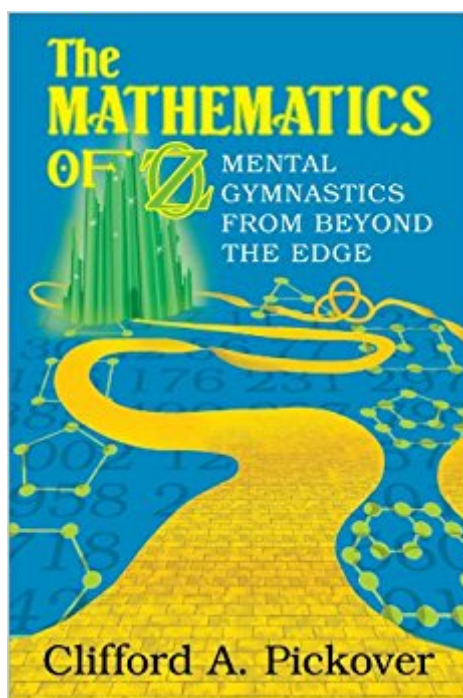


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# The Mathematics Of Oz: Mental Gymnastics From Beyond The Edge



## Synopsis

Grab a pencil. Relax. Then take off on a mind-boggling journey to the ultimate frontier of math, mind, and meaning as acclaimed author Clifford Pickover, Dorothy, and Dr. Oz explore some of the oddest and quirkiest highways and byways of the numerically obsessed. The thought-provoking mysteries, puzzles, and problems range from zebra numbers and circular primes to Legion's number--a number so big that it makes a trillion pale in comparison. The strange mazes, bizarre consequences, and dizzying arrays of logic problems entertain readers at all levels of mathematical sophistication. The tests devised by enigmatic Dr. Oz to assess human intelligence will tease the brain of even the most avid puzzle fan. They feature a host of mathematical topics: geometry and mazes, sequences, series, sets, arrangements, probability and misdirection, number theory, arithmetic, and even several problems dealing with the physical world. With numerous illustrations, this is an original, fun-filled, and unusual introduction to numbers and their role in creativity, computers, games, practical research, and absurd adventures that teeter on the edge of logic and insanity. Clifford A. Pickover is the author of over twenty highly acclaimed books on such topics as computers and creativity, art, mathematics, black holes, human behavior and intelligence, time travel, alien life, and science fiction. Among his books are *Computers, Pattern, Chaos, and Beauty* (St. Martin's Press, 1990), *Wonders of Numbers* (Oxford University Press, 2000), *Dreaming the Future* (Prometheus, 2001), *The Zen of Magic Squares, Circles, and Stars* (Princeton University Press, 2001), *The Stars of Heaven* (Oxford University Press, 2001), *The Paradox of God and the Science of Omniscience* (Palgrave, 2002). A Ph.D. graduate of Yale University, he is a prolific inventor with dozens of patents, the associate editor for several journals, the author of colorful puzzle calendars, and puzzle contributor to adult and children's magazines. Pickover's computer graphics have been featured on the cover of many popular magazines and on T.V. shows.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Be ready for a wonderful experience as you go through the numerical adventures of Oz."

Mathematics Teacher"Overall, this is a book of high quality puzzles...The solutions are very complete and understandable." The Mathematical Association of America Online"A stimulating romp through often mind-bending terrain." Science News"A perpetual idea machine, Clifford Pickover is one of the most creative, original thinkers in the world today." Journal of Recreational Mathematics"Bucky Fuller thought big, Arthur C. Clarke thinks big, but Cliff Pickover outdoes them both." Wired"Filled with an abundance of complex mysteries." Paper Clips"A must for anyone interested in puzzles, brainteasers, and mathematical oddities--particularly those who have ever wondered how many Great Pyramids could be constructed from the bricks making up a yellow-brick road extending coast to coast across the US. Recommended." Choice"Readers cannot deny the wit, humor, and intelligent challenges Pickover demands of them. Those who love solving puzzles will surely appreciate the whimsy and the sport." Leonardo, 36(5), 2003"This text with its strange mazes, bizarre consequences, and dizzying arrays of logic problems would entertain readers at all levels of mathematical sophistication... An original, fun-filled, and unusual introduction to numbers and their rules in creativity, computers, games, practical research, and adventures that teeter on the edge of logic and amusement. Certainly, fans of recreational mathematics will enjoy this text that offers a range of challenging puzzles with a detailed and plain language answer keys for all puzzles." Medhat H. Raim, School Science and Mathematics

