



Power-Up: Unlocking the Hidden Mathematics in Video Games

Matthew Lane

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Did you know that every time you pick up the controller to your PlayStation or Xbox, you are entering a game world steeped in mathematics? *Power-Up* reveals the hidden mathematics in many of today's most popular video games and explains why mathematical learning doesn't just happen in the classroom or from books--you're doing it without even realizing it when you play games on your cell phone.

In this lively and entertaining book, Matthew Lane discusses how gamers are engaging with the traveling salesman problem when they play *Assassin's Creed*, why it is mathematically impossible for Mario to jump through the Mushroom Kingdom in *Super Mario Bros.*, and how *The Sims* teaches us the mathematical costs of maintaining relationships. He looks at mathematical pursuit problems in classic games like *Missile Command* and *Ms. Pac-Man*, and how each time you play *Tetris*, you're grappling with one of the most famous unsolved problems in all of mathematics and computer science. Along the way, Lane discusses why *Family Feud* and *Pictionary* make for ho-hum video games, how realism in video games (or the lack of it) influences learning, what video games can teach us about the mathematics of voting, the mathematics of designing video games, and much more.

Power-Up shows how the world of video games is an unexpectedly rich medium for learning about the beautiful mathematical ideas that touch all aspects of our lives--including our virtual ones.

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