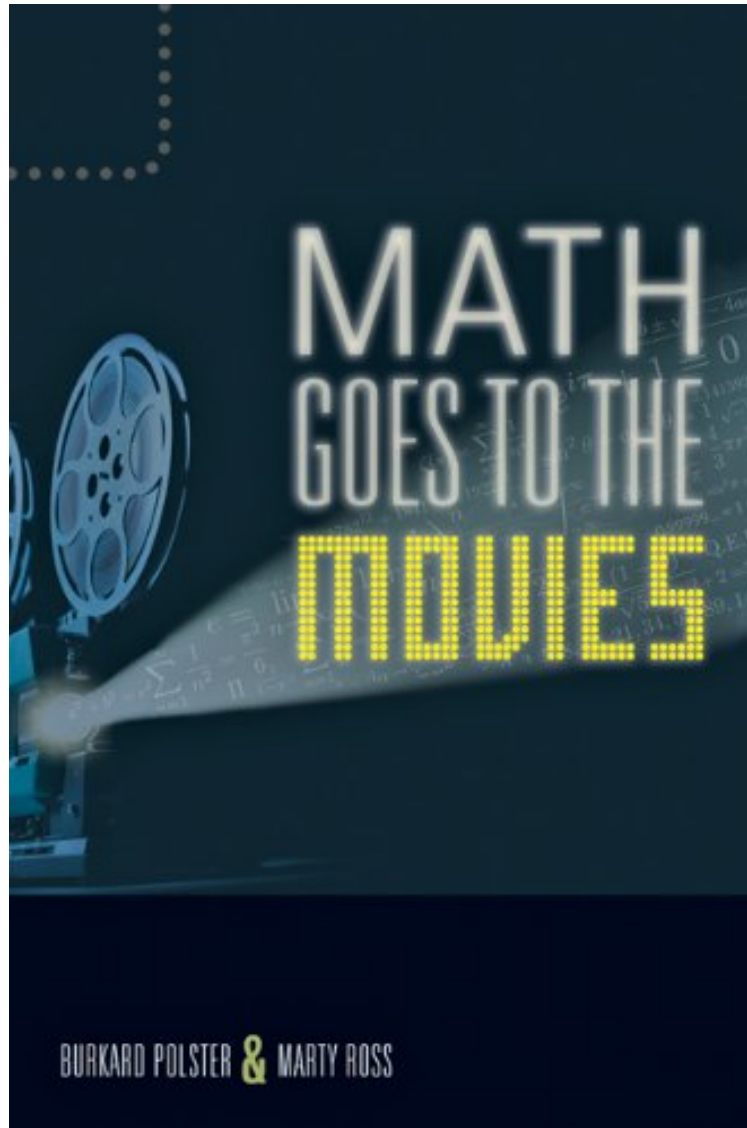


## Math Goes to the Movies

*Burkard Polster, Marty Ross*

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**Burkard Polster, Marty Ross : Math Goes to the Movies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Math Goes to the Movies:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. PresentBy MShueyBought this book as a present. I received it quickly. Gave it away and they love, love, loved it. It's nice to find thing like this so easily.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. fun book about math in filmsBy David JoynerThe first several chapters discuss in detail specific popular movies containing significant mathematics, such as Good Will Hunting (1997). The later chapters

present lots of fun mathematical movie trivia. Some other movies which the book goes into detail with are Stand and Deliver (1988), A Beautiful Mind (2001), Pi (1998), and It's My Turn (1980). As mentioned, the later chapters present lots of fun mathematical movie trivia. For example, in Die Hard with a Vengeance ("Die Hard 3"), the characters played by Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson are given various puzzles by the character played by Jeremy Irons. Some of these are mathematical in nature and are discussed in detail. A good sense of what the book is about can be determined from a list of chapter titles.

1. Good math hunting
2. The clever hand behind "A Beautiful Mind"
3. Escalante Stands and Delivers
4. The annotated Pi files
5. Nitpicking in Mathmagic land
6. Escape from the Cube
7. The incredible shrinking room
8. Murder in the hot house
9. A word problem for die hards
10.  $713=2811$ . One mirror has two faces, two mirrors have ...
12. It's my turn for some serious mathematics
13. Beautiful math, or better off dead
14. Pythagoreas and Fermat at the movies
15. Survival in the fourth dimension
16. To infinity and beyond!
17. Problem corner
18. Money-back bloopers
19. The funny files
20. People lists
21. Topic lists

This book is written with a breezy, humorous style. If you like math and movies and are looking for a fun read, I recommend it highly.

Mel Gibson teaching Euclidean geometry, Meg Ryan and Tim Robbins acting out Zeno's paradox, Michael Jackson proving in three different ways that  $7 \times 13 = 28$ . These are just a few of the intriguing mathematical snippets that occur in hundreds of movies. Burkard Polster and Marty Ross pored through the cinematic calculus to create this thorough and entertaining survey of the quirky, fun, and beautiful mathematics to be found on the big screen. Math Goes to the Movies is based on the authors own collection of more than 700 mathematical movies and their many years using movie clips to inject moments of fun into their courses. With more than 200 illustrations, many of them screenshots from the movies themselves, this book provides an inviting way to explore math, featuring such movies as: Good Will Hunting A Beautiful Mind Stand and Deliver Pi Die Hard The Mirror Has Two Faces

The authors use these iconic movies to introduce and explain important and famous mathematical ideas: higher dimensions, the golden ratio, infinity, and much more. Not all math in movies makes sense, however, and Polster and Ross talk about Hollywoods most absurd blunders and outrageous mathematical scenes. Interviews with mathematical consultants to movies round out this engaging journey into the realm of cinematic mathematics. This fascinating behind-the-scenes look at movie math shows how fun and illuminating equations can be.

"Written in a breezy, humorous style. If you like math and movies and are looking for a fun read, check it out." (David Joyner MAA s)"[A] thorough and entertaining survey... This behind-the-scenes look at movie math shows how fun and illuminating equations can be." (Lunar and Planetary Information Bulletin)" Math Goes to the Movies is a wonderful read." (Richard J. Wilders MAA s)"Movie and television aficionados who have a mathematics background will enjoy this book." (Choice)" Math Goes to the Movies comes packed with math and film insights alike, and is recommended for a wide audience." (Midwest Book )"Not only is it very easy to read, it is also a pleasure, owing to the authors' warm humour. I heartily recommend this book to any mathematician who is interested in the way that their discipline and its practitioners are presented to the wider cinema-going public." (Christopher Hollings Mathematics Today)"This is an entertaining grab bag of mathematical and movie tidbits that will delight mathematically minded movie buffs." (Robyn Arianrhod Gazette of the Australian Mathematical Society)"Math Goes to the Movies abounds in mathematical tidbits that even the most observant filmgoer might have never noticed or at least might not have remembered." (The Math Intelligencer)

About the Author Burkard Polster is an associate professor of mathematics at Monash University and author of A Geometrical Picture Book and The Mathematics of Juggling. Marty Ross, together with Polster, writes Maths Masters, a weekly column published in Australia's Age newspaper, featuring fascinating and playful discussions of a wide range of mathematical topics.