

Greetings!

I had to get in line and thank you and commend you for that most excellent Curta site you have provided. "Wow" is all I can say - outstanding! I learned how to use one with Jan Meyer's simulator, and you have afforded me the opportunity to learn that machine inside out; what a masterpiece that man invented! I can't thank you enough.

Perhaps. I have a few things Curta that you might find interesting - the spreadsheet pic I attached started out just to do the prime determination, then I sort of went overboard. That pic is 3 screenshots of it, to top being as-saved. The 2nd one shows a prime, and at the bottom is a non-prime serial number. It:

- flags appropriately the even multiplicand pairs with the *,
- counts the unique even multiplicand pairs for the number,
- determines Curta type via s/n, and
- calculates the formula date of manufacture.

It's an old Lotus 123 I use, so I didn't attach that; I imagine a current Excel could translate it. Let me know if you'd like it. 76976 is my own, by the way.

I have devised 2 additional computing techniques you might enjoy... The first is $a*b + c*d$. It is virtually identical to the linear interpolation example in the book in that both computations are the sum of 2 products. For the interpolation, you don't clear CR; for $a*b + c*d$ you would, and change SR appropriately as in each computation - but in each case you accumulate the sum in RR.

Then, I thought: why not $a/b + c/d$?! It is similarly almost equally easy to accumulate a sum of quotients in CR... I'll type it out for you if you ask, but I'd bet money you can figure it out in under 5 minutes. If I could, you can.

One last observation here in closing Rick... I am sure you have read in Cliff Stoll where $355/113 = 3.14159$ as a Curta geek exercise. If you try that computation on the Curta and "forget" to push the reversing lever down for the subtractive division, you will end up with the nines complement of pi in CR! Almost. All but the last digit is correct; that is a 1, and not a 0. It would appear the carry mechanism failed working backwards like that. It hasn't really, of course, it carried perfectly all the way up to there. The seeming extra carry it did just sets it up for doing a "ones borrow" for the subsequent subtraction to get the next digit to the right that it doesn't really have.

Not only does it carry tens, it borrows ones too! I hope you found this interesting Rick!

Best Regards,

Chris Witt

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The screenshot displays a Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet with the following data:

Row	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column I	Column J	Column K	Column L	Column M	Column O	Column P
1	Enter suspected prime number in cell F1: 76976 Not a prime...												
2			10										
3	1	76976	*										
4	2	38488	*										
5	3	25658.67					Type I s/n: 76976		February 1970				
6	4	19244	*										
7	5	15395.2											
8	6	12829.33											
9	7	10996.57											
10	8	9622	*										
11	9	8552.889											
12	10	7697.6											
13	11	6997.818											
14	12	6414.667											
15	13	5921.231											
16	14	5498.286											
17	15	5131.733											
18	16	4811	*										
19	17	4528	*										
20	18	4276.444											
21	19	4051.368											
22	20	3848.8											
23	21	3665.524											
24	22	3498.909											
25	23	3346.783											
26	24	3207.333											
27	25	3079.04											
28	26	2960.615											
29	27	2850.963											
30	28	2749.143											
31	29	2654.345											
32	30	2565.867											
33	31	2483.097											
34	32	2405.5											
35	33	2332.606											
36	34	2264	*										
37	35	2201.16											

Curta.wk4.jpg