

English summaries

Elise Janvresse, Thierry de la Rue

The Benford law

The Benford law reflects an unexpected irregularity in the distribution of digits of random data. In this paper the law is described and some explanations are discussed.

Keywords: Benford law, distribution of digits.

MSC2010 Subject Classification: 62-01, 62D05.

Ignasi Mundet i Riera

Gromov and Geometry: a taste

This text gives an overview of the main contributions of Mikhail L. Gromov, Abel prize award 2009, to geometry.

Keywords: Gromov, systolic inequalities, rate of growth of groups, symplectic geometry.

MSC2010 Subject Classification: 01A70, 51-02.

Alfréd Rényi

A dialogue on the language of the Book of Nature

This is the translation into catalan of the third of Rényi's dialogues, and completes that of the two previous ones, published in this *Butlletí* in 2002 and 2004. As the title indicates, it deals with the language of the Book of Nature. The characters are Galileo Galilei, Caterina Niccolini, and Evangelista Torricelli. It touches on several, diverse topics. The initial dialogue—between Galileo and Torricelli—deals with the reasons that have lead Galileo to face the *Inquisition*—the defence of freedom of thought and of research on the philosophy of nature. The rest of the dialogue—between Galileo and Mrs. Niccolini—deals with several topics: from what should be understood as scientific method to which is the language of nature—mathematics—together with the difficulties that this entails when we bump into randomness and the mathematics of randomness and with the infinite. Like the other two dialogues, this text is masterfully clear and elegant. Many notes by the translator present all the characters mentioned in the dialogue and the historical circumstances that justify their appearance, and explain other historical and methodological points. A chronology of Galileo's life is included as an Appendix.

Keywords: history of mathematics in the XVI-XVII centuries, philosophy of mathematics in the XVI-XVII centuries.

MSC2010 Subject Classification: 01-0A, 01A45; 01A49, 01A75; 00B60.

Hung-hsi Wu

Shiing-shen Chern: 1911-2004

This paper gives a mathematical and personal biographic account of one of the greatest geometers from the XXth Century.

Keywords: Chern.

MSC2010 Subject Classification: 01A70, 53-02.
