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2016 Gathering 4 Gardner - 2016 Scientific American April 2016

60 Scientific American, April 2016 near designs a circuit board: by choosing standardized parts from a catalog and wiring them together. Unfortunately, biology is different from electronics in ways that frustrate that ambition; more on that later. The field has made slow but considerable progress. The first big advances came in 2000.

Scientific American - April 2016

Scientific American - April 2016 English | 96 pages | True PDF | 19.10 MB Scientific American (informally abbreviated to SciAm) is a popular science magazine published since August 28, 1845, which according to the magazine makes it the oldest continuously published magazine in the United States.

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52 Scientific American, April 2016 ECOLOGY At the southern tip

of the island of Santa Cruz in the Galápagos, a gorge known as Las Grietas is home to a species of parrot: a brilliantly colored creature about 18 inches in length. The pool where the birds live was created long ago,

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From Adam Steltzner, who led the Entry, Descent, and Landing team in landing the Curiosity rover on the surface of Mars, comes a profound book about breakthrough innovation in the face of the impossible. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is home to some of history's most jaw-dropping feats of engineering. When NASA needed to land Curiosity—a 2,000-pound, \$2.5 billion rover—on the surface of Mars, 140 million miles away, they turned to JPL. Steltzner's team couldn't test their kooky solution, the Sky Crane. They were on an unmissable deadline, and the world would be watching when they succeeded—or failed. At the helm of this effort was an unlikely rocket scientist and accidental leader, Adam Steltzner. After barely graduating from high school, he followed his curiosity to the local community college to find out why the stars moved. Soon he discovered an astonishing gift for math and physics. After getting his Ph.D. he ensconced himself within JPL, NASA's decidedly unbureaucratic cousin, where success in a mission is the only metric that matters. *The Right Kind of Crazy* is a first-person account of innovation that is relevant to anyone working in science, art, or technology. For instance, Steltzner describes:

- How his team learned to switch from fear-based to curiosity-based decision making
- How to escape “The Dark Room”—the creative block caused by fear, uncertainty, and the lack of a clear path forward
- How to tell when we're too in love with our own ideas to be objective about them—and, conversely, when to fight for them
- How to foster mutual respect within teams while still bashing bad ideas

The Right Kind of Crazy is a book for anyone who wants to channel their craziness into creativity, balance discord and harmony, and find a signal in a flood of noise.

Forget everything you've been taught about math. In *Burn Math Class*, Jason Wilkes takes the traditional approach to mathematics education—with its unwelcoming textbooks, unexplained rules, and authoritarian assertions—and sets it on fire. Focusing on how mathematics is created rather than on mathematical facts, Wilkes

teaches the subject in a way that requires no memorization and no prior knowledge beyond addition and multiplication. From these simple foundations, Burn Math Class shows how mathematics can be (re)invented from scratch without preexisting textbooks and courses. We can discover math on our own through experimentation and failure, without appealing to any outside authority. When math is created free from arcane notations and pretentious jargon that hide the simplicity of mathematical concepts, it can be understood organically--and it becomes fun! Following this unconventional approach, Burn Math Class leads the reader from the basics of elementary arithmetic to various "advanced" topics, such as time-dilation in special relativity, Taylor series, and calculus in infinite-dimensional spaces. Along the way, Wilkes argues that orthodox mathematics education has been teaching the subject backward: calculus belongs before many of its so-called prerequisites, and those prerequisites cannot be fully understood without calculus. Like the smartest, craziest teacher you've ever had, Wilkes guides you on an adventure in mathematical creation that will radically change the way you think about math. Revealing the beauty and simplicity of this timeless subject, Burn Math Class turns everything that seems difficult about mathematics upside down and sideways until you understand just how easy math can be.

A scientific response to the best-selling *The Bell Curve* which set off a hailstorm of controversy upon its publication in 1994. Much of the public reaction to the book was polemic and failed to analyse the details of the science and validity of the statistical arguments underlying the book's conclusion. Here, at last, social scientists and statisticians reply to *The Bell Curve* and its conclusions about IQ, genetics and social outcomes.

This fascinating and highly accessible book presents fantastic but totally feasible projections of what your brain may be capable of in the near future. It shows how scientific breakthroughs and amazing

research are turning science fiction into science fact. In this brave new book, you'll explore: How partnerships between biological sciences and technology are helping the deaf hear, the blind see, and the paralyzed communicate. How our brains can repair and improve themselves, erase traumatic memories How we can stay mentally alert longer—and how we may be able to halt or even reverse Alzheimers How we can control technology with brain waves, including prosthetic devices, machinery, computers—and even spaceships or clones. Insights into how science may cure fatal diseases, and improve our intellectual and physical productivity Judith Horstman presents a highly informative and entertaining look at the future of your brain, based on articles from Scientific American and Scientific American Mind magazines, and the work of today's visionary neuroscientists.

