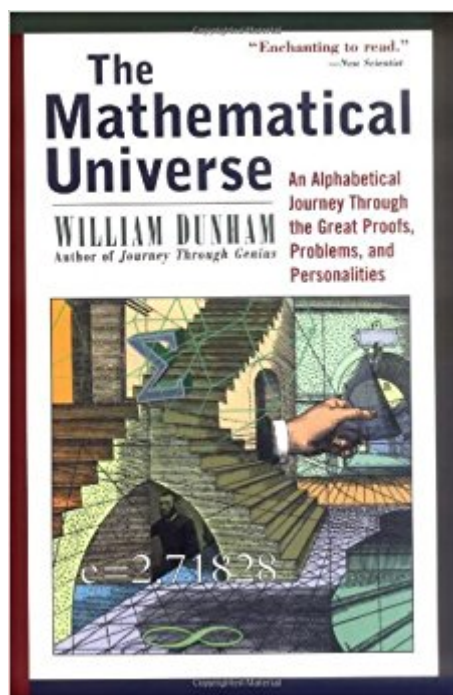




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The Mathematical Universe: An Alphabetical Journey Through The Great Proofs, Problems, And Personalities



Synopsis

"Dunham writes for nonspecialists, and they will enjoy his piquant anecdotes and amusing asides -- Booklist "Artfully, Dunham conducts a tour of the mathematical universe. . . he believes these ideas to be accessible to the audience he wants to reach, and he writes so that they are." -- Nature "If you want to encourage anyone's interest in math, get them The Mathematical Universe." * New Scientist

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Mathematical Universe is a solid collection of short essays, with each addressing a particular mathematical topic. Titles range from "Isoperimetric Problem" to "Where Are the Women?" Author Dunham manages to maintain a conversational tone while referencing diagrams, equations, and rigorous arguments throughout the book.

Like John Allen Paulos's *Beyond Numeracy* (LJ 4/1/91), this is an A-to-Z collection of mathematical essays. The advantage of this format is that it lets the author hit the highlights in essays that can be read independently. This collection is less cantankerous than Paulos's, and it is also somewhat more focused and mathematically challenging, though still written for a popular audience. Dunham (*Journey Through Genius: The Great Theorems of Mathematics*, Wiley, 1990) is winner of the 1993 George Polya Award for excellence in math writing, an honor he richly deserves. He is fascinated by the nature of mathematical genius, and the theme of these essays is the personality and

eccentricities of mathematicians and the brilliance of their discoveries. For sophisticated readers who don't mind equations (including algebra, geometry, and calculus), this is a rewarding and entertaining look at the history of mathematics. Amy Brunvand, Fort Lewis Coll. Lib., Durango, Col. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Enjoyable as a quick dip into a range of different fields of mathematics. Unfortunately, the Kindle version suffers from many, many typos misformatting in the mathematical equations. In some cases they are completely illegible, and the reader is left to guess what a symbol was supposed to have been.

This is the coolest book! It takes you down a counter-intuitive journey through math - using the alphabet as the guide. Fun, interesting, empowering. Great for people flirting with the idea of revisiting a math phobia to see if they might get over it this time. They will.

I love the manageable pieces and the choice of topics. A chapter on pi and a chapter on e for example are just what hope find. I'm not disappointed as math books go, this is page turner.

I think it is a must for everyone, specially for those who dislike math. Written in an almost colloquial language the author targeted the non-mathematician reader and nicely succeeded in his endeavour.

Much easier subject matter than some of this author's other books. If you're interested in studying mathematics, you might pick this one up to see what it's about. If you like it, read "Journey Through Genius" next.

I really enjoyed *Journey through Genius: The Great Theorems of Mathematics*, so was looking forward to peeling the cover off this book, however i was a little disappointed to find repeated text from the earlier book. That Ramanujan is missing is surprising (only mentioned in a passing reference to discuss gender imbalance). It would have been nice to have heard a little about this mathematical phenomenon, even if to just discuss the number 1729, if his theorems were deemed to difficult for a general audience. For these 2 points it loses a star. Dunham utilizes his gift for giving clear expositions in an entertaining and engaging manner. Another good read.

This book was an incredible addition to my mathematical reading. The format is an alphabetical

chapter list of mathematical topics. It was a great way to organize each thought and topic. The topics range from arithmetic to algebraic and many, many in between. He helped me link some things historically and fundamentally that I had already been practicing, which led to an even better understanding of many "basic" (not always simple) mathematical proofs. I am so happy I purchased this book, and would recommend it for the layman and the pro.

Excellent book that gives us a synopsis of the history of maths from early days. The only criticism I found (and no doubt other readers and the author) is that by virtue of the title, we are limited to one piece as per each letter of the alphabet. I personally would have liked to see the Z chapter written on Zero. That apart, quite an entertaining read and highly recommended. Dunham should write some more.

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