

The first two thousand and ten decimal places of  $\pi$

$\pi =$	3.1415926535	8979323846	2643383279	5028841971	6939937510
	5820974944	5923078164	0628620899	8628034825	3421170679
	8214808651	3282306647	0938446095	5058223172	5359408128
	4811174502	8410270193	8521105559	6446229489	5493038196
	4428810975	6659334461	2847564823	3786783165	2712019091
	4564856692	3460348610	4543266482	1339360726	0249141273
	7245870066	0631558817	4881520920	9628292540	9171536436
	7892590360	0113305305	4882046652	1384146951	9415116094
	3305727036	5759591953	0921861173	8193261179	3105118548
	0744623799	6274956735	1885752724	8912279381	8301194912
	9833673362	4406566430	8602139494	6395224737	1907021798
	6094370277	0539217176	2931767523	8467481846	7669405132
	0005681271	4526356082	7785771342	7577896091	7363717872
	1468440901	2249534301	4654958537	1050792279	6892589235
	4201995611	2129021960	8640344181	5981362977	4771309960
	5187072113	4999999837	2978049951	0597317328	1609631859
	5024459455	3469083026	4252230825	3344685035	2619311881
	7101000313	7838752886	5875332083	8142061717	7669147303
	5982534904	2875546873	1159562863	8823537875	9375195778
	1857780532	1712268066	1300192787	6611195909	2164201989
	3809525720	1065485863	2788659361	5338182796	8230301952
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	4547762416	8625189835	6948556209	9219222184	2725502542
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	8279679766	8145410095	3883786360	9506800642	2512520511
	7392984896	0841284886	2694560424	1965285022	2106611863
	0674427862	2039194945	0471237137	8696095636	4371917287
	4677646575	7396241389	0865832645	9958133904	7802759009
	9465764078	...			



# 12

# Functions

The activity explores the mathematical properties of a linear function, continuing the multiplicative relations theme of *TM8: Relations*.

Proportionality is introduced implicitly.

### Thinking strands

Ratio and proportion

### Curriculum links

Multiplicative relation

Graphs

### Resources

Notesheets 1 to 3

## Lesson summary

### 1 Introduction to Notesheet 1, class discussion (15 min)

Give out Notesheet 1. Write the ordered pairs of values from the Notesheet on the board. Explain these can be looked at in terms of an input variable – something you change – and an output variable – something you measure after fixing the input. Ask pupils how they can construct a table to help them make sense of the relation between the values mathematically. Try any ideas offered on the board. When the idea of listing them in numerical order comes up and seems to them a good strategy, give them just 5 minutes to do Notesheet 1.

### 2 Coordinating two relations, Notesheet 2 (20 min)

As introduction record on the board the pupils' answers to question 3 on Notesheet 1. Say their task is to find examples and pairs of values in their table for question 1, which will enable them to answer in words question 2 on the Notesheet. Pupils should work in small groups; then in class discussion write down on the board all their answers for question 2.

### 3 Teaching episode (5 min)

Explain that a relationship like this is called a **function**. Write the Input and Output values

from Notesheet 1 in two parallel ordered sets on the board, and point out

- (a) there is only one Output value to each Input
- (b) as the Input goes up, so does the Output.

Point out that in their answers to question 2 on Notesheet 2 they have said more about this function.

### 4 Notesheet 3 (15 min)

Pupils plot the graph of Output against Input. Class discussion should feature:

- (a) graph goes up at the same **rate** throughout (the linear aspect of it)
- (b) all values of the Output are 5 times the values of the corresponding Input.

Pupils then predict Output values from given Inputs. In question 4 they find some way of expressing this function in terms of generalised number.

If any time remains, ask the pupils what they think their results mean in terms of the cogs and the number of teeth in each.

## Mathematical content

Pupils find a multiplicative relation that underlies a function, and draw Cartesian graphs of it. As with much work in science at this level, the focus is on monotonic functions.

In science pupils are often given an experiment where the values that they obtain and then plot on a graph – for example, the stretching of a spring under an increasing load – fit a linear functional relationship of the form  $y = mx$ . The straight line graph then gives an implicit model that a simple causal relationship exists between the variables, but the mathematical properties of the relation are

rarely explored explicitly. In mathematics the treatment of a linear function and its graphical expression may come much later. This may be one of the reasons why pupils fail to link what they do in science and what they do in mathematics.

