

Comments on Proving Pi is not Equal to Various Fractions

1. Page 1. Title. The Pi in the title should be π .
2. I should be listed after the authors as your mentor.
3. Page 1. Once you have that π is irrational, you do not need to show that its transcendental to establish its not rational. You should be making the following points

It is know that π is irrational, and hence not any of the three fractions we are considering.

The proof that π is irrational is difficult so we are inspired to see if we could prove π is not any of those fractions using elementary means.

Incidentally, π is not just irrational, its actually transcendental.
4. Page 1 and 2- to get $PI(n) < \pi < PC(n)$ you need that the distance from the center to any vertex is exactly 1. (Check that.)
5. The table. $X(n)$ should also be on the table and you should speculate on what $X(n)$ is. This is true for the later tables as well, but I won't mention it again.
6. Page 4. You have *When solving the Basel problem Euler proved that*

Finding that sum IS the Basel problem.

Here is what you can say:

In 1644 Pietro Mengoli posed the following problem: Find the exact value of $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2}$. This was was called The Basel Problem because Euler and the Bernoulli family worked on it, and they lived in Basel. Finally Euler solved it. Euler solved it in 1735 by showing that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

7. You should make it clear that

$$\pi = \sqrt{6 \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2}}$$

and hence, for all n ,

$$\pi > \sqrt{6 \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2}}$$

and then define $L(n)$.

8. The following is very interesting and may lead to more questions:

- For the inscribe-circumscribe method
333/106 needed $n = 249$
355/113 needed $n = 6224$
- For the Basel method
333/106 needed $n = 11475$
355/113 needed $n = 1337$

SO using ins-circum method 333/106 is easier than 355/113 but using Basel 355/113 is easier than 333/106.

You should point this out.

9. At the end of the paper you should have a table of all three fractions and all the methods, and the least n that shows they are not π .
10. Its interesting that the Nilakantha series has so much smaller values of n then the first two methods. Point that out.