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You might think that if you collected together a list of naturally–occurring numbers, then as many of them would start with a 1 as with any other digit, but you'd be quite wrong. **Jon Walthoe** explains why Benford's Law says otherwise, and why tax inspectors are taking an interest.



Extracting beauty from chaos

Images based on Lyapunov Exponent fractals are very striking. **Andy Burbanks** explains what Lyapunov Exponents are, what the much misunderstood phenomenon of chaos *really* is, and how you can iterate functions to produce marvellous images of chaos from simple mathematics.



A postcard from Italy

Eugen Jost is a Swiss artist whose work is strongly influenced by mathematics. He sent us this Postcard from Italy, telling us about his work and the important roles that nature and numbers play in it.



The origins of proof III: Proof and puzzles through the ages

For millennia, puzzles and paradoxes have forced mathematicians to continually rethink their ideas of what proofs actually are. **Jon Walthoe** explains the tricks involved and how great thinkers like Pythagoras, Newton

and Gödel tackled the problems.



Career interview: Financial modelling

David Spaughton and Anton Merlushkin work for Credit Suisse First Boston, where they provide traders in the hectic dealing room with software based on complicated mathematical models of the financial markets. PASS Maths interviewed them at their offices in Canary Wharf in London.



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