There are two multiplicative relations involved in a linear function such as  $y = mx$  (this distinction goes back to Aristotle, as the two ways of looking at a proportion – *within* and *between*). Within the values of Input and Output is the constant ratio of  $m$ . Between the values, any proportional change you make to one value



(for example, making it three times bigger) makes the same proportional change in the other. The second aspect you need in science,

and the first you need in maths, but the understanding of proportion only comes from integrating the two.

## Pupils' thinking

This activity is one of the first of Phase II of the project where, from a Piagetian point of view, although most of the activity can be processed using concrete operational thinking, we are now definitely pushing towards formal thinking. In this case that means construing the relation between the numbers in multiplicative, ratio, terms. (See the two examples given in 'The thinking behind *Thinking Maths*' in the Introduction.)

The generalised number aspect of the activity

is aimed ahead at making pupils more familiar with some of the language of algebra.

The focus of this lesson is on generating many-layered pupil discussion. The more ways of looking at the numbers that the pupils come up with, the more will each pupil be helped in his/her thinking at the point where they currently are. The steepness of the graph is not mentioned, but some pupils may want to look at this as expressing how much bigger the values of one variable are compared with the other.

## Specimen lesson

This is a class with a low attaining profile of ability. The class teacher is supported by a Special Needs support teacher (SNT).

### 0.00 Notesheet 1.

On the board she draws:



"Who has seen cogs turning together?"

Pupils:

"In a car."

"In a windmill."

"On bikes."

Teacher: "Which cog will turn more?"

Pupils: "Little one will go round quicker ..."

Teacher: "Are you sure that it was the small one that went round more times?"

Boy replies: "Yes, say the big one's gone round half, then ..." (can't finish explanation)

Girl adds: "With the smaller one, it has a smaller distance to travel until it's gone all the way round."

Teacher: "With the table underneath, have you met Input/Output before?"

Pupils:

"In Science."

"Put 8 in Input and 40 in Output."

Boy starts: "Because you put ..."

Another completes: "With a computer, it's the same."

Teacher: "Can you give some examples?"

Pupils:

"How much energy you put in; how much energy you get out."

"Fuel in – exhaust out."

Teacher: "Or petrol in, and how many miles you go."

"Input, in Science, is something we have control of. So now put the numbers into the table in a sensible way."

Five or six in the class spontaneously order by the Input variable in ascending or descending order (one or two with help).

Teacher prepares table on board, takes entries from the pupils.

Input	Output
1	5
2	10
3	15
4	20
5	25
6	30
7	35
8	40

Teacher: "What do you notice?"

Pupils:

"They are all times-across."

"They make the 5 times table."

"They are like the clock times."

Teacher: "Could they get too big for the clock?"

Pupil: "Yes, if you had 20."

Teacher: "If you went on with the table, when would you stop?"

Pupils:

"Never!"

"Go on forever."

Teacher, pointing to Input column: "What's happening as we go down?"

Pupil: "Up in ones."

Teacher: "Suppose we had 20?"



Pupils look mystified.

Teacher: "I mean in the Input."

Pupils: "Count down in 5s."  
(meaning iteration until 20 reached)

Teacher: "If you had a calculator?"

Pupils:  
"120."  
"Multiply 5 by 100."  
"Times 5 by big wheel number."  
" $1 \times 5$ ;  $2 \times 5$ ;  $3 \times 5$  etc."  
(Pupils still using iteration.)

Teacher: "So, is 20 times 5, 100?"

Pupils:  
"Yes."  
"No."  
"Yes."  
"Yes."

### 0.15 Notesheet 2

The teacher gives out her own Notesheet 2, with doubling and tripling strategy shown on it by arrowed loops from number to number. The list is extended to an Input of 10.

"Do you understand this?"

Pupils: "You've changed it!"

The teacher adds linkages to table on the board as well, explaining the Notesheet.

"Doubling it, or timesing it by two."

Pupils: "You added it."

