

## More Fun With $\pi$ (Pi): Algorithms and Recreations

Since its first documented appearance about four millennia ago, the number  $\pi$  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. In this talk we will present a carefully curated selection of serious and recreational algorithms related to  $\pi$ . Among our topics will be: elegant formulas for  $\pi$ , the current state-of-the-art algorithm for computing many digits, computing  $\pi$  with very small programs, clever approximations for  $\pi$ , and a deep dive into Polish: a constrained dialect of English in which the number of letters in successive words matches the digits of  $\pi$ .

**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  $\pi$  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 Polish. Mike also hosts a webpage (<http://www.cadaeic.net>) with links to many useful facts and resources about  $\pi$ .

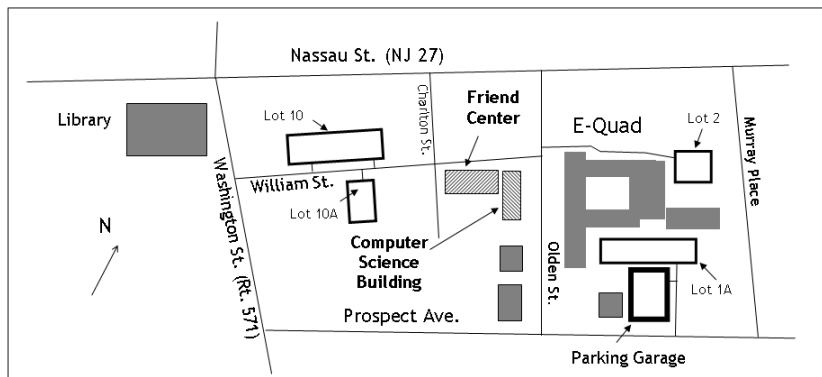
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026, 8:00pm EDT  
Place: **HYBRID MEETING** (both in-person and online)  
In Person: **\*\*UPDATED LOCATION\*\***  
Princeton University Friend Center, Room 004 (lower level)  
How to get the Zoom link for the online meeting:

- Send email to [PrincetonACM@gmail.com](mailto:PrincetonACM@gmail.com)
- OR look up the meeting on [Meetup.com](https://meetup.com/IEEE-Princeton-Central-Jersey-Section) (<https://meetup.com/IEEE-Princeton-Central-Jersey-Section>)
- OR visit <https://manclswx.com/acmzoom.html>

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.

**Pre-meeting dinner:** For the March meeting, the pre-meeting dinner site is "to be announced." Please send email to [princetonacm@gmail.com](mailto: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.