



© 1997–2004, Millennium Mathematics Project, University of Cambridge.

Permission is granted to print and copy this page on paper for non-commercial use. For other uses, including electronic redistribution, please contact us.

June 2000

Issue 11

features...

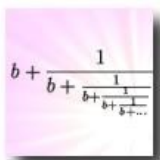
We've all seen a traditional sundial, where a triangular wedge is used to cast a shadow onto a marked-out dial – but did you know that there is another kind? In this article, *Chris Sangwin* and *Chris Budd* tell us about a different kind of sundial, the analemmatic design, where you can use your own shadow to tell the time.



Have we caught your interest?

Those who understand compound interest are destined to collect it. Those who don't are doomed to pay it – or so says a well-known source of financial advice. But what is compound interest, and why is it so important?

John H. Webb explains.



Chaos in Numberland: The secret life of continued fractions

One of the most striking and powerful means of presenting numbers is completely ignored in the mathematics that is taught in schools, and it rarely makes an appearance in university courses. Yet the continued fraction is one of the most revealing representations of many numbers, sometimes containing extraordinary patterns and symmetries. *John D. Barrow* explains.



Fractal expressionism

In the late 1940s, American painter Jackson Pollock dripped paint from a can on to vast canvases rolled out across the floor of his barn. **Richard P. Taylor** explains that Pollock's patterns are really fractals – the fingerprint of Nature.



Career interview: Secondary maths teaching

Paul Clifford Paul Clifford is the Deputy Head of Maths at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson school in Islington. The Plus team visited him there to hear about life as a secondary maths teacher.



Plus is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.