

Math Mole

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Midpoint

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This issue

- Mathematician of the Day
- Quotes
- Puzzles
- Today's Editor: Shashank
- Thursday: Daniel

Quotes:

Do not worry about your problems with mathematics, I assure you mine are far greater. - Albert Einstein

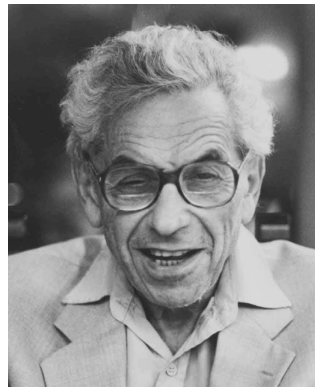
But the creative principle resides in mathematics. In a certain sense, therefore, I hold true that pure thought can grasp reality, as the ancients dreamed. - Albert Einstein

Puzzles:

Blocks: A solid rectangular block is formed by gluing together N congruent 1cm cubes face to face. When the block is viewed so that three of its faces are visible, exactly 231 of the 1cm cubes cannot be seen. Find the smallest possible value of N .

Colors: The 4 color theorem states that, on a continuous 2 dimensional map, no more than 4 colors are required to ensure that no 2 adjacent regions have the same color. The 1 dimensional analog requires only 2 colors. How many are required for the 3 dimensional analog?

Mathematician of the Day



Paul Erdős (1913-1996)

- Paul Erdős was born in Budapest, Hungary. Being an only child, he was very close to his parents who were both Jewish mathematicians.
- Erdős published more papers than any mathematician in history, working with hundreds of collaborators, primarily in combinatorics, graph theory, number theory, classical analysis, approximation theory, set theory, and probability theory. During the last decades of his life, Paul Erdős received at least fifteen honorary doctorates.
- Erdős spent most of his life as a vagabond, traveling between scientific conferences and the homes of colleagues all over the world. He would typically show up at a colleague's doorstep and announce "my brain is open," staying long enough to collaborate on a few papers before moving on a few days later.
- Towards the end of his life, Erdős regularly took amphetamines, which he believed stimulated his mathematical skills. He stopped for a month as part of a bet, but complained that his work had been set back by a month because of it.
- Erdős had an idiosyncratic vocabulary; he frequently invented or twisted words to refer to common things. He called children "epsilons," married men "captured," divorced men "liberated," mathematical lectures "preaching," music "noise," people who had stopped working in mathematics "dead."
- Erdős firmly believed in the existence of The Book, in which good had written the most elegant and powerful proofs to be hidden from mankind. Whenever he came upon a particularly well done proof, he would announce, "This one's from the book!"

