REVIEW of the book
A Mathematical Medley-Fifty Easy Pieces on Mathematics
by
George G. Szpiro
The book was published by American Mathematical Society in 2010

As its title indicates, this book has set up to present in layman's terms modern applications of mathematics, whether we refer to economics, internet transactions, plane flights or the human brain.

The book is divided into 9 big chapters and brings forward interesting aspects of mathematics, famous people, recent studies that have kept the minds of great mathematicians busy for quite a long time.

The first chapter of this book concentrates on the secrets hidden in numbers, on some research for the sake of mathematics. In this way, we gain an insight into the Littlewood-Salem-Izumi constant, Kepler's Conjecture and prime numbers.

In the following chapter, the author wants to prove how mathematics is applied to the real world. He refers to coins and stamps, to queues and even to wobbly tables.

Chapter number 3, " Personalities", focuses on important moments in the life of some great mathematicians such as Bella Abramova, professor Ekhad, Stephen Smale, brothers Jacob and Johann Bernoulli, Cark Friedrich Gauss.

Other main topics included in this book are plane flights (how the time spent until all passengers board the plane can be reduced- chapter 4, the human brain and the way it deals with all the information received-chapter 5, games such as Rubick's Cube, Sudoku, Tic-Tac-Toe, Chequers-chapter 6.

The last two chapters deal with choosing and dividing problems (chapter 8) and with money and making money (chapter 9).

Overall, this book is meant not only to mathematicians, but to all the readers who enjoy mathematics, even if they haven't studied it thoroughly. It is a light and pleasant reading for anyone with an interest in mathematics.

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