Harvard's top astronomer lays out his controversial theory that our solar system was recently visited by advanced alien technology from a distant star

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) was one of the most admired astronomers who ever lived and a key figure in the scientific revolution. Perhaps less well known is that in 1615, when Kepler was at the height of his career, his widowed mother Katharina was accused of witchcraft. The proceedings led to a criminal trial that lasted six years, with Kepler conducting his mother's defence. The Astronomer and the Witch pieces together the tale of this extraordinary episode in Kepler's life. First and foremost an intense family drama, the story brings to life the world of a small Lutheran community in the heart of Europe at a time of deep religious and political turmoil. It also offers us a fascinating glimpse into the great astronomer's world view. While advancing rational explanations for the phenomena which his mother's accusers attributed to witchcraft, Kepler nevertheless did not call into question the existence of magic and witches. On the contrary, he clearly believed in them. And, as

the story unfolds, it appears that there were moments when even Katharina's children struggled to understand what their mother had done...

A fun and stunningly illustrated introduction to the art of linear optimization. Linear optimization is a powerful modeling method for discovering the best solution to a problem among a set of available alternatives. It is one of today's most important branches of mathematics and computer science—and also a surprisingly rich medium for creating breathtaking works of art. *Opt Art* takes readers on an entertaining tour of linear optimization and its applications, showing along the way how it can be used to design visual art. Robert Bosch provides a lively and accessible introduction to the geometric, algebraic, and algorithmic foundations of optimization. He presents classical applications, such as the legendary Traveling Salesman Problem, and shows how to adapt them to make optimization art—opt art. Each chapter in this marvelously illustrated book begins with a problem or puzzle and demonstrates how the solution can be derived using a host of artistic methods and media, including 3D printing, laser cutting, and computer-controlled machining. Bosch focuses on mathematical modeling throughout—converting a problem into a workable mathematical form, solving it using optimization techniques, and examining the results, which can take the form of mosaics, line drawings, and even sculpture. All you need is some high-school algebra, geometry, and calculus to follow along. Featuring more than a hundred illustrations and photos of Bosch's own art, *Opt Art* demonstrates how mathematics and computing can be used to create beauty and express emotion through amazing works of art.

An essential book to understanding whether the new miracle cure is good science or simply too good to be true. American taxpayers spend \$30 billion annually funding biomedical research, but over half of these studies can't be replicated due to poor experimental

design, improper methods, and sloppy statistics. Bad science doesn't just hold back medical progress, it can sign the equivalent of a death sentence for terminal patients. In *Rigor Mortis*, Richard Harris explores these urgent issues with vivid anecdotes, personal stories, and interviews with the top biomedical researchers. We need to fix our dysfunctional biomedical system -- before it's too late.

The epic story of the scientists through the ages who have sought answers to life's biggest mystery: How did it begin? In this essential and illuminating history of Western science, Bill Mesler and H. James Cleaves II seek to answer the most crucial question in science: How did life begin? They trace the trials and triumphs of the iconoclastic scientists who have sought to solve the mystery, from Darwin's theory of evolution to Crick and Watson's unveiling of DNA. This fascinating exploration not only examines the origin-of-life question, but also interrogates the very nature of scientific discovery and objectivity.

“[Bubbling] over with the joy of scientific discovery. . . . Great fun for anyone looking to revive their childhood dinosaur obsessions.”
—Publishers Weekly, starred review
What if we woke up one morning all of the dinosaur bones in the world were gone? How would we know these iconic animals had a 165-million year history on earth, and had adapted to all land-based environments from pole to pole? What clues would be left to discern not only their presence, but also to learn about their sex lives, raising of young, social lives, combat, and who ate who? What would it take for us to know how fast dinosaurs moved, whether they lived underground, climbed trees, or went for a swim? Welcome to the world of ichnology, the study of traces and trace fossils—such as tracks, trails, burrows, nests, toothmarks, and other vestiges of behavior—and how through these remarkable clues, we can explore and intuit the rich and complicated lives of dinosaurs. With a unique, detective-like approach, interpreting the forensic clues of these long-extinct

animals that leave a much richer legacy than bones, Martin brings the wild world of the Mesozoic to life for the twenty-first-century reader.

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