

Re: Compression and crypto

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"David A. Scott" wrote:

... I lost my book from high school on geometry when I moved I really hate it that's impossible to find a decent book on the subject anymore. You'd think the copyright date is so old on some of these books that they could be printed cheaply again

Indeed, the best high-school level science and math texts I've seen on math were those used by my parents. I guess the reason we don't see Dover reprints was that none of them ever got established as a "classic".

At the beginning college level, there are some good classic texts to choose from. (The main problem is in obtaining good enough preparation by the time one gets to that level.)

I learned more from Feynman's "Lectures on Physics" and Dirac's "Principles of Quantum Mechanics" than I did from the official texts for those classes. These are still in print, I think.

There was an intro text, "Calculus Made Easy", by Silvanus P. Thompson, that was far more enlightening than all standard texts (even mathematically decent ones such as Spivak's). Now that there is a formal theory of "nonstandard analysis" a lot of its "artful dodges" are even entirely justifiable. The edition revised by Martin Gardner is currently in print.

I wonder just how knowledgeable the teachers are. They could have been taught with the books there using assuming that any of them even had geometry.

I have seen several studies of public-school teachers that found some teachers unable to pass basic knowledge tests that their students were going to have to pass. Generally there is some amount of truth in the old adage "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach." However, many teachers do know their stuff,

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both the subject matter and how to effectively guide students.

This thing on books really pisses be off. Its not like
basic euclidian geometry or basic