



reader an appetizer of what mathematics is about. His purpose does not seem to be to actually teach math, but to give readers an appreciation of the richness of math. And this he accomplishes quite well. Goldberg writes in a conversational tone and with a sense of humor. I recommend this book to readers interested in science. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. and it was a great present for someone like me By M PavI received this as a present, and it was a great present for someone like me, who is numerate but hardly a fan of the topic. Goldberg writes in an engaging style, and draws the reader into math with examples of how things work, and how beautifully it all makes sense. Who knew it could be such fun? 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 'fact' wrong but otherwise good By William F. Wallace Just one correction from page 12: "After all, half of all births are girls and half are boys." As a sociologist he should know this - the probability of having a baby boy is greater than having a girl. The actual ratio is roughly 107/100. The number of boys created is actually more than that, as boys are far more likely to have genetic problems and be aborted either naturally or by choice. The cause seems to be the much greater mobility of sperm carrying the Y chromosome. By comparison the X chromosome-carrying sperm is far heavier and slower. I've just started the book and may have more to add later. I do like it pretty well.

The heart of mathematics is its elegance; the way it all fits together. Unfortunately, its beauty often eludes the vast majority of people who are intimidated by fear of the difficulty of numbers. *Mathematical Elegance* remedies this. Using hundreds of examples, the author presents a view of the mathematical landscape that is both accessible and fascinating. At a time of concern that American youth are bored by math, there is renewed interest in improving math skills. *Mathematical Elegance* stimulates students, along with those already experienced in the discipline, to explore some of the unexpected pleasures of quantitative thinking. Invoking mathematical proofs famous for their simplicity and brainteasers that are fun and illuminating, the author leaves readers feeling exuberant as well as convinced that their IQs have been raised by ten points. A host of anecdotes about well-known mathematicians humanize and provide new insights into their lofty subjects. Recalling such classic works as Lewis Carroll's *Introduction to Logic* and *A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper* by John Allen Paulos, *Mathematical Elegance* will energize and delight a wide audience, ranging from intellectually curious students to the enthusiastic general reader.

"Explores quantitative thinking using mathematical proofs and anecdotes from well-known mathematicians. Discusses all that needs to be known; the lay of the land; why simple does not mean easy to do; gamesmanship; safe landings; believe it or not; science, math . . . and baseball; the case for logic; a short math miscellany and a final thought . . . ; and twenty-five of the world's greatest brainteasers, plus two." *Journal of Economic Literature* If I was to house a collection of books on mathematics for fun and learning on a shelf, this one would accompany John Allen Paulos' *Innumeracy*, and Stephen Gould's *Full House*, on the one side, and Lewis Carroll's *Introduction to Logic*, and Martin Gardner's *Best Mathematical and Logical Puzzles*, on the other. . . . This is a fun and readable book, but the fun really disguises a serious educational mission. Howard Schneiderman, Lafayette College Ardent devotees of mathematics, as well as readers eager to understand more about today's renewed focus on math, will turn again and again to this deft and accessible explanation of the world of numbers. Along with famous mathematical proofs, there are fascinating insights into the minds and lives of those who discovered them. Puzzle lovers can test their mettle with a collection of stimulating brainteasers that concludes a book that is an informative, delightful, fun read for everyone. Ibtihaj Said Arafat, The City College of New York Among contemporary social scientists, the admirable Steven Goldberg is anomalous: unlike many of his peers, he believes that scholarship is, above all, for getting at the truth. Paul Goss, author, *Higher Superstition* No person in American sociology is so well informed concerning the current fads and fashions in ideas among American intellectuals and semi-intellectuals. . . . Goldberg has emerged as a leading sociological logician. . . . The spirit of the great masters of sociological theory is in him. Lewis Feuer, University of Virginia About the Author Steven Goldberg has focused his career on logical analyses of social issues appearing in such books as *When Wish Replaces Thought* and *Fads and Fallacies in the Social Sciences*. He was chairman of the department of sociology of City College, City University of New York for twenty years.