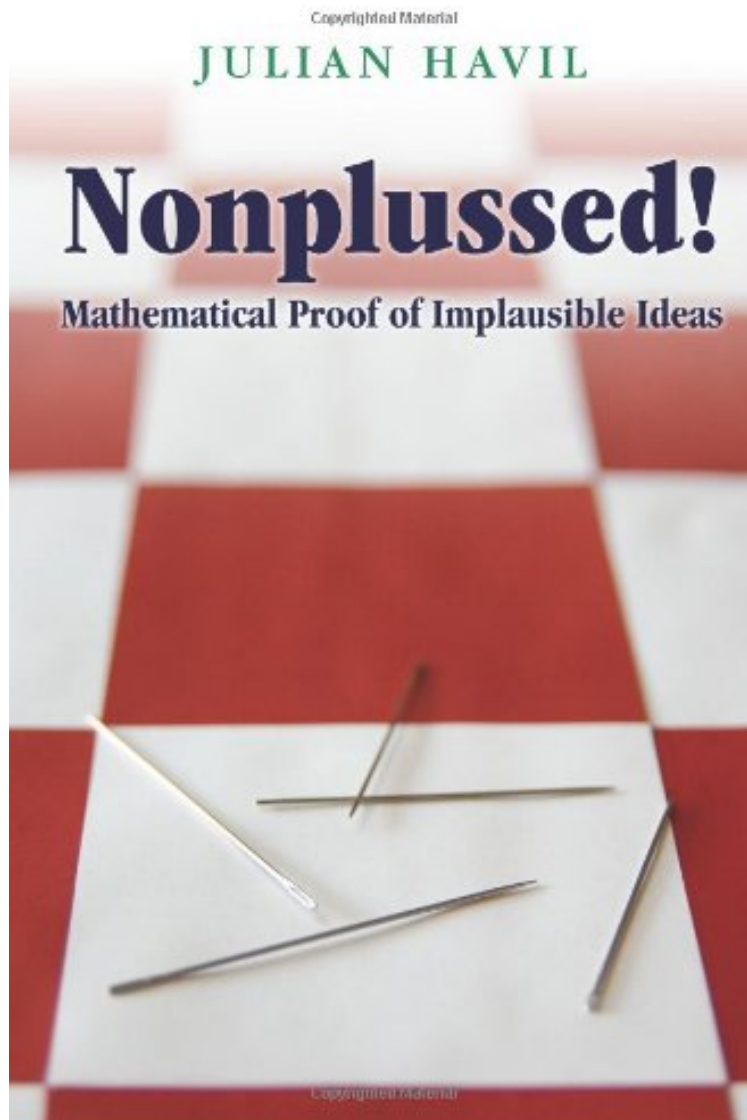


[Free pdf] Nonplussed!: Mathematical Proof of Implausible Ideas

Nonplussed!: Mathematical Proof of Implausible Ideas

Julian Havil

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2720164 in Books 2010-08-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.16 x .61 x 6.12l, .69 #File Name: 0691148228216 pages | File size: 49.Mb

Julian Havil : Nonplussed!: Mathematical Proof of Implausible Ideas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nonplussed!: Mathematical Proof of Implausible Ideas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By NLGreat book!24 of 26 people found the following review helpful. FascinatingBy Robert PeliniThis book will delight readers who like to get their hands into their math. Havil sticks to mostly elementary concepts, avoiding highly abstract fields that would lose most readers. When a subject could go too far afield, Havil warns about it and presents only the part the reader needs to know, citing original

source references for the interested reader. He gives complete, understandable proofs of some startling statements--proofs that leave you understanding exactly how you got there. The great thing is that you can choose to work through these problems for yourself, verifying each step, or you can just follow along with his proofs and take on faith any simple algebraic rearrangements that he may have skipped over. Compared to Havil's earlier classic on Euler's Gamma Function, this one's a bit easier to read, with numerous short sections on a variety of topics. One minor complaint is that I found some typesetting errors. One, ironically, occurs on page 49 where he uses the notation " $!n$ " (the number of derangements of n objects) when actually he meant " $n!$ " (the number of permutations of n objects). It's ironic because only two paragraphs later Havil warns that $!n$ can be easily confused with $n!$, whereupon he adopts a new notation for $!n$. In the delightfully bizarre but challenging chapter on John Conway's Fractran, there are a few typos that might confuse that minority of readers who will actually try to go line-by-line through the explanation of the Fractran machine (p. 172), but if you're one of those people, discovering the errors will anyway prove your mastery. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good. I can't totally follow all the math ...By James D. Ivers Pretty good. I can't totally follow all the math any more, but I can follow the logic and explanations. Fun book.

Math--the application of reasonable logic to reasonable assumptions--usually produces reasonable results. But sometimes math generates astonishing paradoxes--conclusions that seem completely unreasonable or just plain impossible but that are nevertheless demonstrably true. Did you know that a losing sports team can become a winning one by adding worse players than its opponents? Or that the thirteenth of the month is more likely to be a Friday than any other day? Or that cones can roll unaided uphill? In *Nonplussed!*--a delightfully eclectic collection of paradoxes from many different areas of math--popular-math writer Julian Havil reveals the math that shows the truth of these and many other unbelievable ideas. *Nonplussed!* pays special attention to problems from probability and statistics, areas where intuition can easily be wrong. These problems include the vagaries of tennis scoring, what can be deduced from tossing a needle, and disadvantageous games that form winning combinations. Other chapters address everything from the historically important Torricelli's Trumpet to the mind-warping implications of objects that live on high dimensions. Readers learn about the colorful history and people associated with many of these problems in addition to their mathematical proofs. *Nonplussed!* will appeal to anyone with a calculus background who enjoys popular math books or puzzles.