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Foreword

Mind your Mathematics is an excellent collection of essays on Maths and Mathematicians by S. Parthasarathy. This book starts with a lie told by Prof. Hardy to the Scotland Yard Police, and continues at full speed. I could not put the book down until I read all of it.

This book has some thing or other to all fans of mathematics. There are interesting anecdotes, stories, etc. There are light hearted essays, such as "Why you should not marry a maths teacher". Curious learners will find essays such as the one on magic squares interesting. While this book questions blind beliefs through essays, such as the one on Vedic Maths, it gives arguments in support of the number zero having come out of India.

But for one or two essays, all the content of this book is accessible to high school graduates. The language employed is simple and funny. For example, in an early chapter, he argues why mathematics is a machine. Then he goes on to ask what a mathematician is. He answers this question through a quote, "A mathematician is a machine for

turning coffee into theorems".

The author has released this book under Creative Commons CC-BY-SA license that will allow anyone to download and read a soft copy free of cost. This makes this book easily accessible to all. Through references given at the end of each chapter, one can get more information, if interested.

My only complaint about this book is that it is very short. On the flip side, you don't need much time to read it.

Kannan Moudgalya
IIT Bombay
October, 2022

Synopsis

`Not everyone is going to be a mathematician,`
`but everyone can have an appreciation for mathematics.`

This book contains a few short articles about mathematics. This book is a painless way to appreciate mathematics, without having to face those frightening and confusing formulae and jargon. Read this book at your own pace, when you are in a relaxed frame of mind. You can read these articles in any order, as you enjoy your favourite cup of coffee. By the time you finish reading all the articles, you will feel more comfortable dealing with mathematics (and mathematicians).

As is customary with this author, this book begins and ends with tributes to the legendary Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan.

Coloured texts are click-sensitive hyperinks. You can visit these links, if your are reading the softcopy of this book on your computer.

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You can have the last word: Send your comments, remarks and constructive suggestions to the author at drpartha@gmail.com

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