

Names of prominent European mathematicians and how to pronounce them

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The names of prominent mathematicians should be pronounced in a uniform manner all over the world in order to be recognized (at conferences etc) and also to show due respect. This is how prominent musicians, artists and politicians like Mozart, Gandhi, Gauguin are treated. Correct pronunciation will definitely enhance their international standing. The natural choice is their original phonetics.

[The syllable to be stressed is preceded by ‘]

Abel, Niels Henrik (Norway, 1802-1829)	[’Aa-bel]
Appel, Paul Emile (1855-1930)	[Ah-’pel]
D’Alembert, Jean le Rond (1717-1783)	[Dah-lam-’behr]
Ampère, André-Marie (1775-1836)	[Ahm-’pehr]
Baer, Reinhold (1902-1979)	[’Bah-ehr]
Baire, Rene Louis (1874-1932)	[’Behr]
Banach, Stefan (1892-1945)	[’Bah-nakh]
Beltrami, Eugenio (1835-1900)	[Bel-’trah-mih]
Becquerel, Antoine Henri (1852-1908)	[Beh-keh-’rhel]
Bernoulli, Johann (1667-1748)	[Ber-’noo-lih]
Bernstein, Sergey Natanovich (1880-1968)	[’Bern-’shtein]
Bézout, Étienne (1730-1783)	[Beh-’zoo]
Bieberbach, Ludwig Georg Elias Moses (1886-1982)	[’Bee-behr-’bakh]
Binet, Jacques Philippe Marie (1786-1856)	[Bih-’neh]
Blaschke, Wilhelm ((1885-1962)	[’Blush-keh]
Bochner, Salomon (1899-1982)	[’Bokh-nehr]
Bolzano, Bernhard (1781-1880)	[Bol-’tsa-noh]
Bolyai, János (1802-1860)	[’Boy-’ai]
Bombieri, Enrico (1940-)	[Bom-bee-’eh-rih]
Bonnet, Pierre Ossian (1819-1892)	[Boh-’neh]
Borel, Émile (Félix Édouard Justin Émile) (1871-1956)	[Boh-’rel]
Borsuk, Karol (1905-1982)	[’Bohr-sook]
Bouquet, Jean Claude (1819-1885)	[Boo-’keh]
Brahe, Tycho (Tyge Ottesen Brahe) (1546 -1601)	[’Tai-kou ’Brah-ee]
Brillouin, Marcel Louis (1854-1948)	[Brih-lu-’en]
Briot, Charles Auguste (1817-1882)	[Bree-’yoh]
de Bruijn, Nicolaas Govert (1918-)	[duh-’Brujn]
Burali-Forti, Cesare (1861-1931)	[Boo-’rha-li-’for-tih]
Cantor, Georg Ferdinand Ludwig Philipp (1845-1918)	[’Kahn-tor]
Carathéodory, Constantin (1873-1950)	[Kah-’rha-te-o-do-’ri]
Cardano, Girolamo (or Gerolamo) (1501-1576)	[Kahr-’dah-noh]
Sadi Carnot, Nicolas Léonard (1796-1832)	[Kahr-’noh]
Cartan, Henri (1904-2008)	[Kahr-’tahn]

