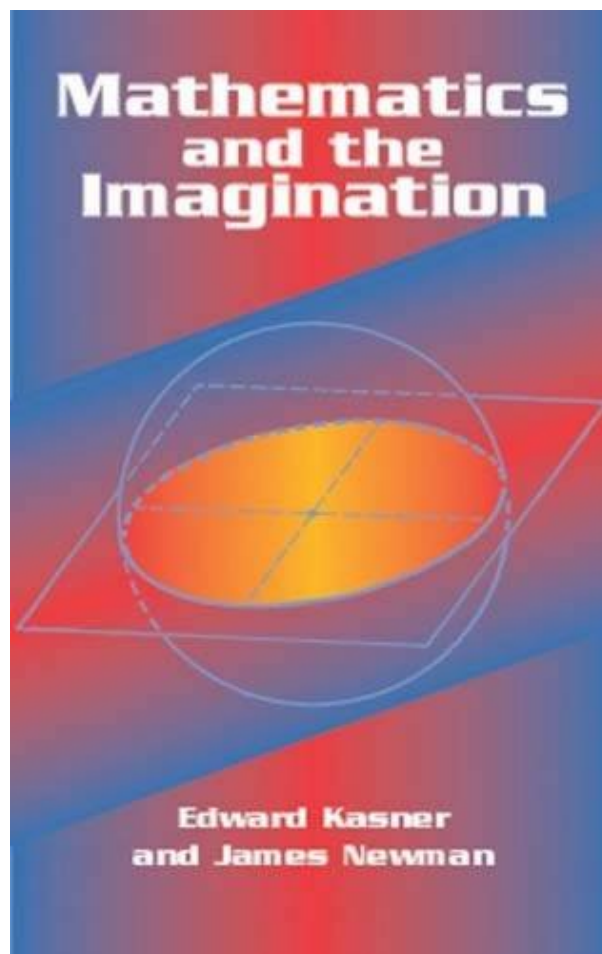
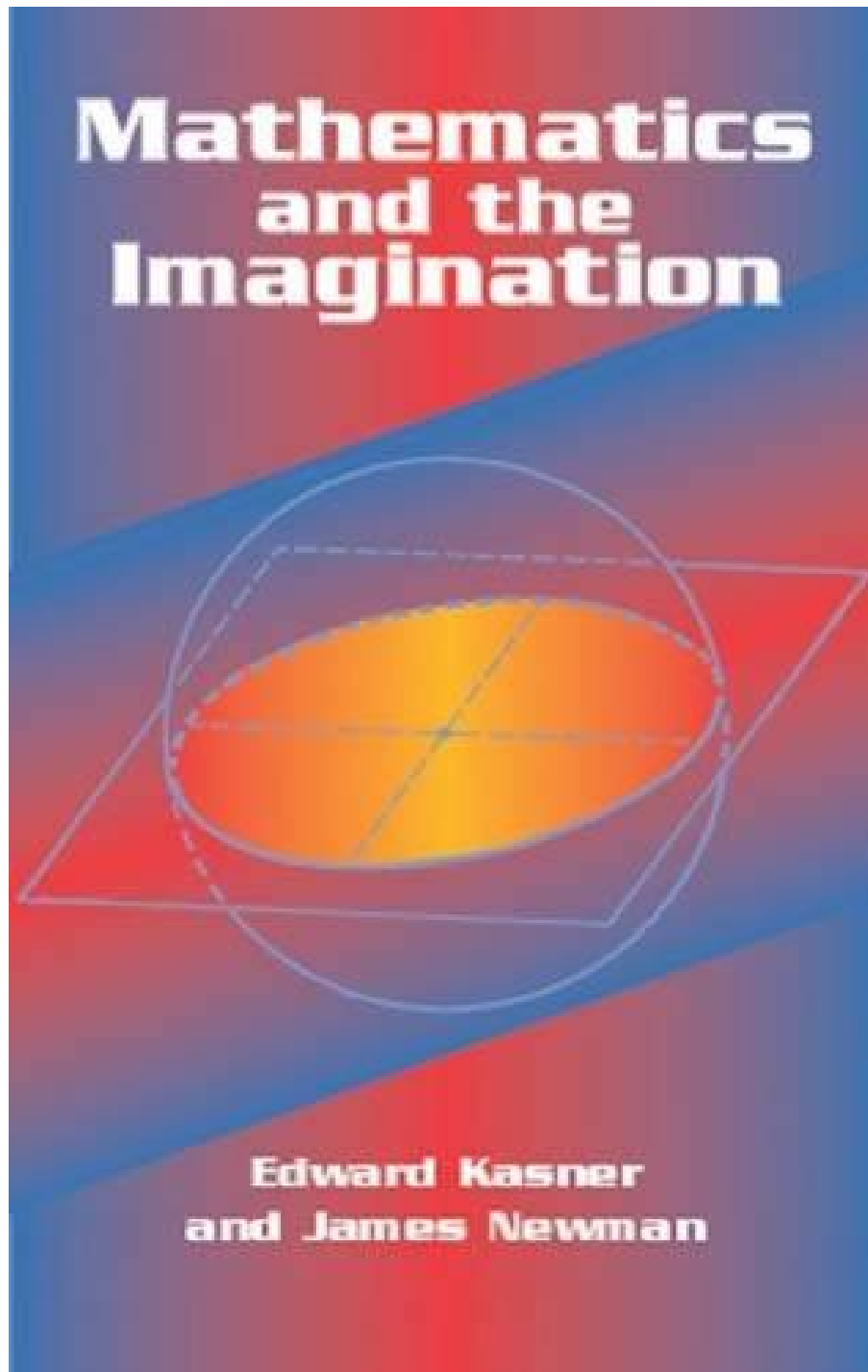


