

## TSU CH'UNG CHI

From <http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/history/Mathematicians/Tsu.html>

**Born:** 430 in Fan-yang (now Hopeh), China

**Died:** 501 in China

**Tsu** was a Chinese mathematician and astronomer. He gave the rational approximation  $\frac{355}{113}$  to  $\pi$  which is correct to 6 decimal places. He also proved that

$$3.1415926 < \pi < 3.1415927$$

a remarkable result on which it would be nice to have more details but Tsu Ch'ung Chi's book, written with his son, is lost. Tsu's astronomical achievements include the making of a new calendar in 463 which never came into use.

**Tsu** also determined the precise time of the solstice by measuring the length of the Sun's shadow at noon on days near the solstice to reduce errors caused by the fact that it is very difficult to determine the exact time of the solstice.

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