan \frac{1}{12943}$$

```
function s=Pi3(n)
% PI3 computes n decimal digits of pi using the
% third Stoermer formula
s=176*AtanMultPrec(n,57);
t2=28*AtanMultPrec(n,239);
t3=96*AtanMultPrec(n,12943);
s=Add(1,s,t2);
s=Add(1,s,t3);
s=Carry(s);
t4=48*AtanMultPrec(n,682);
s=Sub(s,t4);

>> tic,s=Pi3(1000); toc, sprintf('%01d',s)
Elapsed time is 21.987254 seconds.
...216419244
```



- Machin

$$\pi = 16 \arctan \frac{1}{5} - 4 \arctan \frac{1}{239}$$

```
function s=machin(n)
% MACHIN computes n decimal digits of pi using the
% formula Machin
s=16*AtanMultPrec(n,5);      % generate the 2 terms
t=4*AtanMultPrec(n,239);
s=Sub(s,t);
s=Carry(s);

>> tic,s=machin(1000); toc, sprintf('%01d',s)
Elapsed time is 25.225382 seconds.
...216420124
```



## Latest News

- Check the web page of **Boris Gourévitch**  
[www.pi314.net/eng/index.php](http://www.pi314.net/eng/index.php) **The world of  $\pi$**   
He cites Kanada's 1 241 100 000 000 digit record of 2002  
(1.2 trillion digits)
- Newer results by **Alexander J. Yee & Shigeru Kondo** on  
[www.numberworld.org/misc\\_runs/pi-5t/details.html](http://www.numberworld.org/misc_runs/pi-5t/details.html)
  - August 2, 2010: 5 trillion (=5000 billions) Digits of Pi
  - October 17, 2011: record improved to **10 trillion =  $10^{13}$  digits.**  
(Printed would fill 2 million books with 1'000 pages and 5'000 digits per page.)



## Appendix: Derivation of Machin Formula

We use the rule for **addition of arctan**

$$\arctan(u) + \arctan(v) = \arctan\left(\frac{u+v}{1-uv}\right) \pmod{\pi}, \quad uv \neq 1.$$

it is derived from the tangent addition formula

$$\tan(\alpha + \beta) = \frac{\tan(\alpha) + \tan(\beta)}{1 - \tan(\alpha)\tan(\beta)}$$

by letting

$$\alpha = \arctan(u), \quad \beta = \arctan(v).$$



$$\begin{aligned}2 \arctan \frac{1}{5} &= \arctan \frac{1}{5} + \arctan \frac{1}{5} \\&= \arctan \frac{1 \times 5 + 1 \times 5}{5 \times 5 - 1 \times 1} = \arctan \frac{10}{24} = \arctan \frac{5}{12}\end{aligned}$$

Iterating:

$$\begin{aligned}4 \arctan \frac{1}{5} &= 2 \arctan \frac{1}{5} + 2 \arctan \frac{1}{5} = \arctan \frac{5}{12} + \arctan \frac{5}{12} \\&= \arctan \frac{5 \times 12 + 5 \times 12}{12 \times 12 - 5 \times 5} = \arctan \frac{120}{119}\end{aligned}$$



Using  $\frac{\pi}{4} = \arctan(1)$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} 4 \arctan \frac{1}{5} - \frac{\pi}{4} &= 4 \arctan \frac{1}{5} - \arctan \frac{1}{1} = 4 \arctan \frac{1}{5} + \arctan \frac{-1}{1} \\ &= \arctan \frac{120}{119} + \arctan \frac{-1}{1} = \arctan \frac{120 \times 1 + (-1) \times 119}{119 \times 1 - 120 \times (-1)} \\ &= \arctan \frac{1}{239} \end{aligned}$$

Thus

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