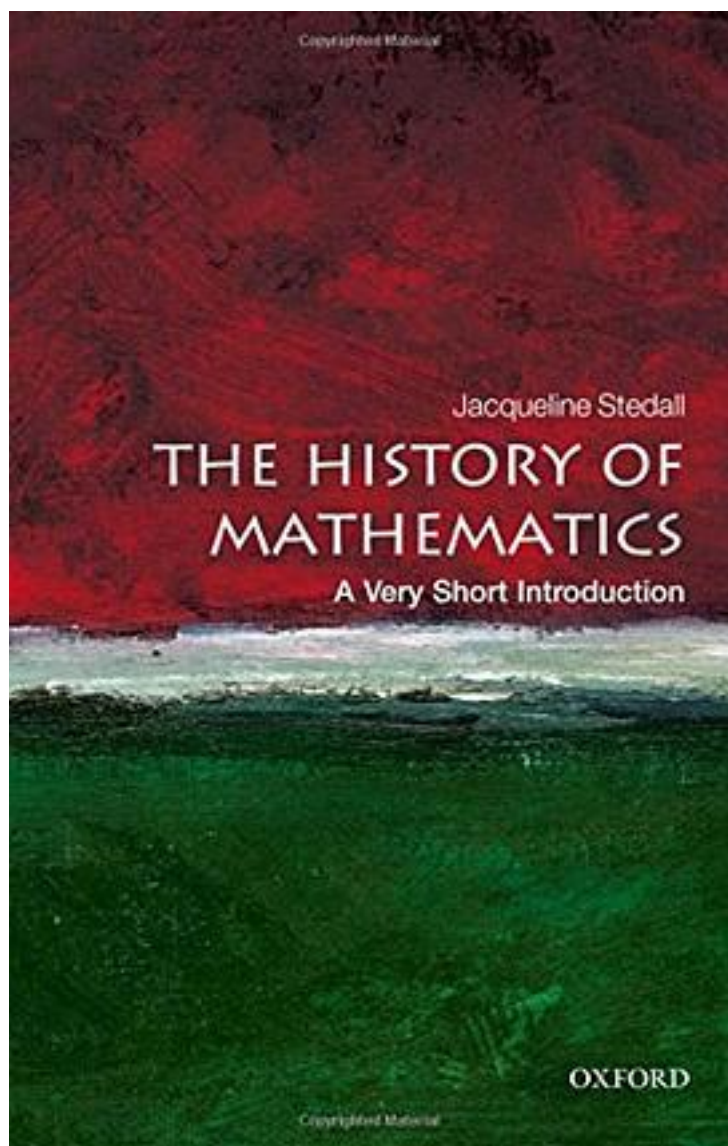


The History of Mathematics



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Mathematics is a fundamental human activity that can be practised and understood in a multitude of ways; indeed, mathematical ideas themselves are far from being fixed, but are adapted and changed by their passage across periods and cultures. In this Very Short Introduction, Jacqueline Stedall explores the rich historical and cultural diversity of mathematical endeavour from the distant past to the present day. Arranged thematically, to exemplify the varied contexts in which people have learned, used, and handed on mathematics, she also includes illustrative case studies drawn from a range of times and places, including early imperial China, the medieval Islamic world, and nineteenth-century Britain.

作者介绍:

目录: 1 Mathematics: myth and history
2: What is mathematics and who is a mathematician?
3: How are mathematical ideas disseminated?
4: Learning mathematics
5: Mathematical livelihoods
6: Getting inside mathematics
7: The evolving historiography of mathematics
Further reading
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标签

数学

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评论

一如Oxford既往的好 可能我不是数学出身 所以无法太好的理解这个简短
所以读起来不如读thermodynamic那本那么爽

视角很独特

Very attentive. // Aware: The crystal clearness of modern episteme involves reception from Euclid's systematic deductive style, excluding the "illogical" calculation that charges the Medieval. But since Non-Euclidean of the 19th-c, raised calculation again with axiomatic "guess". The critical point lies in shifts between geometry and algebra.

很有意思，有几个点以前从来没看见过。被Pell的方法惊艳了，应该这么搞啊……不过的确有点偏算法角度了…而且他貌似没有把一个数从等号这边移到等号那边那个操作…现在各种四则运算的符号也是不同的人发明的……这样看来小胖子们学习数学真是太难了啊……参考书目的编排也挺有意思，一手资料二手资料，看上去是整理强迫症～非常好的习惯啊！突然发现这是一位女数学家，难怪有专门讨论女数学家比例的问题。

数学学多了太容易让人产生精英主义的崇拜了。这本书希望我们的目光从为数学知识开疆拓土的先知身上移开，关注使用数学的凡人身上。内容按主题编排，就没有期末考试老师划重点一样浮光掠影的感觉，甚至有一点虚假的充实感觉，可见还是花了心思在体例上。

突然觉得之前学的都不是数学。1) 数学重要的不是“是什么”而是“功能是什么”；2) 有种规则是被grow的感觉；3) 几何那部分好意思，比较了sphere和flat. 4) estimate那一章和MIT的computational thinking很像。有意思！

象形文字的单体复杂度阻碍了抽象科学的诞生

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书评

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