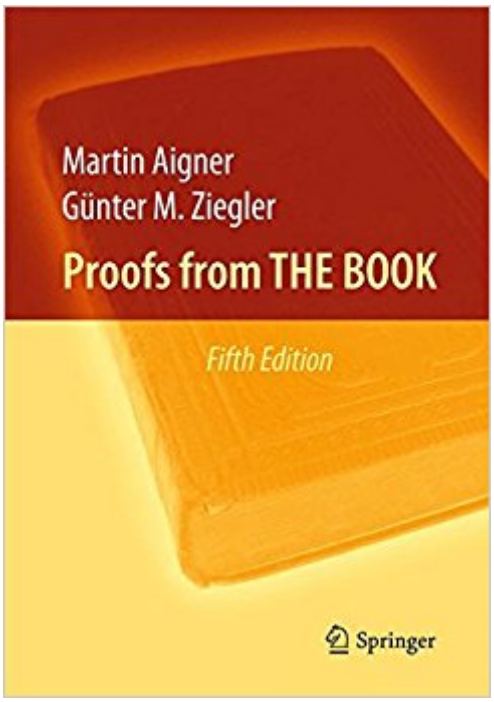
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Synopsis

This revised and enlarged fifth edition features four new chapters, which contain highly original and delightful proofs for classics such as the spectral theorem from linear algebra, some more recent jewels like the non-existence of the Borromean rings and other surprises.From the Reviews"... Inside PFTB (Proofs from The Book) is indeed a glimpse of mathematical heaven, where clever insights and beautiful ideas combine in astonishing and glorious ways. There is vast wealth within its pages, one gem after another. ... Aigner and Ziegler... write: "... all we offer is the examples that we have selected, hoping that our readers will share our enthusiasm about brilliant ideas, clever insights and wonderful observations." I do. ... "Notices of the AMS, August 1999"... This book is a pleasure to hold and to look at: ample margins, nice photos, instructive pictures and beautiful drawings ... It is a pleasure to read as well: the style is clear and entertaining, the level is close to elementary, the necessary background is given separately and the proofs are brilliant. ..." LMS Newsletter, January 1999"Martin Aigner and GÃƒÂ nter Ziegler succeeded admirably in putting together a broad collection of theorems and their proofs that would undoubtedly be in the Book of ErdÃƒÂ¶s. The theorems are so fundamental, their proofs so elegant and the remaining open questions so intriguing that every mathematician, regardless of speciality, can benefit from reading this book. ... "SIGACT News, December 2011.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“This book by Aigner and Ziegler, now in its fifth edition, seeks to pay homage to the late

Paul ErdÃƒÂ s by attempting to provide an approximation of Ã¢â ¬ËœThe Book.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Ã¢â ¬Â¦ Throughout, illustrations and figures are used to support the arguments in the main text; these can greatly help the readability of the proofs, especially for novices like me. Ã¢â ¬Â¦ the book is a marvelous project and this new edition provides a good amount of fresh material.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Harry Strange, Computing Reviews, March, 2015)

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I would have thought it impossible to be disappointed by such an obviously great idea, but disappointed I am. The proofs are written in oddly poor fashion; almost like a quick first draft, with definitions frequently following use, trivial ideas spelled out while complex steps are omitted, and random use of advanced, often undefined, terminology amidst otherwise low-level proofs. Sometimes you are treated like a beginning trigonometry student then suddenly, mid-proof, graduate level knowledge is invoked for a single line. It is a jarring style that continues throughout.There is also an extreme emphasis on graph theory. Maybe this is inspired by Paul Erdos’ career - I don’t know enough to say, although I never gathered that impression. But I can say many suitable classic proofs, and indeed whole fields of mathematics, are missing while there is much more graph theory than the TOC would suggest.That said, there are many beautiful ideas

within. If one can overlook the annoyance of the presentation, there is a lot of entertainment to be had.The potential is obvious. As this is the 5th edition I must assume the authors are committed to this style. But perhaps another author will be inspired to create their own "Book" without these glaring flaws.

A treasure trove of fascinating information that enchants as it informs. Densely packed, so read and digest only a few pages a day.

Great experience

Very interesting book

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