Teacher: "Yes, but doubling's a better word."

During their work on the task nearly all the pupils come out with 'same' for their written answers about what they had noticed. When pressed they can (with reluctance) expand it and say what was the same in both, but it is as if the effort to see the sameness is quite enough, and the extra effort of expressing it verbally as well is too much.

### 0.25 Class discussion

Teacher: "Some people have done their own table. Some did some new ones."

The teacher shows a curved arrow from 4 to 8 in Input.

"If the arrow this way means doubling, what would it mean if the direction of the arrow were the other way?"

Pupils: "It would mean halving."

Teacher shows it: "Arrow other way is half". She asks for other values.

Pupil: "3 and 6."  
"So what happened?"  
"We doubled."

Teacher: "And what happened on this side? (Output)"

Pupil: "It was doubled also."

Teacher: "If we go from top to bottom of table, how many times? - JB?"

Pupil: "Ten."

"If your theory is correct this one should be...?"

"50."

"Was that multiplying by 10 also?"

"Yes."

"It doesn't have to be something easy like doubling - the method also works for timesing by 10."

### 0.30 Notesheet 3

"Now we'll try to graph that." (meaning the doubling table).

The teacher gives out her own Notesheet 3, which has a graph with only part of each axis with numbers entered. Pupils are asked to make the input axis go up to 50 (from 40) and the output go to 80 (from 40 also). Units have to be interpolated by eye with only the 5s marked.

During work on the task, 7 pupils use dots hesitantly for entering values; 3 or 4 still trying bars, until SNT shows how to plot points. Even the weakest pupils had been asked to do this before in Science (but did they manage?).

One pupil has a point off, but is able to self-correct when he is shown it doesn't fit the pattern of the other points.

### 0.35 Class discussion

"Tell me what you noticed about the points?"

Pupils:

"Went up in 1s."

"No ... 5s."

"When you connect them up they went in a straight line."

Teacher: "Carl said something about the graph ... ?"

Pupils: "It could go on forever."

Girl adds: "You can't get all the paper in the world!"

"Input was 5 times output...No! output was 5 times input."

Teacher now records in summary on board:

Table goes on for ever

Line goes on for ever

Output is 5 times Input

Teacher: "We get the same times bigger as we move down each side of the table" (shows).

"Imagine if we made the wheel bigger. What difference would that make?"

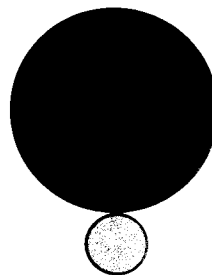
Pupils:

"Depends on which wheel is made bigger."

"Numbers on the other wheel would get bigger."

"And on how much bigger."

Teacher shows on board a differently scaled pair of cog-wheels.







“Would the times number be larger or smaller?”

Pupils: “Bigger.”

Teacher: “If we moved down one side of the (new) table by doubling..?”

Pupil: “Would still be the same on the other.”

Teacher: “Other side doubled also.”

**0.50**

Teacher congratulates pupils on the contribution they have made to the lesson.

Lesson ends.

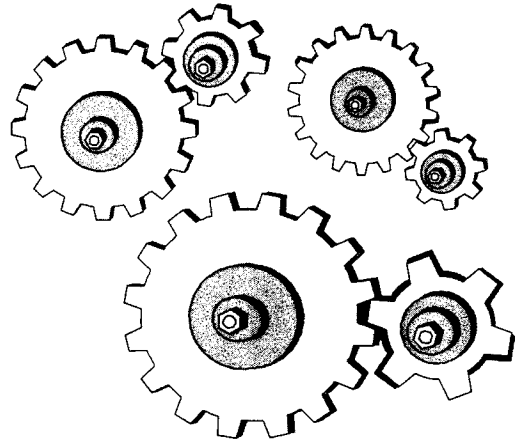


**Input and Output**

In a Science lesson pupils were given two cog-wheels which meshed into each other.

The larger wheel had a handle.

The pupils counted how many full turns the **smaller cog** made each time the **larger one** turned a number of full turns. For example, when the large cog turned 8 times, the small cog turned 40 times.



