Re: Recurring decimal − international question

Source: http://sci.tech−archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2006−02/msg01234.html

- *From*: Andy Spragg <sparge@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>

- *Date*: Wed, 8 Feb 2006 01:08:11 +0000 (UTC)

On Tue, 07 Feb 2006 22:43:36 GMT, Gerry Myerson wrote:

> In article <1139349781.558685.277850@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,
> "Randy Poe" <poespam−trap@xxxxxxxxx> wrote:
>
> > I've occasionally seen the parenthesis notation. Never
> > the dot. How would you indicate more than one repeating
> > digit with the dot notation?
>
> By using 2 dots, one each over the first & last digits
> in the repeating part.

That's the way I was taught in the UK. I hadn't come across the parenthesis notation, but I'm interested to hear that it exists, because I re−invented it myself recently. I got interested in recurring fractions with long period, and wanted to write a little program to calculate an arbitrary fraction in an arbitrary (1) number base and produce the answer as a character string. To do it, I had to be able to leave the digits alone and express the notion of recurringness with other characters. Having invented it, I much prefer it now.

Andy

(1) well, quasi−arbitrary. I restricted it to less than base 36 for obvious alphanumeric reasons. Although with just−acquired hindsight, base 62 would have been more fun.

−−

spargeatbtinternetdotcom

I think therefore I am what I eat

.