

PIDTW

Display



(HP-41CX, Hewlett Packard 1983 and DM41X, [SwissMicros](#) 2020)

Overview¹

The PIDTW program can calculate the decimals of PI according to the method by [Beeler et al. in 1972](#). It approximates PI that gives an additional bit of precision with 14 terms giving 4 decimal digits of precision each time because $2^{14} > 10^4$. Therefore $2800 = 14 \cdot 200$ terms are used. The author of a very compact C program, Dik T. Winter (hence DTW in the program name), wrote the following 160 characters' code:

```
int a=10000,b,c=2800,d,e,f[2801],g;main(){for(;b<c;)f[b++]=a/5;
for(;d=0,g=c*2;c-=14,printf("%.4d",e+d/a),e=d%a)for(b=c;d+=f[b]*a,
f[b]=d%--g,d/=g--,--b;d*=b);}
```

which can be reformatted to something more readable:

```
int a=10000,b,c=2800,d,e,f[2801],g;
int main() {
    b=0;
    while(b<c) {
        b=b+1;
        f[b]=a/5;
    }
    d=0;
    g=c*2;
    while(g>0) {
        b=c;
        while((b>0)) {
            d=d*b+f[b]*a;
            g=g-1;
            f[b]=d%g;
            d=d/g;
            g=g-1;
            b=b-1;
        }
        c=c-14;
        printf("%.4d", e+d/a);
        e=d%a;
        g=c*2;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

which gives the terms as 4 digits with tens to hundreds of iterations around the *variable-g-while-loop* and hundreds to thousands of iterations around the *variable-b-while-loop*. For this program to

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understand its feasibility, the requirements for the array size and the number of iterations were analysed before writing a program for the HP-41CX. It turns out that for each decimal it requires 3.5 times as many terms as well as array size. For example, for 800 decimals, it requires 2800 terms to be calculated and an array with 2800 values. The number of loops for b increases exponentially which, together with the required memory for the array f[...] brings limitations due to the capability of the calculator. Having mentioned that, it is feasible to determine the decimals up to 120. From the C program, it has been verified that the values in array f[...] are positive integers that remain under 10000. The solution for storing and updating array f[...] is found in using an ASCII file, thereby converting the 4 digits number in one pair of ASCII converted bytes. Each number in f[...] requires therefore 2 bytes. The alternative of storing each number in a register would require too much memory. The design of the program is explained later.

Decimals	Array f[...]	Bytes	Records	Bytes/Record	Registers	g-Loops	b-Loops
40	140	280	02	140	41	10	770
80	280	560	04	140	81	20	2940
120	420	840	04	210	121	30	6510
160	560	1120	05	224	161	40	11480
200	700	1400	07	200	202	50	17850
240	840	1680	07	240	242	60	25620
280	980	1960	10	196	282	70	34790
320	1120	2240	10	224	322	80	45360
360	1260	2520	12	210	362	90	57330
400	1400	2800	14	200	403	100	70700
440	1540	3080	14	220	443	110	85470
480	1680	3360	14	240	483	120	101640
520	1820	3640	20	182	523	130	119210
560	1960	3920	20	196	563	140	138180
600	2100	4200	20	210	603	150	158550
640	2240	4480	20	224	643	160	180320
680	2380	4760	20	238	683	170	203490
720	2520	5040	24	210	724	180	228060
760	2660	5320	28	190	765	190	254030
800	2800	5600	25	224	804	200	281400

The values of PI are displayed in the table below for reference. This grouping of 4 decimals is how the program will show the results. The rows up to 120 decimals have been marked in both tables.

