

Mathematics 3010, Summer 2009: Chs. 13-14 Problems

Chapter 13

1. What hurt Durer's ability to draw ellipses?
2. Which astronomer observed that the planets did not rotate on solid spheres? How did he conclude this?
3. Who, other than Napier, "discovered" logarithms?
4. Who invented modern decimal notation?
5. Who won the British prize money for a method to determine longitude. How?
6. What was a clue that Ptolemy's theories were wrong?
7. Who was the first author to use the terms "tangent" and "secant"?
8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of Mercator's projection?

Chapter 14

1. How did Thomas Harriot die?
2. What evidence do we have that gambling is an ancient practice?
3. What is a Fermat prime? How many do we know of?
4. Who wrote the first probability textbook?
5. What is the main topic of Jan de Witt's most famous work?
6. What Frenchman gathered mathematicians together to discuss new work?
7. What philosophical principle is known as "Pascal's wager"?
8. Who posed questions about gambling to Pascal?