

## Computational Compulsions

Martin Cohen

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



Part of the [Other Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Cohen, M. "Computational Compulsions," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 4 Issue 2 (July 2014), pages 137-137. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.201402.14 . Available at:  
<https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol4/iss2/14>

©2014 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.

# Computational Compulsions

Martin Cohen

mjcohen@acm.org

---

I know I must find the square root of two.  
Don't know the reason for what I must do.  
I know it's irrational, but I must see it through  
Until I can find that square root of two.

And then I must find the cosine of  $e$ .  
I know it's about  $-.91173$ .  
with a mysterious air of transcendental  
that infuses the scent of the cosine of  $e$ .

On Gamma! On Bessel! On functions hyperbolic!  
My mind has a compulsion to caper and frolic  
to numerical rhythms erratically systolic  
without the aid of anything mind-bending or alcoholic.

I don't want to stop—it's much too enjoyable,  
although it might render me quite unemployable.  
Perhaps I should try something girl and boyable  
or launch some verbiage that is quite undeployable.

Well!

It seems I have become nonsensible  
reaching for meanings indefensible.  
When verses go meta  
it's a sign that you betta  
end with a limerick incomprehensible.