Prepare yourself for a shattering odyssey as The Mathematics of Oz unlocks the doors of your imagination. The tests devised by the enigmatic Dr. Oz to assess human intelligence will boggle the brain of even the most avid puzzle fan and entertain readers at all levels of mathematical sophistication. His thought-provoking mysteries, puzzles, and problems range from zebra numbers and circular primes to Legion's number -- a number so big that it makes a trillion pale in comparison. With numerous illustrations, this is an original, fun-filled, and thoroughly unique introduction to numbers and their role in creativity, computers, games, practical research, and absurd adventures.

Wide variety of puzzles from impossible to easy. Fun. Many can be approached with a computer.

loved it

I found the puzzles and problems in this book to be original and varied, and with a wide range of difficulty levels. I enjoyed the fact that some puzzles might actually have more than one answer, which leaves room for healthy debate and for better understanding the way different people think. I think this book can be enjoyed by readers of different levels of mathematical sophistication. For example, a freshman in high school could skip the more difficult problems, like the one on Ramanujan Congruences, although this is one of the most interesting chapters. My favorite chapter is one that poses a statistics-like question, dealing with bones thrown into a pit. You have to figure out the ratio of the long piece to the short piece. Here's a sample of other chapters that I really enjoyed: 1. The Yellow-brick Road 2. An Experiment with Kansas 8. The Problem of the Bones 16. Omega Sphere 28. Legions' Number 29. The Problem of the Tombs 35. Prime-poor Equations 36. Number Satellite 43. Ramanujan Congruences and the Quest for Transcendence 49. The Jellyfish of Europa 99. A Connection Between Pi and e 103. The Scarecrow Formula 107. The Omega Crystal 108. Attack of the Undulating Undecamorphs! I've already spent hours reading and rereading the book, and showing it to friends, and I know I'll spend many hours more!

I prefer mathematical puzzles that have two features:- they are interesting (i.e. they have that difficulty that make them worth trying to solve);- they are solvable without developing a whole new theory and without writing program code. In this book most problems that are interesting (very interesting and intriguing, I must admit) are not solvable in the foresaid sense, and most solvable ones are not interesting. Of course, a few are both. The picture sequences to be completed are very original, and sometimes difficult, examples of IQ tests. However, in spite of that slight flaw, I have really enjoyed reading it. It may depend on my appreciation of Oz novels and movie, and even if this book is not likely to mark the history of mathematical entertainment, it remains a worthy reading.

This wonderful mathematical puzzle book has over 100 puzzles sure to delight readers -- from kids to adults. The problems include: mazes, sequences, probability, and more. Most puzzles are very clever and fun. I liked considering the yellow-brick road that crosses America. How many bricks would it take? I also liked the zebra numbers and circular primes. Legion's number is a number so big that it makes a billion look puny. Anyone who has pondered the vastness of our mathematical universe will love this book.

Awesome blend of stories mixing in some interesting puzzles. Being a Kansas girl, I was intrigued by the entertaining story line set in the "Sunflower state". My son graduated from the University of Kansas and there is a fictional story of the campus in the book that builds toward a puzzle. I gave the book to my son on his 25th birthday and I had marked the KU story. He turned to it and was totally endeared to the book. Couldn't be a better present for anyone who loves Kansas or puzzles. Just great!!!

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