Cauchy, Augustin Louis (1789-1857)	[Koh-'shih]
Castelnuovo, Guido (1865-1952)	[Kas-tel-nu-'oh-voh]
Catalan, Eugène Charles (1814-1894)	[Kah-tah-'lan]
Cavalieri, Bonaventura Francesco (1598-1647)	[Ka-va-lee-'yeh-rih]
Čech, Eduard (1893-1960) (Čech complex)	['Chekh]
Cesàro, Ernesto (1859-1906)	[Che-'sah-rho]
Chebyshev (Tschebyscheff), Pafnutii Lvovich (1821-1894)	[Chebih-'shyov]
Choquet, Gustave (1915-2006)	[Shoh'keh]
Christoffel, Elwin Bruno (1829-1900)	[Kree-'stoh-fel]
Chuquet, Nicolas (1445-1488)	[Shoo-'keh]
Clairaut, Alexis Claude de Clairault (1713-1765)	[Kleh-'rho]
Clausen, Thomas (1801-1885) (Clausen function)	['Klau-zehn]
Coriolis, Gustave (1792-1843)	[Koh-rhi-'oh-lis]
Cornu, Marie Alfred (1841-1902) (Cornu spiral)	[Kohr-'noo]
de Coulomb, Charles Augustin (1736-1806)	[Koh-'lon]
Courant, Richard (1888 – 1972)	['Ku- rant]
Crelle, August Leopold (1780-1855)	['Krel]
Delambre, Jean Baptiste Joseph (1749–1822)	[Deh-lan-'breh]
Darboux, Jean Gaston (1842-1917)	[Dahr-'boo]
Dedekind, (Julius Wilhelm) Richard (1831-1916)	['Deh-deh-kynd]
Deligne, Pierre René (1944-)	[Deh-'leen]
Denjoy, Arnaud (1884-1974)	[Dan-zhu-'ah]
Desargues, Girard (1591-1661)	[Deh-'zarg]
Descartes, René (Renatus Cartesius) (1596-1650)	[Deh-'kart]
Dieudonné, Jean Alexandre Eugène (1906-1992)	[Dyo-doh-'neh]
Dini, Ulisse (1845-1918)	['Dih-nih]
Dirichlet, Gustav Peter Lejeune (1805-1859)	[Dee-rikh-'leh]
German versionn (rare)	['Dih-rikh-leh]
French version	[Dee-rish-'leh]
Doetsch, Gustav (1892-1977)	['Doych]
Du Bois-Reymond, Paul (1831-1889)	[Dju-boh-'ah-ray-'mond]
Duhamel, Jean-Maria-Constant (1797–1872)	[Due-ah-'mel]
Egorov, Dmitri Fyodorovich (1869-1931)	[Ye-'go-rhav]
Eisenstein, Ferdinand Gotthold Max (1823-1852)	[?Ay-zehn-shtain]
Epstein, Paul (1871-1939)	['Epp-shtain]
Erdős, Paul (1913-1996)	[?Ehr-dyo:sh]
von Escherich, Gustav Ritter (1849-1935)	[fon 'Esh-eh-rikh]
Euler, Leonhard (1707-1783)	[?Oy-lehr]
Faulhaber, Johann (1580-1635)	['Fah-uhl-'haa-behr]
Fatou, Pierre Joseph Louis (1878-1929)	[Fah-'too]
Fejér, Lipót (Leopold) (1880-1959)	['Feh-'yehr]
Fermat, Pierre de (1601-1665)	[Fehr-'mah]
Fermi, Enrico (1901-1954)	[Fehr-'mih]
Feuerbach, Karl Wilhelm (1800-1834)	['Foy-ehr-'bakh]
Fibonacci, Leonardo Pisano (1170 – 1250)	[Fee-boh-'na-chi]
de Finetti, Bruno (1906-1985)	[dih-Fih-'netty]

