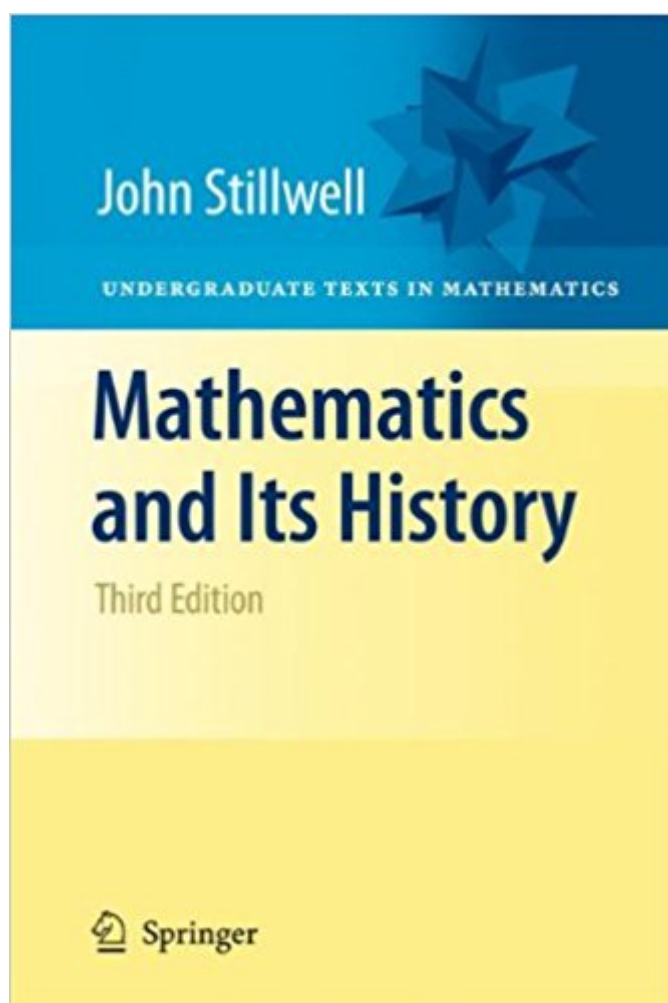The book was found

Mathematics And Its History (Undergraduate Texts In Mathematics)

Synopsis

From a review of the second edition:"This book covers many interesting topics not usually covered in a present day undergraduate course, as well as certain basic topics such as the development of the calculus and the solution of polynomial equations. The fact that the topics are introduced in their historical contexts will enable students to better appreciate and understand the mathematical ideas involved...If one constructs a list of topics central to a history course, then they would closely resemble those chosen here."(David Parrott, Australian Mathematical Society)This book offers a collection of historical essays detailing a large variety of mathematical disciplines and issues; itÃ¢â¬â„¢s accessible to a broad audience. This third edition includes new chapters on simple groups and new sections on alternating groups and the Poincare conjecture. Many more exercises have been added as well as commentary that helps place the exercises in context.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From the reviews of the third edition:"The authorÃ¢â¬â„¢s goal for Mathematics and its History is to provide a Ã¢â¬Å"birdÃ¢â¬â„¢s-eye view of undergraduate mathematics.Ã¢â¬Â• (p. vii) In that regard it succeeds admirably. ... Mathematics and its History is a joy to read. The writing is clear, concise and inviting. The style is very different from a traditional text. ... The author has done a wonderful job of tying together the dominant themes of undergraduate mathematics. ... While Stillwell does a wonderful job of tying together seemingly unrelated areas of mathematics, it is

possible to read each chapter independently. I would recommend this fine book for anyone who has an interest in the history of mathematics. For those who teach mathematics, it provides lots of information which could easily be used to enrich an opening lecture in most any undergraduate course. It would be an ideal gift for a departmentÃ¢â ¬â„¢s outstanding major or for the math club president. Pick it up at your peril Ã¢â ¬â ¢ it is hard to put down!"(Richard Wilders, MAA Reviews)Ã¢â ¬Å"I appreciate and recommend StillwellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s presentation of mathematics and history written in a lively style. The authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s concept (history mostly as the means of approaching mathematics) remains a matter of interest for both the mathematician and the historian Ã¢â ¬Â¦.Ã¢â ¬Â• (RÃƒÂ diger Thiele, Zentralblatt MATH, Vol. 1207, 2011)From the reviews of the second edition:"This book covers many interesting topics not usually covered in a present day undergraduate course, as well as certain basic topics such as the development of the calculus and the solution of polynomial equations. The fact that the topics are introduced in their historical contexts will enable students to better appreciate and understand the mathematical ideas involved...If one constructs a list of topics central to a history course, then they would closely resemble those chosen here."(David Parrott, Australian Mathematical Society)"The book...is presented in a lively style without unnecessary detail. It is very stimulating and will be appreciated not only by students. Much attention is paid to problems and to the development of mathematics before the end of the nineteenth century... This book brings to the non-specialist interested in mathematics many interesting results. It can be recommended for seminars and will be enjoyed by the broad mathematical community." (European Mathematical Society)"Since Stillwell treats many topics, most mathematicians will learn a lot from this book as well as they will find pleasant and rather clear expositions of custom materials. The book is accessible to students that have already experienced calculus, algebra and geometry and will give them a good account of how the different branches of mathematics interact."(Denis Bonheure, Bulletin of the Belgian Society)

mathematics before the end of the nineteenth century... This book brings to the non-specialist interested in mathematics many interesting results. It can be recommended for seminars and will be enjoyed by the broad mathematical community." (European Mathematical Society)"Since Stillwell treats many topics, most mathematicians will learn a lot from this book as well as they will find pleasant and rather clear expositions of custom materials. The book is accessible to students that have already experienced calculus, algebra and geometry and will give them a good account of how the different branches of mathematics interact."(Denis Bonheure, Bulletin of the Belgian Society)This third edition includes new chapters on simple groups and combinatorics, and new sections on several topics, including the Poincare conjecture. The book has also been enriched by added exercises.

Stillwell's Math and its History is the one book I would pack in my suitcase for spending a few years alone on an island. This text is also the book I wish I'd received in high school - or at least read as an undergrad. Why? Because Math and its History fullfills Stillwell's promise in his preface that he would integrate the disparate areas of mathematics and show how they "play" together. He also vividly demonstrates the constant baton passing in the relay race of inventing math, one mathematician influencing another to go farther, often with surprising results. I also love his synoptic approach to ancient math so he can focus his pages (and my time) giving me a roadmap to follow in my studies.

A very readable and comprehensive history of mathematics with actual mathematics included - in the text and in the problems - as opposed to merely talking about mathematics with names and dates. Of course there are enough of the names and dates included to make it a real history too.

Excellent guide thru History of Mathematics with a good depth on the subjects. This book will be my companion for a long time since Prof. Stillwell motivates us not only to learn the historical events but also to explore and understand the work of the brightest minds in the field.

no problems

Excellent

Exactly what I needed to help review some old concepts as well as piece together a beautiful

subject.Well done!

While I've enjoyed the first 10 pages, my copy was very poorly printed. There have to be at least 30 pages worth of text which are just blank.Updated:I previously gave this 1/5 stars for missing pages; I ordered another copy (2 years later) and everything appears to be fine now. This is a great book, and an easy read.

excellent book by a real mathematician

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