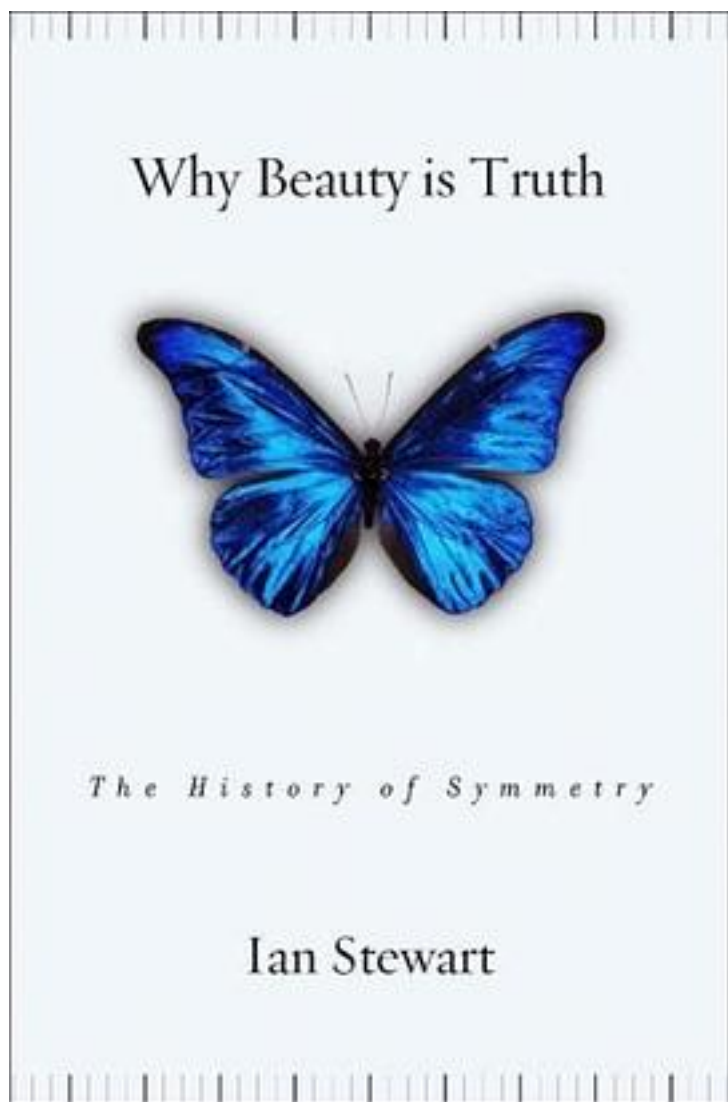# Why Beauty Is Truth



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著者:Ian Stewart

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An eminent teacher and writer explores an idea both simple and complex, both multidisciplinary and unifying--the story of symmetry.

At the heart of relativity theory, quantum mechanics, string theory, and much of modern cosmology lies one concept: symmetry.

In Why Beauty Is Truth, world-famous mathematician Ian Stewart narrates the history of the emergence of this remarkable area of study. Stewart introduces us to such characters as the Renaissance Italian genius, rogue, scholar, and gambler Girolamo Cardano, who stole the modern method of solving cubic equations and published it in the first important book on algebra, and the young revolutionary Evariste Galois, who refashioned the whole of mathematics and founded the field of group theory only to die in a pointless duel over a woman before his work was published.

Stewart also explores the strange numerology of real mathematics, in which particular numbers have unique and unpredictable properties related to symmetry. He shows how Wilhelm Killing discovered "Lie groups" with 14, 52, 78, 133, and 248 dimensions--groups whose very existence is a profound puzzle. Finally, Stewart describes the world beyond superstrings: the "octonionic" symmetries that may explain the very existence of the universe.

作者介绍:

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# 标签

科普

數學

symmetry

math

Group

美學

歷史

IanStewart

Given the education I received in maths and physics, the last 1/3 of the book is completely beyond me… But it is beautifully written indeed =)

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有些爱会让人变成情敌，有些却让人变成兄弟。
我们总会在自己的兴趣圈内遇到与自己有着相似之处的人，数学界的人肯定比普通人更能体会和向往"数学家对数学的忠贞"这种充满奇迹的品质。哪怕经历了几次数学危机，数学依然是很多人安全感的源头。有的缘份是基因表达或宇宙参数…

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