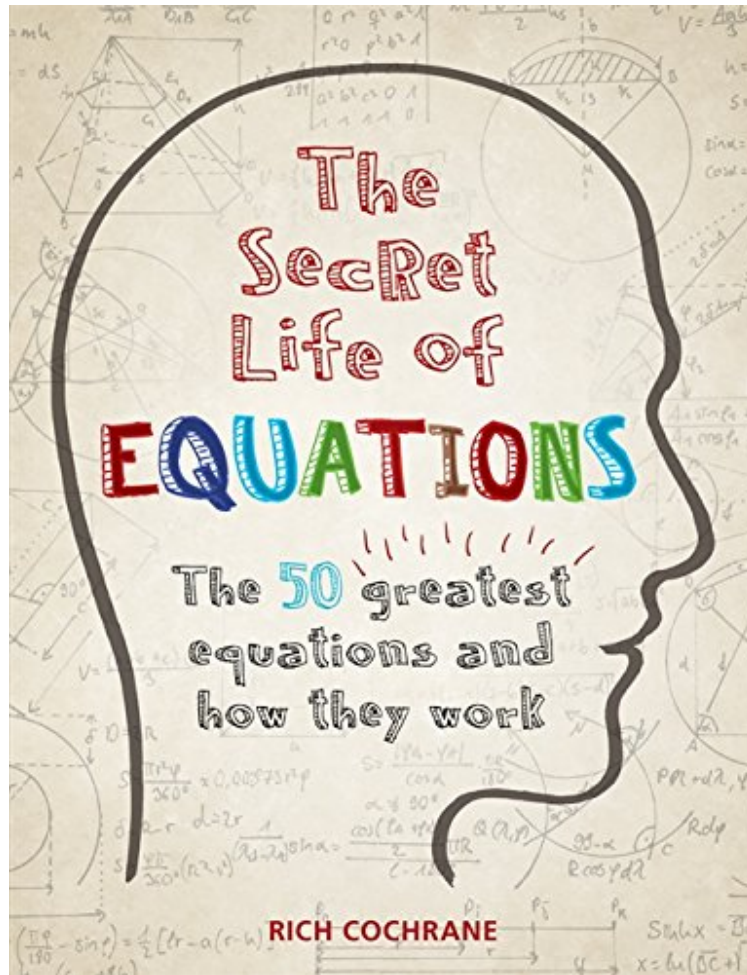


The Secret Life of Equations: The 50 Greatest Equations and How They Work

Richard Cochrane

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Richard Cochrane : The Secret Life of Equations: The 50 Greatest Equations and How They Work before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secret Life of Equations: The 50 Greatest Equations and How They Work:

6 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The secret life of science book writersBy ERWThis is a book I saw in a book store but didn't buy and here is why. The chapter on the Mercator projection caught my attention because I remembered how incompetently it was presented to us in high school. Some things, it seems, never change. The geometrical projection of a sphere onto a cylinder tangent to it at the equator only has the looks of a Mercator projection; the parallels become magnified as we move toward the poles, while the lines of latitude move more and more toward the poles, just like in a Mercator projection. So expansion is present on both latitude and longitude, but

the expansions are not equal, which is the property of the true Mercator projection. Our incompetent geography teacher of 50 years ago, probably had no idea of calculus, which one needs in order to understand the problem. In this book, the author uses the analogy of a light bulb that projects straight light rays in order to map the sphere onto a cylinder. The result is a cylindrical projection but not a Mercator projection. However, the formula at the header of the chapter is the correct one, only the explanation is wrong. I guess it was easier to copy the formula than trying to deduct it. Assuming that the student or the book reader has no knowledge of calculus, is no excuse for trying to fool them with bogus explanations. This way, bad education will never die and it doesn't even seem to be fading away. Two stars since it might stimulate the reader's curiosity. 0 of 12 people found the following review helpful. 50 Greatest Equations By OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY - OPSU Great title came as described with excellent packaging!

Discover the 50 equations that have led to incredible discoveries, ground-breaking technology and have shaped our understanding of the world. From much heralded classics, like Zeno's Dichotomy and Pythagoras's Theorem, to The Schrodinger Wave Equation and Google PageRank, each equation is broken down and explained in a unique, illustrated way, so that you understand what it's about; what it's good for; its history, detail and related equations. Behind every important scientific discovery there is an equation. They are far from baffling, and now you too can understand their power and beauty!

The author explains each equation in an accessible manner and takes great pains to explain an equation's importance. Photographs, illustrations, and other visuals help maintain reader interest. There are also a number of cross-references that allow readers to move quickly between related ideas. This highly recommended book closes with a short, but complete, index. (American Reference Books Annual 2017-03-01) About the Author Rich Cochrane is a writer and educator. He devises and teaches innovative maths courses for artists at Central Saint Martins, London, and lectures in maths and philosophy at City Lit. He has been commissioned by, among others, the Museum of London to bring cultural history - including maths - to a wider audience. Rich has written books on literature, music and computing and has for many years organized public educational events in public houses and cafes in London. He also spent a decade working in the City, writing software for derivatives trading floors, which is how he discovered that maths was a lot more interesting than it seemed to be at school, and he has degrees in both maths and English literature and a PhD in philosophy.