

Risp 35: Index Triples

$$\phi = 1.618033989\dots$$

$$e = 2.718281828\dots$$

$$\pi = 3.141592654\dots$$

How many different numbers can you make by replacing the squares below with ϕ , e and π in some order? (No repeats!)

$$\square \left(\begin{array}{c} \square \\ \square \end{array} \right)$$

Without using a calculator, try to place these numbers in order of size.

If $k = (\text{largest of these numbers} / \text{smallest of these numbers})$, to which of these powers of 10 would you guess k is closest?

1, 10, 100, 1000, 10 000

Now check your answers with a calculator.

Can you find three distinct numbers a, b, c so that

$$a^{(b^c)} = c^{(a^b)} ?$$

Can you find three distinct numbers a, b, c so that

$$a^{(b^c)} = c^{(a^b)} = b^{(c^a)} ?$$

How many of the following six numbers can be equal if a, b and c are all distinct?

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a^{(b^c)} & c^{(a^b)} & b^{(c^a)} \\ a^{(c^b)} & c^{(b^a)} & b^{(a^c)} \end{array}$$