

Fun with π (Pi): A Potpourri of Pilish Algorithms

Since its first documented appearance about four millennia ago, the number π has become not just an oft-encountered constant in mathematics and physics but a cultural phenomenon, with numerous appearances in books, artworks, TV shows, and films. This talk will discuss a handful of these somewhat recreational aspects of π , each of which turns out to have non-trivial connections to serious mathematics and/or computer algorithms. Among our topics will be curious features of π 's digits, memorizing the digits using a human-based algorithm, π in graphic design, the most beautiful digit-computing algorithm, and the wonders of Pilish: a constrained dialect of English in which the number of letters in successive words matches the digits of π .

Michael Keith is a retired software engineer who was employed at Bell Labs, the David Sarnoff Research Center, Intel, and a small startup (Ambric), focusing primarily on computer graphics and audio/video compression algorithms. His abiding interest in the number π started with Martin Gardner's column in the July 1960 *Scientific American* and grew over the years to include many facets of this fascinating number, such as those that will be discussed in this presentation. Mike's 2010 book of stories and poems, *Not a Wake*, is the only book ever published written entirely in Pilish.

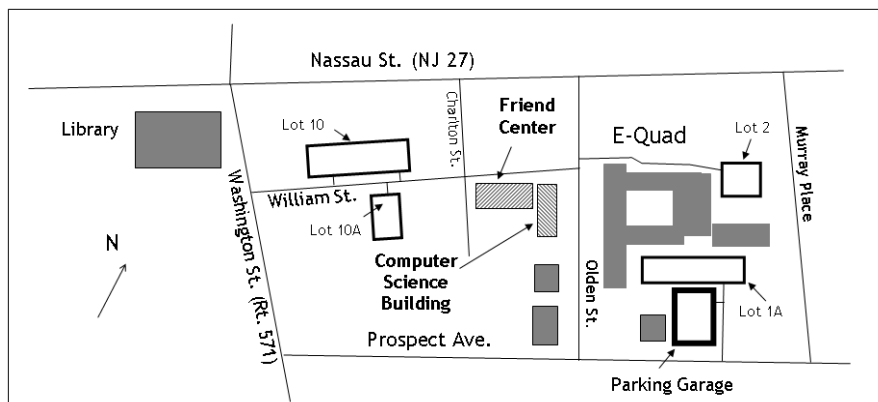
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025, 8:00pm EDT
Place: **HYBRID MEETING** (both in-person and online)
In Person: Princeton University Computer Science Building
Small Auditorium, Room CS 105
35 Olden Street, Princeton NJ
How to register for the online meeting:

- Send email to **PrincetonACM@gmail.com**
- OR Register on **Meetup.com**
(<http://meetup.com/IEEE-Princeton-Central-Jersey-Section>)

Information: Dennis Mancl (908) 285-1066
On-line info: <http://PrincetonACM.acm.org>

All Princeton ACM / IEEE Computer Society meetings are open to the public. Students and their parents are welcome. There is no admission charge, and refreshments are served.

A pre-meeting dinner is held at 5:45 p.m. at Applebee's (3330 US 1, Lawrenceville, near Quakerbridge Mall). Please send email to princetonacm@gmail.com in advance if you plan to attend the dinner.



Parking: After 4pm on weekdays, public parking is permitted in most of the university parking lots near the Computer Science Building. See the Visitor Parking link on the Princeton Transportation website, <http://www.princeton.edu/transportation/visitors.html>, for a summary of Princeton's policies. On-street parking on Olden, William, and Charlton requires paying the electronic meters until 8pm.