Floquet, (Achille Marie) Gaston (1847-1920)	[Floh-‘keh]
Foucault, Jean Bernard Léon (1819-1868)	[Foo-‘koh]
Fourier, Jean Baptiste Joseph (1786-1830)	[Foo-rhi-’eh]
Fréchet, Maurice René (1878-1973)	[Freh-‘sheh]
Frege, Friedrich Ludwig Gottlob (1848-1925)	[‘Frey-‘geh]
Fresnel, Augustin-Jean (1788-1827)	[Freh-’nel]
Freudenthal, Hans (1905-1990)	[‘Froy-den-‘tahl]
Freundlich, Erwin Finlay (1885-1964)	[‘Froyd-likh]
Frobenius, Ferdinand Georg (1849-1917)	[Fro-‘beh-nih-yus]
Fröhlich (Froelich), Albrecht (1916-2001)	[‘Fryo-likh]
Fubini, Guido (1879-1943)	[Foo-‘bih-nih]
Fuchs, Lazarus Immanuel (1833-1902)	[‘Fooks]
Galois, Evariste (1811-1832)	[Gah-loo-‘ah]
Gâteaux, René Eugène (1889-1914)	[Gah-‘toh]
Gauss, Carl Friedrich (1777-1855)	[‘Gah-oos], [’Gause]
Genocchi, Angelo (1817-1889)	[Jeh-‘noh-kih]
Gödel (Goedel), Kurt (1906- 1978)	[‘Ghiyo-dehl]
Goursat, Édouard Jean Baptiste (1858-1936)	[Goohr-’sah]
Grave, Dmitrii Aleksandrovich (1863–1939)	[‘Grah-veh]
Haar, Alfréd (1885-1933)	[‘Haarh]
Hadamard, Jacques Salomon (1865-1963)	[Ah-dah-’mahr]
Hájek, Jaroslav (1926-1974)	[‘Hai-ek]
Heine, Heinrich Eduard (1821-1881)	[’Hi-neh]
Hermite, Charles (1822-1901)	[Ehr-’mit]
Hilbert, David (1862-1943)	[’Hill-bert]
De l’Hospital, Guillaume-François-Antoine (1661-1704)	[Loh-pee-’tahl]
Hudde, Jan (1628-1704)	[Hoo-’ddeh]
Hurewicz, Witold (1904-1956)	[Hoo-’rhe-vich]
Hurwitz, Adolf (1858-1919)	[’Khour-vits]
Huygens, Christiaan (1629-1695)	[’Huhy-gens]
Jacobi, Carl Gustav Jacob (1804-1851)	[’Ya-koh-bih]
de Jonquières, Ernest Jean Philippe Fauque (1820-1901)	[Zhon-’kehr]
Jordan, (Marie Ennemond) Camille (1838-1921)	[Zhor-’dahn]
Kac, Mark (1914-1984)	[Kats]
Kapitsa, Pyotr Leonidovich (1894-1984)	[’Kah-pih-tsa]
Khinchin, Aleksandr Yakovlevich (1894-1959)	[’Hin-chin]
Kirchhoff, Gustav Robert (1824-1887)	[’Kir-hof]
Klein, Felix Christian (1849-1925)	[’Klah-in] (like Kline)
(von) Koch, Niels Fabian Helge (1870-1924) (Koch’s snowflake)	[fon ’Kokh]
Köbe (Koebe), Paul (1882-1945)	[’Kiyo-beh]
Kolmogorov, Andrey Nikolaevich (1903-1987)	[Kal-ma-’gorav]
Korteweg, Diederik Johannes (1848-1941), Dutch	[’Kohr-teh-’vekh]
Koszul, Jean-Louis (1921-)	[Koh-’shool]
Kovalevskaya, Sofia Vasilyevna (1850-1891)	[Kava-’lev-ska-ya]
Kroneker, Leopold (1823-1891)	[’Kro-nek-ehr]

