

Happy Edward Goodwin Day, aka the more sensible π -day !!!

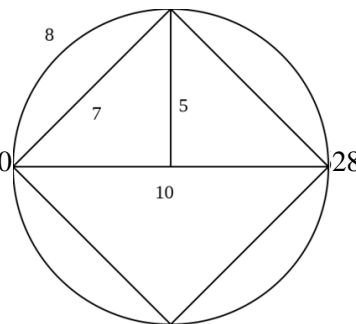
Fed up with computers not being able to represent the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter precisely? Sick and tired of having to work with an infinite number of digits to satisfy mathematicians? Still struggling to square a circle (constructing a square with the area of a circle by using only a finite number of steps with a compass and straightedge)? Surely there must be a better way. There is! What if we, bear with me now, **make the number π equal to 3.2** and not a cumbersome 3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510... You see? The sheer abundance of digits is just not working in this Latex template at all, messing up the layout completely.

A brilliant physician named Edward Johnson Goodwin proposed his Indiana Pi Bill in 1897 at the Indiana General Assembly [Wik99]. ChatGPT [Ope21] summarises this as changing π to a very convenient 3.2. No more, no less. This solves all the above-mentioned problems.



Figure 1: Edward Goodwin proposing to change π to a more than reasonable 3.2.

Unfortunately, it never became law due to the intervention of nitpicky party pooper professor Clarence Abiathar Waldo, see also Figure 2.b, who happened to be present in the legislature on the day it went up for a vote [Num13].



(a) Goodwin's model circle. It has a diameter of 10 and a stated circumference of 32 vs 31.41...; the chord of 90° has length stated as 7 vs 7.07...



(b) Clarence Abiathar Waldo being in a bad mood deciding to ruin everybody's day by insisting that maths "should make sense".

Figure 2: Common sense vs rigour

Today, 2 March, we celebrate this wonderful proposal. It is known as the more sensible π -day. If mathematicians are content with rounding π to 3.14 just to be able to celebrate π on 14 March, then surely it makes more sense to round it to 3.2 and benefit from the nice properties illustrated in Figure 2.a.

In summary, come on man [Unt21].

References

- [Num13] NUMBERPHILE: *How Pi was nearly changed to 3.2.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFNjA9LOPsg&ab_channel=Numberphile,2013
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- [Wik99] WIKIPEDIA: *Indiana Pi Bill.* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana_Pi_Bill. Version: 1999