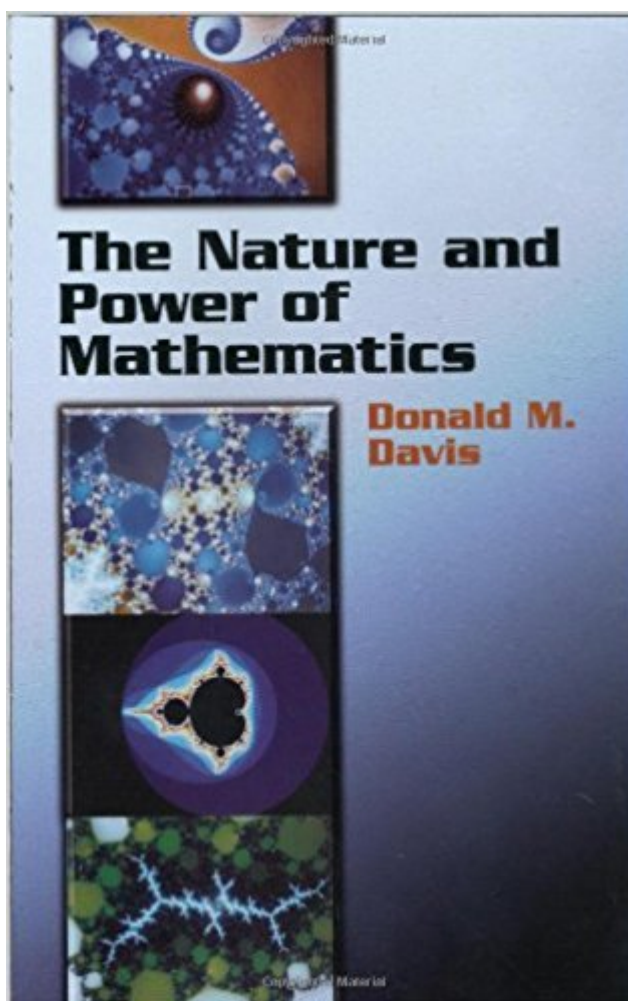The book was found

The Nature And Power Of Mathematics (Dover Books On Mathematics)

Synopsis

This captivating book explains some of mathematics' most fascinating ideas to nonspecialists. It explores items of philosophical and historical interest, discusses the often-surprising applicability of mathematics, and reveals the subject's intrinsic beauty. Author Donald M. Davis focuses on three main areas: non-Euclidean geometry, a basis for relativity theory; number theory, a major component of cryptography; and fractals, the key elements of computer-generated art. He also discusses related topics, such as the relevance of Greek mathematics to Kepler's laws of planetary motion, and the theoretical work that led to the development of computers.Only a background in basic algebra and geometry is necessary to appreciate this volume, which features exercises that further develop some of its important concepts. Graded according to difficulty, these exercises are designed to improve readers' skills in logic, and to enable them to experience mathematics at increasingly advanced levels.Supplementary materials at the end of each chapter include intriguing examples of the subjects' applications, as well as biographical sketches of Archimedes, Einstein, Newton, and other luminaries of mathematics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The author's enthusiasm for the subject is evident; the reader is swept along through a galaxy of ideas and is left with the feeling of having gained a deeper understanding of at least some branches of mathematics. It is written in a straightforward style with no gimmicks."--The Times Higher Education Supplement --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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I find that books with illustrations simply do not work well in ebook formats. This should be addressed, but so far it hasn't been. I have a paperback version, which is a much better format. As a book, I found it excellent. Understanding the concepts requires work--no surprise--but if anything in high school math made sense to you (I enjoyed geometry but nothing else), and you're curious about math without any real expertise, you will benefit from this book. As is always the case in books that "explain" math, the book will make leaps that will leave the non-math mind bewildered.

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