1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	Decimals
3141	5926	5358	9793	2384	6264	3383	2795	0288	4197	40
1693	9937	5105	8209	7494	4592	3078	1640	6286	2089	80
9862	8034	8253	4211	7067	9821	4808	6513	2823	0664	120
7093	8446	0955	0582	2317	2535	9408	1284	8111	7450	160
2841	0270	1938	5211	555	9644	6229	4895	4930	3819	200
6442	8810	9756	6593	3446	1284	7564	8233	7867	8316	240
5271	2019	0914	5648	5669	2346	0348	6104	5432	6648	280
2133	9360	7260	2491	4127	3724	5870	660	6315	5881	320
7488	1520	9209	6282	9254	0917	1536	4367	8925	9036	360
0011	3305	3054	8820	4665	2138	4146	9519	4151	1609	400
4330	5727	0365	7595	9195	3092	1861	1738	1932	6117	440
9310	5118	5480	7446	2379	9627	4956	7351	8857	5272	480
4891	2279	3818	3011	9491	2983	3673	3624	4065	6643	520
0860	2139	4946	3952	2473	7190	7021	7986	0943	7027	560
7053	9217	1762	9317	6752	3846	7481	8467	6694	0513	600
2000	5681	2714	5263	5608	2778	5771	3427	5778	9609	640
1736	3717	8721	4684	4090	1224	9534	3014	6549	5853	680
7105	792	2796	8925	8923	5420	1995	6112	1290	2196	720
0864	344	1815	9813	6297	7477	1309	9605	1870	7211	760
3499	9999	8372	9780	4995	1059	7317	3281	6096	3185	800

Design

The key problem with this algorithm is handling the values of the array f[.]. The solution built for this program is to store each value as ASCII bytes in a file. One file record can store up to 254 bytes which implies a maximum 127 values of f[.]. To make the process repeatable, the number of bytes must be even and fit precisely in each defined number of records (without empty space at the end). In the first table the best fit of number of records and number of bytes per record is given. This is the basis for storing all values of f[.]. As this is not linear, the number of records is retrieved from 2 alpha-based lookup vectors in lines 15-20. These have been marked with dotted lines in the table.

The values of f[.] are stored in the ASCII file PIF via routine O5 (line 154) and retrieved via routine O6 (line 178). To make these routines fast a number **wxyz** is encrypted and decrypted as follows:

- Encryption of **f[.] = wxyz** starts with splitting it into two numbers **wx** and **yz**
- To avoid the NULL character, 100 is added to **wx** and 1 is added to **yz**
- The ASCII characters are concatenated to the Alpha register: **CHR(wx+100) & CHR(yz + 1)**
- *Decryption* to get **f[.]** is the reverse process: **f[.] = VAL(wx) - 100 + VAL (yz) - 1**

The initialisation of f[.] with value 2000 is a sequential process thereby creating records and appending characters as per definition of the number of records and bytes per records from the lookup vector.

For retrieving and updating the value of f[.] the pointer depends on the value of b. This calculation is done from line 89 onwards and is based on the algorithm. Please note that the integer part points to the record and the decimals (division by 1000) point to the first character of the two-byte value of f[.]:

$$int\left(\frac{(b-1)}{(bytesperrecord/2)}\right) + 2 \times \frac{(b-1) \bmod (bytesperrecord/2)}{1000}$$



Several tests have been conducted to verify this pointer calculation process with sample values:

Decimals	Array size	Bytes	Records	Bytes/Record	Pointer value for specific b															
					1	2	70	71	140	142	199	201	210	223	240	279	280	419	421	2800
40	140	280	2	140	0,000	0,002	0,138	1,000	1,138	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR
80	280	560	4	140	0,000	0,002	0,138	1,000	1,138	2,002	2,116	2,120	2,138	3,024	3,058	3,136	3,138	MAXERR	MAXERR	MAXERR
120	420	840	4	210	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,068	1,072	1,186	1,190	1,208	2,024	2,058	2,136	2,138	3,206	MAXERR	MAXERR
160	560	1120	5	224	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,054	1,058	1,172	1,176	1,194	1,220	2,030	2,108	2,110	3,164	3,168	MAXERR
200	700	1400	7	200	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,078	1,082	1,196	2,000	2,018	2,044	2,078	2,156	2,158	4,036	4,040	MAXERR
240	840	1680	7	240	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,038	1,042	1,156	1,160	1,178	1,204	1,238	2,076	2,078	3,116	3,120	MAXERR
280	980	1960	10	196	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,082	1,086	2,004	2,008	2,026	2,052	2,086	2,164	2,166	4,052	4,056	MAXERR
320	1120	2240	10	224	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,054	1,058	1,172	1,176	1,194	1,220	2,030	2,108	2,110	3,164	3,168	MAXERR
360	1260	2520	12	210	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,068	1,072	1,186	1,190	1,208	2,024	2,058	2,136	2,138	3,206	4,000	MAXERR
400	1400	2800	14	200	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,078	1,082	1,196	2,000	2,018	2,044	2,078	2,156	2,158	4,036	4,040	MAXERR
440	1540	3080	14	220	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,058	1,062	1,176	1,180	1,198	2,004	2,038	2,116	2,118	3,176	3,180	MAXERR
480	1680	3360	14	240	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,038	1,042	1,156	1,160	1,178	1,204	1,238	2,076	2,078	3,116	3,120	MAXERR
520	1820	3640	20	182	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,096	1,100	2,032	2,036	2,054	2,080	2,114	3,010	3,012	4,108	4,112	MAXERR
560	1960	3920	20	196	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,082	1,086	2,004	2,008	2,026	2,052	2,086	2,164	2,166	4,052	4,056	MAXERR
600	2100	4200	20	210	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,068	1,072	1,186	1,190	1,208	2,024	2,058	2,136	2,138	3,206	4,000	MAXERR
640	2240	4480	20	224	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,054	1,058	1,172	1,176	1,194	1,220	2,030	2,108	2,110	3,164	3,168	MAXERR
680	2380	4760	20	238	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,040	1,044	1,158	1,162	1,180	1,206	2,002	2,080	2,082	3,122	3,126	MAXERR
720	2520	5040	24	210	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,068	1,072	1,186	1,190	1,208	2,024	2,058	2,136	2,138	3,206	4,000	MAXERR
760	2660	5320	28	190	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,088	1,092	2,016	2,020	2,038	2,064	2,098	2,176	2,178	4,076	4,080	MAXERR
800	2800	5600	25	224	0,000	0,002	0,138	0,140	1,054	1,058	1,172	1,176	1,194	1,220	2,030	2,108	2,110	3,164	3,168	24,222

Because the GETREC instruction moves the pointer to the end of the copied part record the pointer must be set twice, for decryption and encryption (after updating f[.]). The pointer is calculated once and stored in R09. In the link to the program package (below) the program listing is also provided with comments.