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About the Author

James Newman is Senior Lecturer in Media Communications and Cultural Studies at Bath Spa University. Previous books include "Videogames "(2004) and "Teaching Videogames" (2006). Iain Simons is a Writer & Curator and Founding Director of GameCity Festival. He is currently writing a book about the birth of the UK games industry and his new book, " GameLives," will be published in 2007 by Laurence King Publishing.

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A brief and breezy explanation of the new language of mathematics precedes a smorgasbord of such thought-provoking subjects as the googolplex (the largest definite number anyone has yet bothered to conceive of); assorted geometries — plane and fancy; famous puzzles that made mathematical history; and tantalizing paradoxes. Gamblers receive fair warning on the laws of chance; a look at rubber-sheet geometry twists circles into loops without sacrificing certain important properties; and an exploration of the mathematics of change and growth shows how calculus, among its other uses, helps trace the path of falling bombs.

Written with wit and clarity for the intelligent reader who has taken high school and perhaps college math, this volume deftly progresses from simple arithmetic to calculus and non-Euclidean geometry. It "lives up to its title in every way [and] might well have been merely terrifying, whereas it proves to be both charming and exciting." — Saturday Review of Literature.

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Oldie but Goodie

By Skip

Having had this book around the house for ages, I picked it up and to my surprise within a few minutes really

understood (not just enough to use, but actually understood) what logarithms really are, where they come from. The chapter on e , π , and i is another great one to get the story behind the story, as it were. For me the book could better have continued in this vein of explaining concepts we've seen before but never really grasped intuitively, and perhaps because I'm not terribly interested in mathematical games I found that segment less fun. But in fairness, they've done a good job getting away from textbook math and into some interesting themes. I don't know if it's all still valid, as it is so old--references to Fermat's last theorem are at least outdated!

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

Mathematics and the Imagination

By Hugo Campanelli

This book came to me by chance. Instantly got my attention. It is written in such a way, that makes interesting to travel through different chapters. In each one you have the mathematical theme mixed with stories, mathematicians' histories and puzzles. You learn about people with the greatest imagination. Their personality and a lot of other things, that make you enjoy the reading, no matter if you love mathematics or you have hated it all the time. I've enjoyed specially the chapter about Mathematical Analysis, with the story about rivalry between the egocentric Newton and the humble Leibnitz. This book is the opportunity to learn that mathematics are not the boring thing we have learned at school.

24 of 26 people found the following review helpful.

Indulge your enjoyment of mathematics and expand your mind

By A Customer

My school teacher gave me this book to read when I was 13 years old, based on the interest I showed in Mathematics that went beyond the curriculum at school. In many ways it was way beyond my comprehension at the time, but little did I know that it would have such a lasting effect on me. Reading about concepts of infinity, that you could only describe to a fellow teenager as "different sizes of infinity", I realized that there really is a philosophy of mathematics that transcends all other subjects and that there is also an art to working with the subject. I can't recommend this book enough, and I never did give it back to my teacher!

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