Kummer, Ernst Eduard (1810-1893)	[ˈKoo-mehr]
Kuratowski, Kazimierz (1896-1980)	[Ku-rha-ˈtof-ski]
Kurosh, Aleksandr Gennadievich (1908-1971)	[ˈKoo-rhosh]
Kutta, Martin Wilhelm (1867-1944)	[ˈKoo-tah]
de Lacroix, Sylvestre François (1765-1843)	[Lah-kro-ˈah]
Lah, Ivo (1896-1979)	[Lakh]
Ladyzhenskaya, Olga Aleksandrovna (1922 – 2004)	[Lah-ˈdee-zhen-ska-ya]
Lagrange, Josef Louis (1736-1813)	[Lahˈgranzh]
Laguerre, Edmond Nicolas (1834-1886)	[Lah-ˈger]
Lambert, Johann Heinrich (1728-1777)	[ˈLam-ber]
Lamé, Gabriel (1795-1870)	[Lah-ˈmeh]
Laplace, Pierre Simon (1749-1827)	[Lah-ˈplas]
Laurent, Pierre Alphonse (1813-1854)	[Loh-ˈrhan]
Lavrentiev (Lavrentev), Mikhail Alekseevich (1900-1980)	[Lav-ˈren-tyef]
Lebesgue, Henri Léon (1875 -1941)	[Leh-ˈbeg]
Legendre, Adrien-Marie (1752-1833)	[Leh-ˈzhandr]
Léger, Emile (1795-1838)	[Leh-ˈzheh]
Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm (1646-1716)	[ˈLaib-nits]
Lerch, Matyáš (Matiyash) (1860-1922)	[Lerkh]
Levi-Civita, Tullio (1873-1941)	[ˈLe-vi-chi-ˈvita]
Lévy, Paul Pierre (1886-1971)	[Leh-ˈvih]
Lichnerowicz, André (1915-1998)	[Likh-neh-ˈrho-vich]
Lie, Marius Sophus (1842-1899)	[ˈLee] or [ˈLee-eh]
Lindelöf, Ernst Leonard (1870-1946)	[ˈLin-deh-ˈlyof]
Liouville, Joseph (1809-1882)	[Lee-u-ˈvil]
Lissajous, Jules Antoine (1822-1880) (curves of Lissajous)	[Lee-sah-ˈzhoo]
Lobachevsky, Nikolai Ivanovich (1792-1856)	[Loh-bah-ˈchev-ski]
Loewner, Karl (1893-1968)	[ˈLyov-nehr]
Lommel, Eugen Cornelius Joseph von (1837-1899)	[Loh-ˈmel]
Loretz, Hendrik Antoon (1853-1928)	[Loh-ˈrhents]
Lucas, François Édouard Anatole (1842–1891) (Lucas numbers)	[Lou-ˈkah]
Luzin, Nikolai Nikolaevich (1883-1950)	[ˈLoo-zin]
Lyapunov, Aleksandr Mikhailovich (1857-1918)	[Lya-poo-ˈnof]
Mach, Ernst (Waldfried Josef Wenzel) (1838-1916) (Mach number, Mach principle)	[Makh]
Mainardi, Angelo Gaspare (1800-1879)	[My-ˈnahr-dih]
Mandelbrot, Benoît B. (1924-)	[ˈMahn-del-ˈbrot]
Mascheroni, Lorenzo (1750-1800)	[Mas-keh-ˈrho-nih]
Mathieu, Emile Léonard (1835-1890)	[Mah-ˈtyo]
(de) Maupertuis, Pierre Louis Moreau (1698 – 1759)	[Moh-pehr-tju-ˈee]
Mazur, Stanisław (1905-1981)	[Mah-ˈzoor]
Mellin, Robert Hjalmar, (Finland, 1854-1933)	[Meh-ˈlin]
Menchoff (Menshov), Dmitrii Evgenievich (1892-1988)	[Men-ˈshof]
Mikusiński, Jan (1913 -1987)	[Mih-koo-ˈsin-ski]

