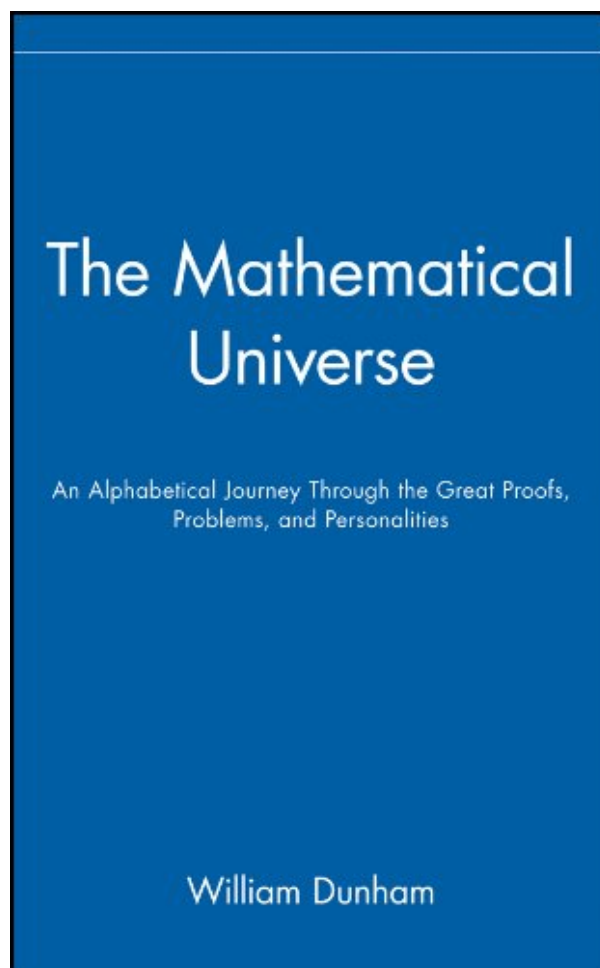


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From the simple elegance of the Pythagorean theorem to the looking-glass world of Russell's Paradox and the summed infinities of integral calculus, experience the beauty and majesty of the mathematical universe. William Dunham, author of the popular *Journey Through Genius*, will give you a rare sampling of its joys. Writing in his trademark razor-sharp style, Dunham introduces a tantalizing selection of the great proofs, notorious disputes, and intriguing unsolved mysteries. Subjects range from the golden age of Greek geometry to the furthest frontier of infinite series. In chapters spanning the field from A to Z, discover the marvels of the Monte Carlo Method and the ancient riddle of Dido's Problem. Scale the heights of the Himalayas with famed surveyor Sir George Everest and puzzle over the fascinating conundrum of Fermat's Last Theorem. Dunham explores more than five thousand years of mathematical history, digging into the earliest records in Egypt, Babylon, India, and China, and turning up surprising tales and tidbits from modern times. All along the way, Dunham portrays the great masters of math at their work. In colorful anecdotes, the brilliant - often eccentric - luminaries chart the course of mathematical progress. Among them are the battling Bernoulli brothers, Jakob and Johann, who worked tirelessly to one-up each other's theorems; the famed Isaac Newton and largely forgotten Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, who independently and virtually simultaneously discovered "the calculus"; and the exceptionally determined genius Sofia Kovalevskaja, who discovered the rules of trigonometry for herself when she was left without instruction. Your passport to rich rewards, *The Mathematical Universe* is accessible to any reader with a basic knowledge of algebra and geometry. You will come away from this exhilarating book with a keen sense of the power and splendor of the magical mathematical world.

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Great for the masses, but not for math people

By Marc

This is my least favorite Dunham book, and not because it is for the non-math masses.

This book does not really seem to have any real organization to it as his other works. And his writing is targeted to appeal to the pedestrian reader he tries a bit hard to be amusing.

It almost seems that Dunham is out of his comfort zone trying to write for the masses and not turn people off with the math.

Yes there is the math in the book, but it really is nothing of interest to the math student or math types. Unlike *Journey through Genius*, where he does not seem to worry about whether he lost the average reader and writes more towards the math crowd who want the math and historical.

In his other works he really does a great job of presenting the topics in a cohesive manner which develops the context and almost tells a story. In this book the organization is almost random.

The 5 stars is because for the masses, this is an easy read and hopefully will entice readers to really go back and at least try to develop a deeper understanding of math.

Also, Dunham does have his favorites and he makes that clear in his books. Everyone will have their favorites in a subject so broad with such a long history of great discovery.



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