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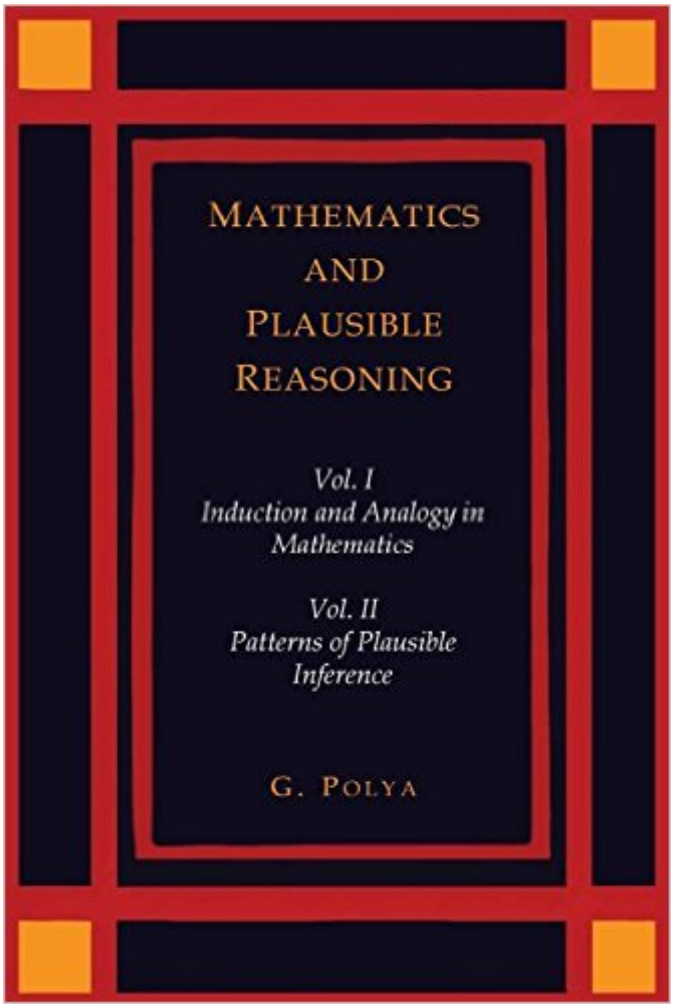
Mathematics And Plausible Reasoning [Two Volumes In One]



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Synopsis

2014 Reprint of 1954 American Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. This two volume classic comprises two titles: "Patterns of Plausible Inference" and "Induction and Analogy in Mathematics". This is a guide to the practical art of plausible reasoning, particularly in mathematics, but also in every field of human activity. Using mathematics as the example par excellence, Polya shows how even the most rigorous deductive discipline is heavily dependent on techniques of guessing, inductive reasoning, and reasoning by analogy. In solving a problem, the answer must be guessed at before a proof can be given, and guesses are usually made from a knowledge of facts, experience, and hunches. The truly creative mathematician must be a good guesser first and a good prover afterward; many important theorems have been guessed but no proved until much later. In the same way, solutions to problems can be guessed, and a god guesser is much more likely to find a correct solution. This work might have been called "How to Become a Good Guesser."-From the Dust Jacket.

Book Information

Paperback: 498 pages

Publisher: Martino Fine Books (January 8, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1614275572

ISBN-13: 978-1614275572

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #187,726 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Logic

Customer Reviews

I have Polya’s other book "How to Solve It", and this is a wonderful follow-up to that. It goes to great lengths explaining how to reason about mathematical problems and questions by giving several examples (e.g. questions about prime numbers, geometry, &c) and this is the great strength of the book: it is based on very many good examples of mathematical and physics questions and the author does a great job of using them to explain his point. Great book (paperback), great printing, binding, content and all. Highly recommended if you enjoyed "How to Solve It" and is looking for more.

first time I read this book 37 years ago and it is still a pleasure to read it. I wish it would be available in the kindle format.

This one is much better than his previous book, 'How to solve it'. Great book for learning how to think in the mathematical sciences.

Great!

George PÃ lyaâ ™s name was really GyÃ¶rgy Pollak and has family were originally Jewish Hungarians who were forced convert to Catholicism due to rising anti-Semitism in Europe during the later 1800's. He was a mathematical and logician genius who used the method of creating mathematical correlations to hypotheticals in order to help solve problems that could not be solved either by mathematics or physics or direct logical approaches alone. HIs mathematical arguments are very dense and I am slowly plowing through them but his work is pure genius. That a genius of his caliber had to flee NAZISM casts a cloud on Mankind's character. After I finish this book I will complete this review.

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