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Finch, Steven R.: *Mathematical Constants II*. Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Its Applications 169. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2019, xii + 769 pp., US-\$ 165, £125, ISBN 978-1-108-47059-9.

The present book is the sequel to *Mathematical Constants I* which won the 2005 Lester R. Ford award for expository excellence. The title says it all: it is about mathematical constants. While *Mathematical Constants I* covered the more ‘household’ constants – π , e , γ and the like –, we find in the second instalment 133 short sections on well- and lesser-known constants from number theory & combinatorics, inequalities & approximations, real & complex analysis, probability & stochastic processes and, finally, geometry & topology. Each section introduces the subject matter at an undergraduate level and then sketches major developments in the area. The sections have their own bibliography (including cross-references to the present volume and its companion) which allows the readers to do further research on their own. Great care is taken about numerical results and the precise determination of constants. The choice of the material complements the first volume; overall, the topics seem also to be more advanced, but every now and then there is a little pearl which is indeed accessible at high school level. The text is certainly not intended for linear reading – although this might well be possible – but for eclectic readers who want to enjoy themselves and broaden their horizons, or for researchers who need information on a particular constant and further stepping stones.

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