

5-1-2001

Mathematical Constance (A Poem Dedicated to Constance Reid)

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Recommended Citation

Benjamin, Arthur T. (2001). Mathematical Constance. *American Mathematical Monthly*, 108(5): 423.

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Mathematical Constance (A Poem Dedicated to Constance Reid)

By Arthur Benjamin

I think that I shall never see
A constant lovelier than e ,
Whose digits are too great too state,
They're 2.71828...
And e has such amazing features
It's loved by all (but mostly teachers).
With all of e 's great properties
Most integrals are done with ... ease.
Theorems are proved by fools like me
But only Euler could make an e .

I suppose, though, if I had to try
To choose another constant, I
Might offer i or ϕ or π .
But none of those would satisfy.
Of all the constants I know well,
There's only one that rings the Bell.
Not π , not i , nor even e .
In fact, my Constance is a she.
It's Constance Reid, I would not fool ya'
With Books like *Hilbert*, *Courant*, and *Julia*.
Of all the constants you will need,
There's only one that you should Reid.

The American Mathematical Monthly, Vol. 108, No. 5, p. 423, May 2001.