



How to typeset?

From a CWI calendar of 1972, see the right picture, I borrowed the idea. The generation of the decimals is not the issue, they are just taken from tables. In those days it was not possible to scale decimals continually to the size needed, even arbitrary rotation of the glyphs was hard. Nowadays, we can achieve this all, as shown in the illustration left, by use of, eg, the PostScript operator `kshow`.

It is nice to associate a circular spiral with π -ecimals, because the circumference of a circle is $2\pi r$ and its surface πr^2 .

```

%!PS -Pi-decimals along a Spiral cgl 2010
%BoundingBox:...
200 300 translate .8 0 0 setrgbcolor
/Helvetica findfont 20 scalefont setfont
gsave
  35 0 moveto 90 rotate (3) show 1 0 rmoveto
  (.) show
  -2 0 rmoveto -10 rotate .995 dup scale
  {pop pop -10 rotate 3 0 rmoveto .995 dup scale}
  (141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375105820974944592307816406286...)
  kshow

grestore
/Symbol findfont 17 scalefont setfont
110 4 moveto (p) show
showpage
%%EOF

```

Explanation

The PS operator `kshow` expects on the stack: `proc string`. The `proc` is executed between the typesetting of two consecutive characters in the string. The kerning around the decimal point has been handled separately. The central π is also inserted by PS.

For placing text along an arbitrary path in a workflow the reader is referred to **Program 11** in Adobe's blue PS book.