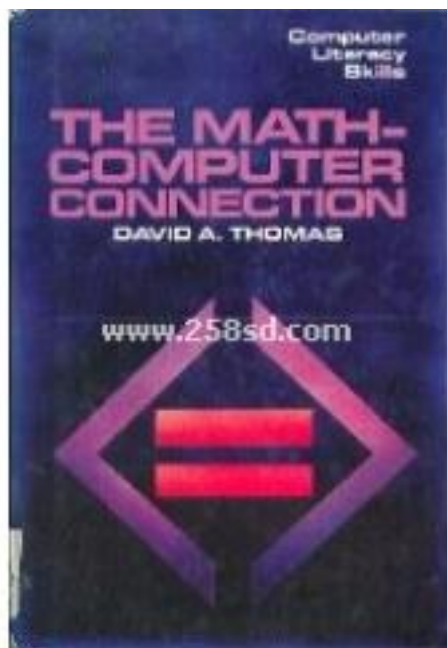


The Math-Computer Connection



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Have you ever watched the longi¼Œ curving flight of a baseball
home run? How fast would that baseball have to leave the
bat in order to travel a mile or several kilometers?
Normally¼Œ such questions are answered using mathe-
matics rather than by performing experiments. Experi-
ments can be great fun. But questions of this nature are
often asked out of intellectual curiosity. This kind of
curiosity is not so much about baseball as about thinking¼Œ
that isi¼Œ curiosity about the way people solve puzzles.
The fun in asking such imaginative questions is not
really diminished because no player may ever actually hit a
baseball a mile. The novelty of asking the question and the
excitement of discovering a logical answer by thinking is
enjoyable in itself without actually trying to find a way to
hit a baseball such an unlikely distance.
FORMULA

FACTS
Solving complicated problems often involves using mathe-
matical formulasï¼Œ or equations. The formulas may come
from algebraï¼Œ geometryï¼Œ trigonometryï¼Œ or some other
branch of mathematics. In many casesï¼Œ a formula is used as
a ruleï¼Œ explaining how to evaluate some variable or quanti-
ty. To mathematicians and scientistsï¼Œ the term evaluate

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