



The Big Questions: Mathematics

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Este volumen dedicado a las matemáticas está escrito con un estilo sencillo, que se ayuda con imágenes, destacados y ejemplos para clarificar los conceptos más difíciles de esta ciencia. Así, de modo cercano y comprensible, Tony Crilly contesta a las veinte preguntas fundamentales de las matemáticas. ¿De dónde vienen los números? ¿Por qué los números primos son los átomos de las matemáticas? ¿Son los números imaginarios reales? ¿Cuáles son los números más raros? ¿Qué son las matemáticas del universo? ¿Mienten las estadísticas? ¿Hay una fórmula para cada cosa? ¿Puede el aleteo de una mariposa crear un huracán? ¿Por qué las dimensiones no son suficientes? ¿Podemos crear un código irrompible? Pueden las matemáticas predecir el futuro? ¿Pueden ser hermosas las matemáticas?

The Big Questions: Mathematics Details

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Sata says

Great book.

Recommended for engineers and laymen for a more profound understanding of the widely used mathematical methods, their origin and purposes.

Tieta says

a must-read book for mathematicians. my favourite chapters are "where do parallel lines meet?", and "are statistics lies?"

Carlos Colomer conesa says

Da una pincelada de muchos temas pero no le da tiempo a entrar en ninguno a fondo. Parece un compendio de conversaciones de sobremesa. No lo recomiendo en absoluto.

Khoa says

This is a surprisingly interesting about math. Not only does it discuss about the classic math, it also expands the horizon to all the fields that is related to mathematics: monty hall (statistics), Enigma machine(encryption), golden ratio(art),.... The book also includes many well-chosen quotes. All in all, this book is a great way to explore mathematics and its usefulness to our life.

Anonymous Smarty-pants says

This book is perfect not only for the mathematician interested in other mathematical fields but also for the layman interested in mathematics as a whole. With concise explanations and original and easy-to-understand analogies, this book makes it easier to grasp those hard to imagine mathematical concepts that leave the majority of us blank-faced when confronted with them. I enjoyed the book well enough that I purchased two more from "The Big Questions" series.

Seth Buren says

A good overview of some of the more interesting concepts in math. The book is good for the scientifically curious, but doesn't take a genius to understand. Like the other books in the series, very good binding,

illustrations are fairly good, pages have a very nice feel.

Al Bità says

I am one of those odd people who have rather catholic (in the original sense of 'universal') interests: while I love Literature, Philosophy and the Arts in all their forms, I have also always maintained an interest in all things Scientific as well, and a particular interest in its core discipline: mathematics. Most popular books on this subject are always of interest for me, but more often than not they tend to cover either comparatively simple or 'practical' applications, or are directed to the more esoteric complexities which can quickly cause the casual reader to become lost in its intricacies. There appears to be few neutral grounds.

This is not the case with this excellent book (one of a series of Big Questions edited by Simon Blackburn) — and perhaps it is because Crilly wisely uses what I would call a philosophical approach. In 20 chapters Crilly manages to cover the most interesting 'big questions' of Mathematics in a style that would not intimidate a casual reader. Each of these 'questions' is clearly enunciated, each is discussed as to why it is considered important, each briefly tells us what has been achieved in resolving the issues raised by them, and each goes on to explain why the solutions are important for all of us, not just for mathematicians. All of this is done with a minimum of formulae, and assumes only an intelligent reader. As a result, even those averse even to the idea of maths will find this book of immense interest. I found it truly instructive and informative — exciting, even — and would recommend it unreservedly for one and all.

The glories of Mathematics, its ineluctable mysteries, its attempts at coming to grips with our understanding of the world — these are the main conceptual matters Crilly covers, not the stringent methodology that, while necessary to minimise our potential errors, creates fear and loathing in some people. With any luck, this is the sort of book which might just spark an interest in those who might have otherwise thought mathematics to be a closed world.

Bashnev says

Nice popular level book that details some main themes within mathematics. Good for the curious layman and there could one or two new things for someone working in a STEM field.
