# Computing a pick-5 wheel's chances using its Spectrum 

## L. 1 Steiner Design $\mathrm{S}(3,5,17)$ and Chances of winning

We use Table 14.2, which is the spectrum of $S(3,5,17)$, in Chapter 14 to find the chances of the wheel for various wins in a given Pick-5 lotto. But first we need to find the chances of the various Hits, namely 'Hits = 3', 'Hits $=4$ ', and 'Hits $=5$ ', where 'Hits' denotes the number of winning numbers among the wheel's 17 numbers. Chances for the various Hits values are given in Table L.1.

| Number of winning <br> among <br> wheel's 17 numbers | Chance (expressed as '1 in') |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Euromillions <br> 50 numbers <br> in Field 1 | Powerball <br> 69 numbers <br> in Field 1 | Megamillions <br> 70 numbers <br> in Field 1 |
| 3 | 5.9 | 12.46 | 12.9 |
| 4 | 26.98 | 90.81 | 95.95 |
| 5 | 342.39819 | 1816.178571 | 1955.884615 |

Table L.1. Chance of a specific number of winning numbers to appear in a specific set of 17 numbers

Let us consider the Powerball lottery (USA as of 2019) with five numbers drawn from Field 1 comprising 69 numbers. Then we see from Ap-