Runtime

Running the program is more of a nostalgic interest because the performance is extremely low due to the number of loops (see first table) that needs to be handled. Simulations using the HP-41CX emulator V41 on maximum speed and turbo show that the runtime varies from 15 minutes, 1.5 hours to 4.5 hours for determining 40, 80 respectively 120 decimals:

Decimals	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	hh:mm:ss	
Lapse Time 40	0:02:58	0:02:19	0:02:09	0:01:57	0:01:45	0:01:30	0:01:15	0:00:58	0:00:40	0:00:21	40	0:15:52
												0:15:52
Lapse Time 80	0:09:27	0:07:07	0:06:57	0:06:44	0:06:31	0:06:17	0:06:01	0:05:44	0:05:25	0:05:05	40	1:05:18
	0:04:44	0:04:21	0:03:58	0:04:10	0:03:06	0:02:38	0:02:10	0:01:39	0:01:08	0:00:03	80	0:27:57
												1:33:15
Lapse Time 120	0:18:57	0:14:11	0:14:01	0:13:47	0:13:37	0:13:20	0:13:04	0:12:47	0:12:28	0:12:08	40	2:18:20
	0:11:46	0:11:24	0:10:59	0:10:35	0:10:06	0:09:39	0:09:09	0:08:39	0:08:07	0:07:34	80	1:37:58
	0:06:59	0:06:22	0:05:46	0:05:08	0:04:28	0:03:46	0:03:03	0:02:20	0:01:34	0:00:48	120	0:40:14
												4:36:32

Compared to the HP-41CX's performance, these runtimes could easily be multiplied by a factor 4.

Example

KEYSTROKES	DISPLAY	COMMENTS
		Determine PI with 40 decimals
[XEQ] [ALPHA] PIDTW [ALPHA]	NR.Π = 7	Number of decimals required (in multiples 40)
40 [R/S]	Π 1 = 3 14 1	Enter 40; '3' and decimals 2-4 of PI shown
[R/S]	Π 5 = 5926	Decimals 5-8
[R/S]	Π 9 = 5358	Decimals 9-12
[R/S]	Π 13 = 9793	Decimals 13-16
[R/S]	Π 17 = 2384	Decimals 17-20
[R/S]	Π 21 = 6264	Decimals 21-24
[R/S]	Π 25 = 3383	Decimals 25-28
[R/S]	Π 29 = 2795	Decimals 29-32
[R/S]	Π 33 = 0288	Decimals 33-36
[R/S]	Π 37 = 4 197	Decimals 37-50
[R/S]	NR.Π = 7	Provide number of decimals, e.g. 120
120 [R/S]	Π 1 = 3 14 1	'3' and decimals 2-4 are shown of PI
	...	Continue using R/S to display decimals 5-116
[R/S]	Π 117 = 0664	Decimals 117-120
[R/S]	NR.Π = 7	Enter excessive number of decimals, e.g. 800
800 [R/S]	80 100000	Program stops if there is insufficient room

Program Listing

01 ■LBL "PIDTW"	53 CF 29	105 RCL 04	157 RCL 11
02 CLX	54 RND	106 *	158 /
03 STO 03	55 EMROOM	107 RCL 05	159 INT
04 STO 08	56 X<>Y	108 RCL 07	160 LASTX
05 100	57 X>Y?	109 *	161 FRC
06 STO 11	58 GTO 04	110 +	162 RCL 11
07 STO 04	59 CRFLAS	111 STO 07	163 *
08 ST* 04	60 RCL 01	112 1	164 1
09 11	61 STO 05	113 ST- 10	165 +
10 "NR.D=?"	62 2000	114 RCL 07	166 XTOA
11 PROMPT	63 SF 00	115 RCL 10	167 X<>Y
12 STO 00	64 CLA	116 MOD	168 RCL 11
13 20	65 XEQ 05	117 XEQ 05	169 +
14 /	66 ■LBL 00	118 RCL 07	170 XTOA
15 "14142020202020"	67 RCL 02	119 RCL 10	171 FS?C 00
16 >"242825"	68 2	120 /	172 RTN
17 X<Y?	69 /	121 INT	173 2