Minkowski, Hermann (1864-1909)	[Min-’kof-ski]
de Moivre, Abraham (1667-1754)	[Deh-moh-’avr]
Möbius (Moebius), August Ferdinand (1790 – 1868)	[’Miyo-bius]
Monge, Gaspard (Comte de Péluse) (1746-1818)	[’Monzh]
Montel, Paul Antoine Aristide (1876-1975)	[Mon-’tell]
von Neumann, János (John) (1903-1957)	[Fon-’Noyman]
Navier, Claude Louis Marie Henri (1785-1836)	[Nah-vee-’eh]
Nikodym, Otton M. (1889-1974)	[Nih-koh-’dim]
Nörlund (Nørlund) Niels Erik (1885-1981)	[’Nohr-loond]
Hudde, Jan (1628-1704)	[Hoo-’ddeh]
Orlicz, Władysław (1903-1990)	[’Or-litch]
Oleinik, Olga Arsenievna (1925-2001)	[Oh-’ley-nik]
Ostrogradsky, Mikhail Vasilevich (1801-1862)	[Os-troh-’grad-ski]
Padé, Henri Eugène (1863-1953)	[Pa-’deh]
Painlevé, Paul (1863-1933)	[Pen-leh-’veh]
Papin, Denis (1647-1712)	[Pah-’pen]
Parseval des Chênes, Marc-Antoine (1755-1836)	[Pahr-seh-’val]
Pascal, Blaise (1623-1662)	[Pas-’kal]
Peano, Giuseppe (1858-1932)	[Peh-’ah-noh]
Phragmén, Lars Edvard (1863-1937)	[’Frag-’men]
Picard, Charles Emile (1856-1941)	[Pee-’kahr]
Pincherle, Salvatore (1853-1936)	[Pin-’kehr-leh]
Plana, Giovanni Antonio Amedeo (1781-1864)	[’Plah-nah]
Plancherel, Michel (1885-’967)	[Plan-sheh-’rel]
Pochhammer, Leo August (1841-1920)	[’Pokh-’hummer]
Poincaré, Jules Henri (1854-1912)	[Poh-ahn-kah-’re]
Poinsot, Louis (1777-1859)	[Poh-an-’soh]
Poisson, Siméon-Denis (1781-1840)	[Poh-ah-’sohn]
Pólya, Georg (1887-1985)	[’Poy-ah]
Pompeiu, Dimitrie (1873-1954)	[Pohm-’pey-u]
Poncelet, Jean-Victor (1788-1867)	[Pons-’leh]
Pontryagin, Lev Semyonovich (1908-1988)	[Pohn-’trya-ghin]
Puiseux, Victor Alexandre (1820-1883)	[Pu-ee-’zoh]
Raabe, Joseph Ludwig (1801-1859)	[’Raa-beh]
Rademacher, Hans (1892-1969)	[’Rha-deh-’ma-kher]
Radó, Tibor (1895-1965)	[Rha-’doh]
Ramanujan, Srinivāsa (1887-1920)	[Rha-’mah-noo-jahn]
Ricci-Curbastro, Gregorio (1853-1925)	[’Rih-chi kuhr-’bas-troh]
Riccati, Jacopo Francesco (1676-1754)	[Rhi-’kah-tih]
Riemann, Georg Friedrich Bernhard (1826-1866)	[’Rhee-mahn]
Riesz, Marcel (1886-1969)	[’Rhis]
Rolle, Michel (1652-1719)	[’Roll]
Rouché, Eugène (1832-1910)	[Roo-’sheh]
Runge, Carle David Tolmé (1856-1927)	[’Roon-geh]
Schrödinger (Schroedinger), Erwin Rudolf Josef Alexander (1887–1961)	[’Shriyo-din-gher] or [’Shryo-din-gər]

