Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

Volume 1 | Issue 2

July 2011

Zeroes

Florin Diacu
University of Victoria

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm>

Recommended Citation

Florin Diacu, "Zeroes," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 1 Issue 2 (July 2011), pages 115-. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.201102.13. Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol1/iss2/13>

©2011 by the authors. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License.

JHM is an open access bi-annual journal sponsored by the Claremont Center for the Mathematical Sciences and published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2159-8118 | <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/>

The editorial staff of JHM works hard to make sure the scholarship disseminated in JHM is accurate and upholds professional ethical guidelines. However the views and opinions expressed in each published manuscript belong exclusively to the individual contributor(s). The publisher and the editors do not endorse or accept responsibility for them. See <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/policies.html> for more information.

Zeroes

Florin Diacu
diacu@uvic.ca

Monomials are a simple species
endowed with odd or even symmetry.
Zero is their only zero, unless
they play the all-or-nothing game.

Connect them and polynomials emerge,
tame rivers winding in a marsh.
Non-zero zeroes blossom
where the meanders touch the abscissa,
that backbone, that needle of steel.

Away from this garden
chaos abounds.
Zeroes may squeeze together
or spread ad infinitum
or be impossible to grasp.

But when zero is a zero,
the graph kisses the cross of Descartes,
the origin,
the only spot
where plus and minus
make love.