18 "02040405070710"	70 STO 07	122 STO 07	174 DELCHR
19 X<Y?	71 INSREC	123 1	175 RDN
20 >"101214"	72 DSE 07	124 ST- 10	176 INSCHR
21 2	73 ■LBL 01	125 DSE 05	177 RTN
22 -	74 APPCHR	126 GTO 03	178 ■LBL 06
23 AROT	75 DSE 07	127 RCL 07	179 XEQ 07
24 ATOX	76 GTO 01	128 RCL 04	180 GETREC
25 48	77 DSE 05	129 /	181 ATOX
26 -	78 GTO 00	130 RCL 08	182 1
27 10	79 ■LBL 02	131 +	183 -
28 *	80 RCL 06	132 INT	184 ATOX
29 ATOX	81 STO 05	133 "D"	185 RCL 11
30 48	82 2	134 ARCL 03	186 -
31 -	83 *	135 >"="	187 LASTX
32 +	84 STO 10	136 RCL 11	188 *
33 STO 01	85 X<=0?	137 X>Y?	189 +
34 RCL 00	86 GTO 04	138 >"0"	190 RTN
35 3,5	87 ISG 03	139 10	191 ■LBL 07
36 *	88 ■LBL 03	140 *	192 CLA
37 STO 06	89 RCL 05	141 X>Y?	193 RCL 09
38 2	90 1	142 >"0"	194 SEEKPTA
39 *	91 -	143 ARCL Y	195 X<>Y
40 RCL 01	92 STO Y	144 PROMPT	196 RTN
41 /	93 RCL 02	145 3	197 ■LBL 04
42 STO 02	94 2	146 ST+ 03	198 FIX 5
43 LASTX	95 /	147 RCL 07	199 SF 29
44 *	96 ST/ Z	148 RCL 04	200 SF 25
45 1	97 MOD	149 MOD	201 "PIF"
46 +	98 500	150 STO 08	202 PURFL
47 7	99 /	151 14	203 CF 25
48 /	100 X<>Y	152 ST- 06	204 END
49 0,49	101 INT	153 GTO 02	
50 +	102 +	154 ■LBL 05	
51 XEQ 04	103 STO 09	155 FC? 00	
52 FIX 0	104 XEQ 06	156 XEQ 07	

(349 bytes)

Registers, Labels and Flags

REGISTERS	COMMENTS	LABELS	COMMENTS
R00	Number of decimals	LBL00	Init f[b] and create new record
R01	Number of records	LBL01	Init f[b] and append characters
R02	Number of bytes per record	LBL02	Overall g loop
R03	Decimal group indication	LBL03	Loop b inside overall loop g
R04	Variable a=10000	LBL04	Delete text file, program end
R05	Variable b	LBL05	Store 4-digit value f[b]
R06	Variable c	LBL06	Retrieve 4-digit value f[b]
R07	Variable d	LBL07	Set file pointer for b for f[b]
R08	Variable e		
R09	File pointer to f[b]		
R10	Variable g		
R11	Constant value 100		

FLAGS	COMMENTS
00	First time access for file f[b] to indicate that pointer not needed
25	Ignore error to delete text file for f[b]
29	Hide decimal separator for display

References

Website: [How to compute digits of pi?](#) by Lopez-Ortiz

Website: [Computing Pi in C](#) by Lynn

Website Wolframs: [Pi Formulas](#) by Weisstein

Website: [The BBP Algorithm for Pi](#) by Baily (2016)

Website: [A Brief History of Pi](#) at math.com

Website: [An efficient determination of the coefficients in the Chudnovskys' series for 1/Pi](#) by Milla (2020)

HP41 program: [560 digits of Pi calculated on the HP-41](#) by J-F Garnier

HP41 program: [Example program: Deep Pi](#) by Fabrice Bellard (1997)

Website MoHPC: [Pi Decimals calculation on HP41c](#) at hpmuseum.org

Downloads

The RAW/TXT format of the program is available via the website: [PIDTW](#) (in zip file).