Schwarz, Hermann Amandus (1843-1923)	[‘Shva:rts]
(Ritter) von Seidel, Philipp Ludwig (1821-1896)	[fon-‘Zai-del]
Schlömilch, Oscar (Oskar) Xavier ((1823–1901)	[‘Shliyo-milh]
Serre, Jean-Pierre (1926-)	[Sehr]
Siegel, Carl Ludwig (1896-1981)	[‘Zee-gehl]
Sierpiński, Waclaw (1882-1969)	[Sehr-‘pinski]
Sommerfeld, Arnold Johannes Wilhelm (1868-1951)	[‘Zomm-ehr-feld]
Sperner, Emanuel (Sperner’s lemma; 1905-1980)	[‘Shper-nehr]
von Staudt, Karl Georg Christian (1798-1867)	[‘fon ‘Shtod]
Steiner, Jakob (1796-1863)	[‘Shtay-nehr]
Steinitz, Ernest (1871-1928)	[‘Shtay-nits]
Stieltjes, Thomas Joannes (1856-1894)	[‘Steel-tjess]
Stoilow, Simion (1873 -1961)	[Sto-‘ee-lov]
Stolz, Otto (1842-1905)	[Shtolts]
Steinhaus, Hugo Dyonizy (1887-1972)	[‘Shtayn-house]
Sturm, Jacques-Charles-François (1803-1855)	[‘Shturm]
Sylov, Peter Ludwig Mejdell (1832-1918)	[‘See-lov]
Szegő, Gabor (1895-1985)	[‘Seggio:h]
Szőkefalvi-Nagy, Béla (1913-1998)	[‘So:keh-falvy-‘No:d]
Teichmüller, Paul Julius Oswald (1913-1943)	[‘Taikh-‘mju-lehr]
Tikhonov (Tichonov) Andrei Nikolaevich (1906-1993)	[‘Tee-kho-nof]
Tonelli, Leonida (1885-1946)	[Toh-‘neh-li]
Torricelli, Evangelista (1608-1647)	[Toh-rhi-‘cheh-li]
Tricomi, Francesco Giacomo (1897-1978)	[‘Trih-koh-mih]
Tschakaloff (Chakalov), Lyubomir (1886-1963)	[Cha-‘kah-lof]
(von) Tschirnhaus, Ehrenfried Walter (1651-1708)	[‘Chirn-hause]
Ulam, Stanisław Marcin (1909-1984)	[‘Oo-lahm]
Vallée Poussin, Charles-Jean Étienne Gustave Nicolas (1866-1962)	[Va-‘leh poo-‘sehn]
Vandermonde, Alexandre-Théophile (1735-1796)	[Van-der-‘mond]
Veronese, Giuseppe (1854-1917)	[Ve-rho-‘neh-zeh]
Viète, François (1540-1603)	[Vee-‘et]
Vitali, Giuseppe (1875-1932)	[Vih-‘ta-lih]
Viviani, Vincenzo (1622-1703)	[Vee-vee-‘ah-nih]
Volterra, Vito (1860-1940)	[Vol-‘teh-rha]
Voiculescu, Dan-Virgil (1949-)	[Voi-ku-‘les-ku]
de Vries, Gustav (1866-1934), Dutch	[De-‘Fris]
Wantzel, Pierre Laurent (1814-1848)	[Vaan-‘zel]
Weierstrass, Karl Theodor Wilhelm (1815-1897)	[‘Vy-ehr-‘shtrass]
Weil, André (1906-1998)	[Vei] or [Vay]
Weyl, Hermann (1885-1955)	[Vail]
Wiener, Norbert (1894-1964)	[‘Vee-nehr]
Wronski, Josef-Maria Hoëné de (1778-1853)	[‘Vron-ski]
Zermelo, Ernst Friedrich Ferdinand (1871-1953)	[Tsehr-‘meh-loh]
Zolotarev, Yegor (Egor) Ivanovich (1847-1878)	[Zoh-loh-tah-‘ryof]
Zorn, Max August (Zorn’s lemma, 1906-1993)	[‘Tsorn]

Notes

This pronunciation rule mimics the Voice of America rule <http://names.voa.gov>

Many English speaking mathematicians meet foreign colleagues at conferences or when visiting abroad. For better communication it is good to keep in mind some specifics of European name phonetics. Here are some very short and “rough” rules how to read certain European names.

In French, the stress is on the last syllable, while in German it is often on the first.

The German “z” is pronounced mostly as “ts”, like in “pizza”, but harder (example Zorn [‘Tsorn]). The German “s” is pronounced “z” in front of a vowel. Thus Sommerfeld becomes [‘Zomm-ehr-feld]. In front of a consonant, “s” often becomes “sh”, like in Steiner [‘Shtay-nehr], Springer [‘Shprin-gher].

The letter “w” in German is pronounced “v”, while “v” is mostly pronounced “f”.

Example: Wiener [‘Vee-nehr], which means a citizen of Wien (Vienna); also

Volkswagen = [‘folks-vaagen].

The Polish “ł” (with the slash) is a very soft sound, something like “lw”. The Czech and Polish “cz” is pronounced “ch” like in “chip”, while the Czech, Polish and German “ch” is “kh” like in “hood”. In Italian, “c” is often pronounced “ch” too.

Remember that in Spanish “j” is read as light “h”, Juan is [Hoo-‘ahn].

In several Slavonic languages sounds like “sh”, “ch”, “zh” are presented by single letters with additional features. In Serbo-Croatian, for instance, ž = zh, š = sh, č = ch, and ć also sounds very close to “ch” (i.e. Kovač = [‘Koh-vach], Mitrinović ~ [Mit-‘rhi-noh-vich], etc). Unfortunately, very often these letters appear in “stripped” form. Thus Mitrinović appears in print as Mitrinovic and is pronounced [Mitrinovic], also Tričković becomes Trickovic, i.e. [Trikovik] (should be [‘Trich-koh-vich]) and the name becomes almost unrecognizable.

Comments and suggestions are very welcome!

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