

BELGIAN MATHEMATICAL
SOCIETY

Comité National de Mathématique CNM



NCW Nationaal Comité voor Wiskunde



**BMS-NCM NEWS: the Newsletter of the
Belgian Mathematical Society and the
National Committee for Mathematics**

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BMS-NCM NEWS

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Pop music goes ‘mathematics’

Kate Bush *Aerial*, 2CD’s Rock/Pop, EMI, Released 07/11/2005



After 12 years Kate Bush released a new album. Actually it is a double cd, called *Aerial*. And, you may not believe it, but she has a Pi-song on it. The second track on the first cd is called π and tells about a “Sweet and gentle and sensitive man with an obsessive nature and deep fascination for numbers and a complete infatuation with the calculation of PI ”. The lyrics of the chorus are just the digits of π . “They run, they run, they run him in a great big circle, in a circle of infinity”. However, like some of the Kate Bush songs are surreal, also her notion of π is somewhat from another world. In the subsequent sections

of the song (6’05), she sings about 118 digits of π that should follow the leading 3. However, although all goes well for the 53 first decimal places, but for the 54th, which should be ‘zeeeroooo’, she uses ‘oneeeee’ instead, but liberal mathematicians could accept that as a slip of the tongue to match the meter of the lyric. She recovers completely for another 24 digits, and everything goes well until she reaches decimal 79, where her mind goes blank for 22 digits, which appear to live in a virtual mathematical world, and obviously not worth mentioning in her song. She pick up the sequence again with decimal 101 for the next 37 digits. However, and we can supposedly blame this again on the meter but, although the lyrics on the web site mention 5058223, the 0 and the 8 are not sung by Kate

So, to make the difference clear between real world pop songs and abstract mathematics:

Mathematical π : 3.

1415926535 8979323846 2643383279 5028841971 6939937510
5820974944 5923078164 0628620899 8628034825 3421170679
8214808651 3282306647 0938446095 5058223172 ...

π sung by Kate Bush: 3.

1415926535 8979323846 2643383279 5028841971 6939937510
5821974944 5923078164 06286208 _____
8214808651 3282306647 0938446095 5_5_223...

Note that Kate ends in a correct rounding of the last digit, which is a truncation in this case.

You can find much more info about the album on the site <http://www.katebush.com>.

This song reminds me of another double album of 1971 *H.M.S. Donovan*, where Donovan Leitch brings a number of poetical songs, some of which referring to Alice in Wonderland. There is also one song called *The Pee Song* (track 2 on side 3), but that was about something completely different, or was it?

See http://www.houseoflyrics.com/d/artists/donovan/songs/the_pee_song.html.

Adhemar Bultheel and Paul Levrie



Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Colloquium Lezingen
Financiële Wiskunde
Prof. F. Delbaen
ETA Zurich

In het kader van de Leerstoel K.V.B.A; Belgische Vereniging Actuarissen

"RISK CAPITAL ALLOCATION"

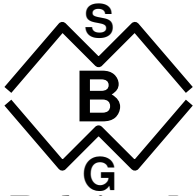
Dinsdag 21 maart '06
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Promotiezaal D.2.01
17:00-18:00 deel I
18.00 koffiepauze, D.2
18:30-19:30 deel II
19:30-21:00 receptie D.2

In het kader van het ULB-VUB seminarie

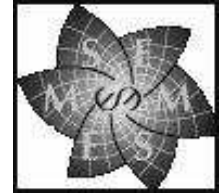
"Risk Measures and Backward Stochastic Differential Equations"

Donderdag 23 maart '06
Université Libre de Bruxelles
Forum A
16:00

"Het colloquium wordt ondersteund door de Wiskunde Onderzoeksgemeenschap W.O.G van het F.W.O. door de Belgische vereniging van actuarissen K.V.B.A en door de vakgroep wiskunde van de Vrije Universiteit Brussel"



Belgian Mathematical Society
<http://bms.ulb.ac.be/>



European Mathematical Society
<http://emis.de/>

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Belgian Mathematical Society (BMS)
and of the
European Mathematical Society (EMS)

As a member of the **BMS**

You will receive five times a year **BMS-NCM NEWS**, the Newsletter of the **BMS** and of the National Committee for Mathematics (**NCM**), containing information on what's going on in mathematics in Belgium.

You will receive the "**Bulletin of the BMS - Simon Stevin**", a periodical containing peer reviewed papers as well as book reviews.

You will benefit of reciprocity agreements with the AMS, DMV, LMS, RSME, SMF, SBPMef, VVWL, WG.

As a member of the **EMS**

You will receive a Newsletter of high interest containing papers, interviews, European meeting announcements, book reviews, ... For more information: see <http://emis.de>

As a member of the **BMS** and the **EMS**

You are taking part in the mathematical life in Belgium and in Europe.

You give the two Societies the possibility to develop their actions: organizing meetings and lobbying with the authorities.

You provide more strength to the two Societies, enabling them to promote mathematics and its financing.

The **BMS** and the **EMS** help you

The **BMS** has conceived and promoted the on line access to the **Zentralblatt** in the Belgian Universities.

The **EMS** seeks to promote mathematics in the program of the European Union.

BMS and **EMS** membership dues for 2006 (see also the website of the bms at the address <http://bms.ulb.ac.be/>)¹

BMS membership:	EUR 19.00
BMS + EMS membership:	EUR 39.00

Activities of the **BMS** and of the **EMS**

The **BMS** has been active in organizing international congresses. **1996** Antwerp: joint meeting with the AMS and the three BeNeLux Societies. **1999** Brussels: joint LMS-**BMS** meeting. **2001** Liège: joint DMV-**BMS** meeting. **2003** Brussels: conference on Mathematics and Genomics. **2004** Tilburg: joint conference with the Dutch Mathematical Society. **2005** Gent: joint meeting with SMF and the three BeNeLux Societies.

The **BMS** and the National Committee for Mathematics have published official standpoints in the BaMa discussion and in the use of the Science Citation Index and Impact Factors for the evaluation of mathematicians. This has been approved by the **EMS**.

The activities of the **EMS** are numerous and of high quality with the organization of a Congress every four years (Paris in 1992; Budapest in 1996; Barcelona in 2000; Stockholm in 2004 and Amsterdam in 2008), with the Forum Mathématique Diderot, with the publication of the **Journal of the EMS**. The **EMS** has also created its own publishing house and offers a large and well-maintained collection of non-commercial journals and books on **EMIS**, the European Mathematics Information Service (www.emis.de).

Committee of the **BMS**

Catherine Finet (UMH)(president), Stefaan Caenepeel (VUB) (vice-president), Jan van Casteren (UA)(secretary), Guy van Steen (UA) (treasurer), Hendrik Van Maldeghem (RUG) (editor in chief of the Bulletin), Françoise Bastin (ULg) (Editor of the Newsletter), Pierre Bieliavsky (UCL), Adhemar Bultheel (KUL), Philippe Cara (VUB), Eva Colebunders (VUB), Camille Debiève (UCL), Freddy Dumortier (LUC), Yves Felix (UCL)(Book Review Editor), Paul Godin (ULB), Albert Hoogewijs (RUG), Pierre Lecomte (ULg), Christian Michaux (UMH), Philippe Toint (FUNDP), Michel Van den Bergh (LUC), Lieven Vanhecke (KUL), Marc Willem (UCL)

¹Dues are to be paid on account number **000-0641030-54**

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