

Math Mole

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thursday

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- Mathematician of the Day
- Quotes of the Day
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- Today's Editor: John
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Quotes from von Neumann:

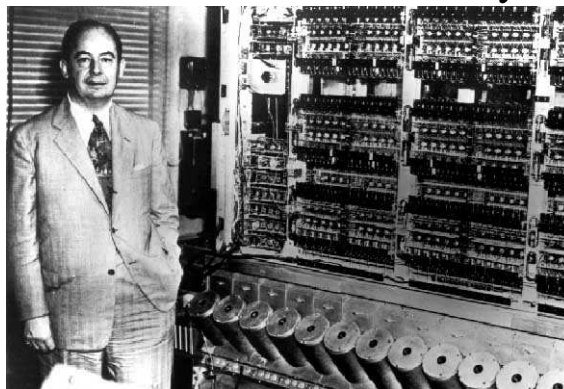
Anyone who considers arithmetical methods of producing random digits is, of course, in a state of sin.

In mathematics, you never understand things; you just get used to them.

Puzzle1: The sum of the reciprocals of two real numbers is -1, and the sum of their cubes is 4. What are the numbers?

Puzzle2: What is the 1000th digit to the right of the decimal point in the decimal representation of $(1+\sqrt{2})^{3000}$?

Mathematician of the Day



John von Neumann, 1903–1957

- As a child von Neumann showed he had an incredible memory. At the age of six, he was able to exchange jokes with his father in classical Greek.
- He published a definition of ordinal numbers when he was 20, the definition is the one used today.
- By his mid-twenties, von Neumann's fame had spread worldwide in the mathematical community. At academic conferences, he would find himself pointed out as a young genius.
- John von Neumann was the mathematician of the 20th century perhaps with the greatest impact beyond mathematics. Born in Budapest in 1903, he laid the mathematical foundation of quantum mechanics in his twenties, in Göttingen. He was an honorary member of the Eötvös Society. He became professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, and went on to design the electronically programmable computer. He developed the theory of games. He received the first Fermi Medal, and later the Freedom Medal.

Info From: http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Von_Neumann.html

Today:

Orthogonality and projection in support of least squares (6.3-6.4)

Friday: Change of basis (6.5) and beginning of eigenvalues and eigenvectors (7.1)