

The Music of Pi

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This year, on Pi Day (3/14), a U.S. district court ruled on competing claims between two musical compositions based on the decimal digits of pi. While ten is an arbitrary base, chosen for the accidental quantity of our fingers, the twelve notes of the standard Western chromatic scale are twelve due to the continued fraction expansion of $\sqrt{2}$. Hence a more natural base in which to express π musically is duodecimal, in which

$$\pi = 3.184809493B918664573A6211BB151551A05729290A7809 \dots$$

