

The Blog on Math Blogs

By Anna Haensch



Haensch in a recording booth at NPR during her time as a Fellow.

I write for the AMS *Blog on Math Blogs*. For each post I find some interesting mathematical curio, explain a few things about it in, er, mostly plain English, and then share what

Anna Haensch is assistant professor at Duquesne University. Her email address is haenscha@duq.edu.

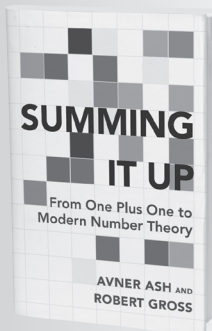
Article photos are courtesy of the author.

For permission to reprint this article, please contact: reprint-permission@ams.org.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1090/noti1387>

the Internet's been saying about it. My co-blogger Evelyn Lamb and I take on a broad range of topics: research and recreational math, pedagogy, current events in math, and the broader sweeping politics of being a mathematician.

Our most popular post of all time, written by my co-blogger, was called "Math and the Genius Myth". The post discusses a noteworthy article published in *Science* suggesting that women are less likely to be drawn to fields that are perceived to require innate talent. For women in math, she points out, this is troubling news. And she

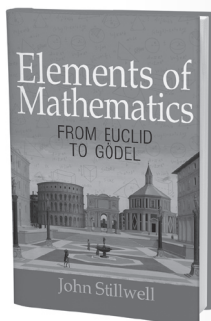


Cloth \$27.95

Summing It Up From One Plus One to Modern Number Theory

Avner Ash & Robert Gross

We use addition on a daily basis—yet how many of us stop to truly consider the enormous and remarkable ramifications of this mathematical activity? *Summing It Up* uses addition as a springboard to present a fascinating and accessible look at numbers and number theory, and how we apply beautiful numerical properties to answer math problems.

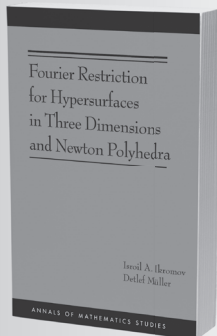


Cloth \$39.95

Elements of Mathematics From Euclid to Gödel

John Stillwell

Elements of Mathematics takes readers on a fascinating tour that begins in elementary mathematics—but, as John Stillwell shows, this subject is not as elementary or straightforward as one might think. Not all topics that are part of today's elementary mathematics were always considered as such, and great mathematical advances and discoveries had to occur in order for certain subjects to become “elementary.”



Cloth \$165.00
Annals of Mathematics Studies, 194

Fourier Restriction for Hypersurfaces in Three Dimensions and Newton Polyhedra

Isroil A. Ikromov & Detlef Müller

This is the first book to present a complete characterization of Stein-Tomas type Fourier restriction estimates for large classes of smooth hypersurfaces in three dimensions, including all real-analytic hypersurfaces. The range of Lebesgue spaces for which these estimates are valid is described in terms of Newton polyhedra associated to the given surface.

 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

See our E-Books at press.princeton.edu



Figure 1. This math “pictionary” from the blog suggests the name of a famous theorem. (The answer appears in the footnote at end of this article.)

discusses the range of reactions that bloggers across the Internet have had to the article.

Posts discussing some of the more social and political aspects of math tend to be the really popular ones. In another highly shared post, “Math in Pictures” I give a review of Ben Orlin’s brilliantly witty math blog *Math with Bad Drawings*, and I try my hand at some math “pictionary” as in Figure 1.

This year, several exciting breakthroughs in math also made fun material for posts. Some of our popular posts of late have discussed breaking research like the graph isomorphism problem in “Meanwhile over in Computer Science,” new pentagonal tilings in “There’s Something about Pentagons,” the Erdős Discrepancy Problem in “That Time Terence Tao Won \$500 from Paul Erdős,” and most recently the discovery of a new Mersenne prime in “There’s a New Prime! And It Looks Like...Wait...What?”

The *Blog on Math Blogs* has been going strong for almost three years now, and the mathematical blogosphere doesn’t seem to be running out of material anytime soon. You can check at blogs.ams.org/blogonmathblogs for new posts from Evelyn and me every Monday.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Assistant professor Anna Haensch’s research is in number theory. In 2013 she was the AMS-AAAS Mass Media Fellow at NPR. In addition to her *Blog on Math Blogs* writing, Haensch also hosts a podcast about math called *The Other Half*.



Anna Haensch

Answer to Figure 1 “pictionary”: Seifert-van Kampen Theorem (site 4 van camping).