

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

November 15, 1997
Vol. 152, No. 20
Pages 305-320



The Ideal Eye?

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In *Five Golden Rules*, critically acclaimed author John L. Casti serves as curator of a brilliant collection of 20th-century mathematical theories, leading us on a fascinating journey of discovery. This is a tale of mystery and logic, elegance and reason; it is the story of five modern, monumental mathematical theories and how they shape our lives. All those intrigued by mathematics will find this an enlightening, eye-opening, and entertaining work. High school algebra or geometry—and enthusiasm—are the only prerequisites.

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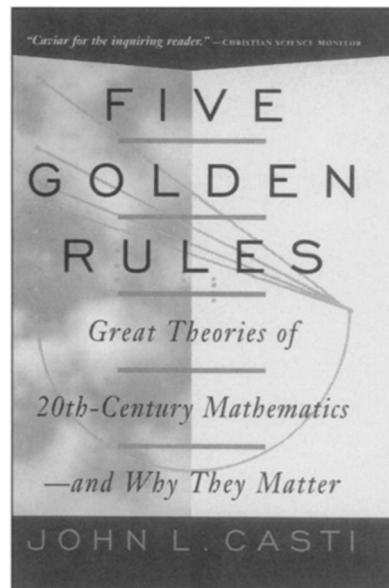
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Along the way, we meet the leading thinkers of the day: John von Neumann, L.E.J. Brouwer, Marston Morse, and Alan Turing, and others. We also come to understand the circumstances that led each to such revolutionary discoveries as the Minimax Theorem, which spawned the exciting field of game theory, and the Simplex Method, which underpins the powerful tools of optimization theory.

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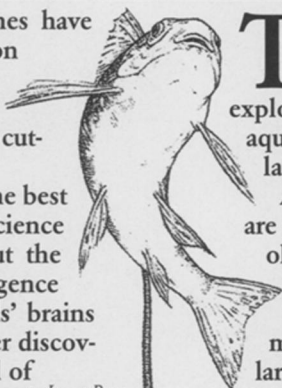


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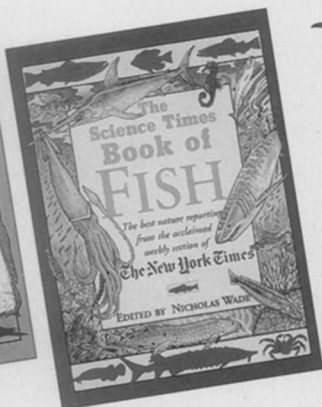
THE SCIENCE TIMES BOOK OF BIRDS gathers the best articles on bird behavior and biology from Science Times and offers fascinating new findings about the minds of birds: for example, that parrots' intelligence may rank with that of the dolphin and that birds' brains actually regenerate to store new information. Other discoveries described in this collection include the fossil of a 75 million-year-old flightless bird; the practice of siblicide among cattle egrets; and crows' astonishing tool-making abilities.
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In 1995, a Princeton-based mathematician showed up at a scientific conference and dropped a bombshell. He had succeeded in deciphering one of mathematics' great secrets, one that thousands of people had puzzled over for the last three-and-a-half centuries: He had proven Fermat's Last Theorem. He presented his work in a 200-page paper that took 7 years to write and another year to fine-tune.

Written by a 17-century French scholar, the deceptively simple-sounding theorem states that the square of a whole number can be broken down into two other squares of whole numbers but that the same cannot be done with numbers having higher powers. After Fermat's death, many people spent a lifetime trying to prove the theorem.

Work on the concept actually began long before Fermat's day. Around 2000 B.C., the Babylonians sought a way to break down a squared number into the sum of two squares. In the sixth century B.C., the Greek mathematician Pythagoras incorporated this concept into his own famous theorem, paving the way for Fermat.

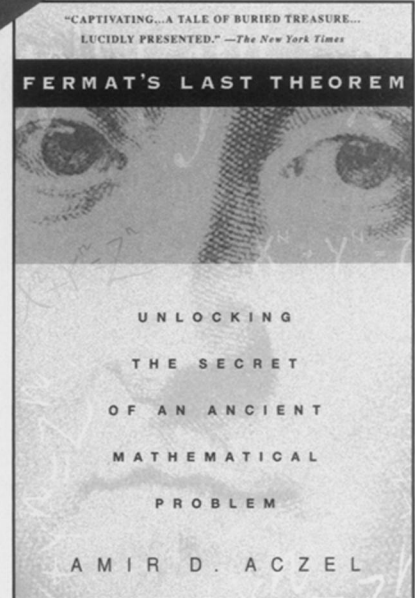
Fermat's Last Theorem is the previously untold story of the people, the history, and the cultures that lie behind a great theorem and its long-awaited proof. Philosophy and science combine with investigative journalism to make this a real-life detective story of the intellect.

—from Four Walls Eight Windows

$x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no whole number solution when n is greater than 2.

Delta, 1996, 147 pages
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What could be more reliable than the sun?

The use of solar energy to heat and cool buildings predates history. Yet in recent years, decisions about design and materials for home construction have been made as though there were an endless supply of fossil fuels. Not only have we forgotten about classic design principles, but we've lost countless opportunities to continue the age-old process of solar innovation.

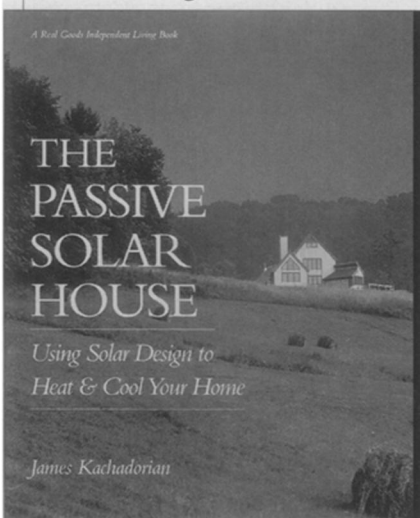
This book offers a technique for building homes that heat and cool themselves in a wide range of different climates, using ordinary building materials available anywhere and methods familiar to all building contractors and many do-it-yourselfers.

A formerly patented design for author James Kachadorian's Solar Slab heat exchanger is now available for the use of anyone who wants to build a house that needs a back-up furnace or air conditioner rarely, if ever.

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—from Chelsea Green

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