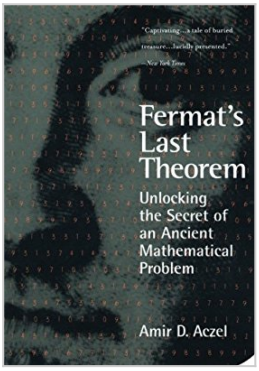

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem

By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel

Simple, elegant, and utterly impossible to prove, Fermat's last theorem captured the imaginations of mathematicians for more than three centuries. For some, it became a wonderful passion. For others it was an obsession that led to deceit, intrigue, or insanity. In a volume filled with the clues, red herrings, and suspense of a mystery novel, Amir D. Aczel reveals the previously untold story of the people, the history, and the cultures that lie behind this scientific triumph. From formulas devised from the farmers of ancient Babylonia to the dramatic proof of Fermat's theorem in 1993, this extraordinary work takes us along on an exhilarating intellectual treasure hunt. Revealing the hidden mathematical order of the natural world in everything from stars to sunflowers, Fermat's Last Theorem brilliantly combines philosophy and hard science with investigative journalism. The result: a real-life detective story of the intellect, at once intriguing, thought-provoking, and impossible to put down.

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem

By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel

Simple, elegant, and utterly impossible to prove, Fermat's last theorem captured the imaginations of mathematicians for more than three centuries. For some, it became a wonderful passion. For others it was an obsession that led to deceit, intrigue, or insanity. In a volume filled with the clues, red herrings, and suspense of a mystery novel, Amir D. Aczel reveals the previously untold story of the people, the history, and the cultures that lie behind this scientific triumph. From formulas devised from the farmers of ancient Babylonia to the dramatic proof of Fermat's theorem in 1993, this extraordinary work takes us along on an exhilarating intellectual treasure hunt. Revealing the hidden mathematical order of the natural world in everything from stars to sunflowers, Fermat's Last Theorem brilliantly combines philosophy and hard science with investigative journalism. The result: a real-life detective story of the intellect, at once intriguing, thought-provoking, and impossible to put down.

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #526909 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Basic Books
- Published on: 2007-10-12
- Released on: 2007-10-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.00" h x 10.00" w x 5.00" l, .27 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 160 pages

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Born in 1601, Pierre de Fermat lived a quiet life as a civil servant in Toulouse, France. In his spare time, however, Fermat dabbled in mathematics, and somehow managed to become one of the great mathematical theorists of his century. Around 1637 he scribbled a marginal note in one of his books. In it, he stated that he had solved a celebrated number theory problem: "I have discovered a truly marvelous proof of this, which, however, the margin is not large enough to contain."

If only the margin had been wider! For more than 300 years, mathematicians labored to crack the secret of Fermat's Last Theorem, without any success. Finally, in 1995, a Princeton-based mathematician named Andrew Wiles solved the riddle. Amir Aczel's account of this brainteaser and its solution is an irresistible read. And for mathematical dolts--like myself, for instance--it includes a concise, profusely illustrated history of mathematical theory from the Bronze Age to our own fin-de-siecle.

From Library Journal
It is extremely unusual for an advance in pure mathematics to draw the attention of the press worldwide. However, there was a great furor in 1993 when Andrew Wiles announced he had derived a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem, which had defeated mathematicians for more than 300 years. This brief book, written by a statistician rather than a number theorist, presents for the general public the long historical background, the awkward temporary retraction by Wiles, and his final triumph in 1995. The human drama is well presented, but the discussion of the mathematics itself is less successful. The author makes a good start in dealing with the fundamentals but leaps too quickly for lay readers into more complex ideas laden with jargon that is only partially explained. The book might have worked better if the author had taken several dozen additional pages to work through the mathematical concepts in more detail. For larger math collections.?Jack W. Weigel, Univ. of Michigan Lib., Ann Arbor

Review
"Aczel does a superb job...A mathematical bonbon of a book."

"Aczel maps the strange, beautiful byways of modern mathematical thought in ways the layperson can grasp."

"It employs a staggering range of abstract devices, which Mr. Aczel is a dab hand at explaining: Abelian varieties, Galois representations, automorphic forms, and on and on."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gary Lewis:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem? Maybe it is to become best

activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have some other opinion?

Timothy Walker:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended for you is Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem this e-book consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how do the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Here is why this book suited all of you.

David Goodspeed:

This Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem is brand-new way for you who has fascination to look for some information because it relief your hunger details. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having bit of digest in reading this Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by anyone. These books create itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book application form. People who think that in e-book form make them feel tired even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there is no in reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for anyone. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book sort for your better life and also knowledge.

Julian Eaton:

Publication is one of source of expertise. We can add our information from it. Not only for students and also native or citizen require book to know the revise information of year to year. As we know those textbooks have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, also can bring us to around the world. Through the book Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem we can have more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? For being creative person must want to read a book. Merely choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't end up being doubt to change your life at this time book Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem. You can more desirable than now.

Amir D. Aczel #3NFKB2S16RD

Read Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel for online ebook

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel books to read online.

Online Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel ebook PDF download

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel Doc

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel Mobipocket

Fermat's Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem By Amir D. Azcel, Amir D. Aczel EPub