Here are the results from 8 different groups of pupils. In each pair the number of turns of the large cog is written first.

8, 40   3, 15   6, 30   2, 10   5, 25   7, 35   1, 5   4, 20

1 How to make sense of these results mathematically?

Think of a sensible way to arrange the values in this table:

Input	Output

2 What idea did you use in filling in the table?

3 What pattern(s) can you see in the results?



**Relation between Input and Output**

1 Use your table to find **examples** for these questions:

(a) If you **double** ( $\times 2$ ) the Input value, how many times does the Output value go up?

Find 3 examples from your table.

(b) If you **triple** ( $\times 3$ ) the Input value, how many times does the Output value go up?

Find 2 examples from your table.

(c) If you make the Input value **four times smaller** ( $\div 4$ ), how many times smaller does the Output value become? Find two examples from your table.

2 Now use your answers to question 1 and discuss with your partner(s) how to answer this question in words:

‘What is the general rule which relates a change you make to the Input variable and the change which occurs in the Output variable?’

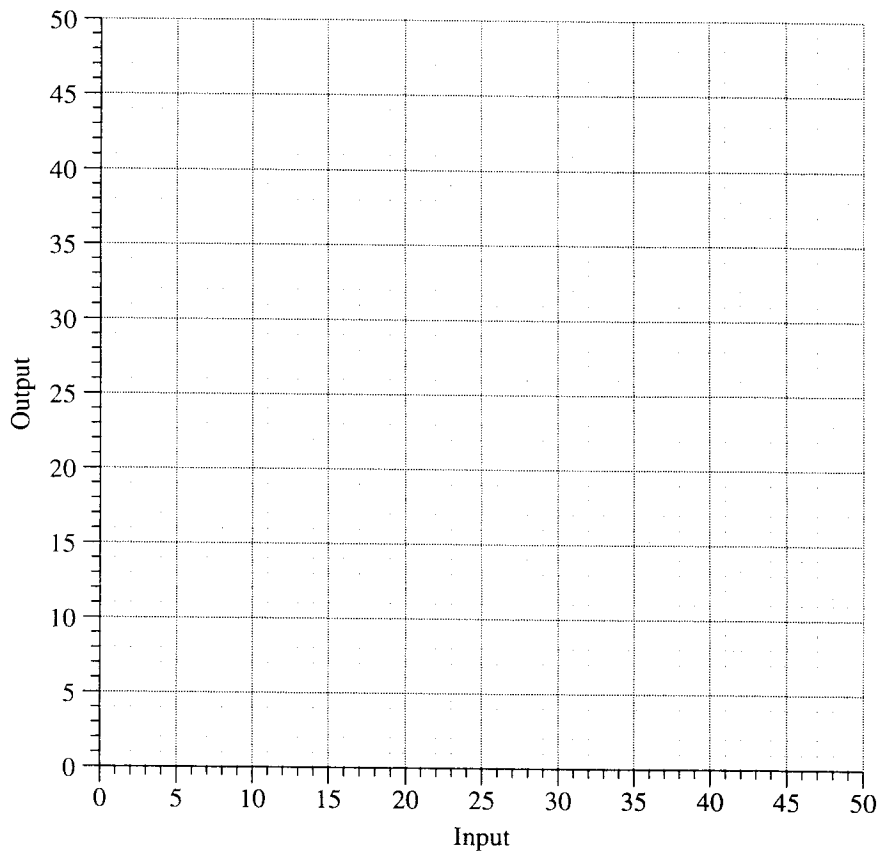
3 If you made a graph of the results in your table, what shape do you think it would be? (Don't draw the graph!)



**Graph of the relation**

On this graph grid the horizontal axis is for Input, and the vertical axis is for Output.

- 1 Plot the 8 results from your table on the graph.



- 2 In words, what is the relation between the Input and the Output?  
(Between the number of turns of the large cog-wheel and number of turns of the small wheel.)
- 3 With your partner(s) find two ways – one using the graph and one using calculation – to predict the Output value when the Input value is 10.  
Decide which of these you have to use if the input value is 20.
- 4 Now use  $x$  to stand for the Input, and  $y$  for the Output and write an equation for the relationship.











