

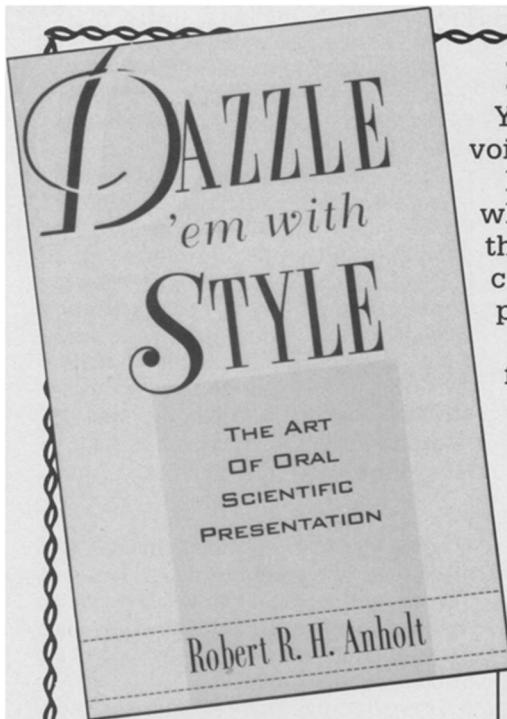
The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

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Pages 1-16



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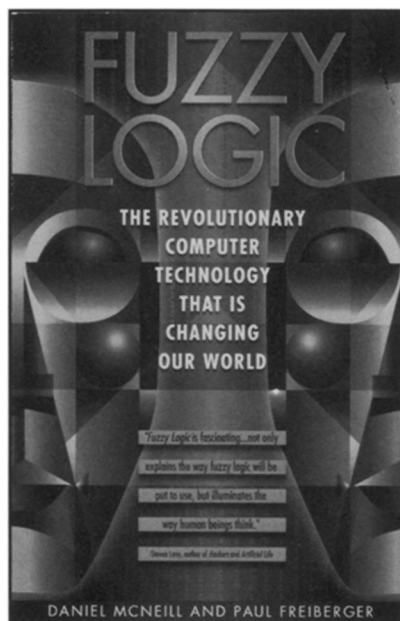
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RB2092

Imagine tossing your laundry into a "fuzzy" washing machine, pushing a button, and leaving the machine to do the rest, from measuring out detergent to choosing a wash temperature. Imagine a subway system that stops and starts so smoothly that passengers don't bother holding on to straps. Futuristic fantasy? No. In Japan, this is reality — and it's starting to explode into our marketplace.

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But when Zadeh tried to sell his idea to the American academic community and to American companies,



he met with ridicule and scorn. Only the Japanese saw the logic of fuzzy logic, and soon such companies as Matsushita and Sony will earn billions selling it back to us. And they will have a head start on the dazzling future possibilities of fuzzy logic:

- Software that predicts the stock market based on the daily news
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*Fuzzy Logic* is the compelling tale of this remarkable new technology and the fascinating people who made it happen. It is also the story of what it took for American business to catch on to fuzzy logic — and how it will soon affect the lives of every one of us.

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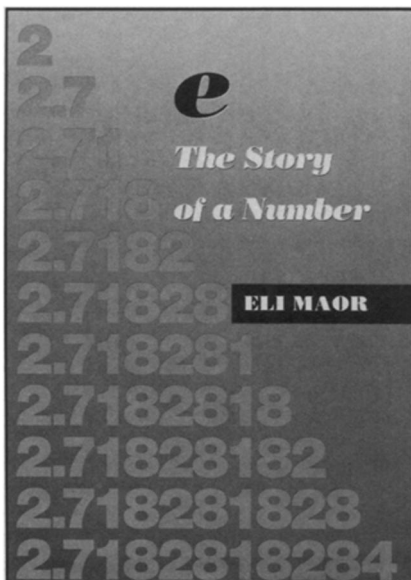
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Princeton University Press, 1994, 223  
pages, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$24.95



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eH

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The story of  $\pi$  (pi) has been told many times, both in popular books and scholarly works. But the number  $e$ , a close relative, has fared less well: Despite its central role in mathematics, its history has never been written for a general audience. *e: The Story of a Number* by Eli Maor fills this gap. Geared to the reader with only a modest background in mathematics, this book is a history of  $e$  from a human as well as a mathematical perspective. At the same time, it is the story of an entire period in the history of mathematics, from the early seventeenth to the late nineteenth century, with the invention of calculus at its center. Many of the players who took part in this story are brought to life in these pages. Among them are John Napier, the eccentric religious activist who invented logarithms and—unknowingly—came within a hair's breadth of discovering  $e$ .

The unifying theme in this book is how a single number ties together many different aspects of mathematics—from the law of compound interest to the shape of a hanging chain, from the area under a hyperbola to Euler's formula  $e^{ix} = -1$ , from the inner structure of a nautilus shell to Bach's equal-tempered scale (not to mention the art of M. C. Escher). Maor ends with an account of the discovery of transcendental numbers, an event that paved the way for Cantor's revolutionary ideas about infinity.

—from Princeton University Press