

DEAR EDITOR,

A Fortuitous Value

On obtaining his brand new calculator, a sixth form student decided to enter a complicated-looking 'random' calculation, to try out the functionality, and was astonished to find that dividing his answer by 1 000 000 was all that was needed to give him π correct to 4 significant figures:

$$\frac{7\sqrt{14} \times 6^9}{44} \times \frac{7\sqrt{3} + 3\sqrt{12}}{43} \div 1\,000\,000 = 3.141276453\dots$$

The class began trying to replicate this intentionally and discussing how unlikely and fortuitous they thought this was, given the sort of things one might be likely to enter in these circumstances.

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