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# Mathematics and Sex

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What makes mathematics so appealing even to those who have not been drugged with a dose of higher mathematics is perhaps its intimate relationship with other disciplines. Most expository mathematics books targeted at the educated public have not failed to lure us into the cold beauty of mathematics.

Be it *mathematics and art*, or *mathematics and music*, or *mathematics and architecture*, or *mathematics and computers*, many liaisons have emerged from these seemingly unrelated disciplines.

One particular area which has unfortunately been neglected or restricted for reasons unknown to me, is

the relationship between *mathematics and sex*. Although similar titles exist, most have focused on the issue of mathematics and gender, or some feminist critique of male chauvinism in mathematics, depriving the weaker sex of equal opportunities in pursuing higher degrees in the subject.

In the next few pages I have attempted to put forward some parallelisms between mathematics and sex, many pertaining more to an Asian milieu rather than an American or European surrounding. But readers should find common ground in many of the ideas formulated regardless of their backgrounds.

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is associated with strong imagery (numbers, symbols, formulas...).

Mathematics is more about doing rather than reading and knowing.

Mathematical knowledge is not of great use unless it arises from, or can be integrated with, experience.

Success in proving a theorem is immensely satisfying.

Parents take an unhealthy interest in children's progress in mathematics.

Fear of mathematical performance.

Math difficulties—help offered by tutors.

Math shortcuts by tutors offer temporary remedies for the learner.

Doing and discussing math with others is more pleasurable than doing it alone. Moreover, having one's assumptions challenged is intellectually satisfying.

## SEX

Sex is associated with strong imagery (organs, physiques, fantasies...).

Sex is more about doing rather than reading and knowing.

Sexual knowledge is not of much use unless it is accompanied by practice and experience.

Success in attaining orgasm is immensely satisfying.

Parents take an unhealthy interest in children's sexuality.

Fear of sexual performance.

Sexual difficulties—help offered by counselors.

Sexual shortcuts by dealers via drugs and aphrodisiacs provide short-term gratification.

Masturbation can be rewarding and enjoyable, but having sex with another human being is more satisfying for most people.

Learning about mathematical techniques equips one to be a better problem-solver.

Specific mathematical disabilities are overcome by behavioral techniques.

Use of drugs to enhance the patient's capacity to better memorize mathematical formulas and proofs for reproduction in the examination.

We all make use of our mathematical awareness in dealing with the world (and with relationships).

Bogus mathematical and statistical arguments persuade us to accept political or social decisions.

Exploitation by the unscrupulous to terrorize the mathematically challenged.

We engage consciously in math to improve our problem-solving skills. However, we can become obsessed by performance goals.

Cross-fertilization of ideas provides insights for producing new theorems.

Mathematics develops the mind.

Use of imageries (multi-dimensions) provides ideas for proof.

Innumeracy leads to deterioration of the mind in the long run.

Model-answer books are written to help readers gain confidence in answering exam questions.

Solving a problem in the external world resonates within the mind itself and relieves internal tensions.

Cheating on a math test/exam fulfills a hidden desire to score.

Words like probability & statistics, permutations & combinations, and the like conjure up images of fear and disgust.

In male teenagers, experiencing a "wet dream" releases tensions and anxieties of math exams.

Learning about sexual techniques increases one's enjoyment and effectiveness.

Sexual dysfunctions are helped by behavioral techniques.

Use of hormones to make up for any deficiency in the body's hormonal level to enhance sex drive for achieving sexual bliss.

We all make use of our sexuality in our non-intimate relationships.

Advertisements using sexy models persuade us to accept the sexual messages.

Exploitation by the mass media to appeal to the sexually hungry.

We engage consciously in sex to improve our techniques. However, we can become unhealthily obsessed by performance goals.

Fertilization of cells produces offspring.

Sex develops the physical muscles.

Use of sexual (masturbatory) fantasies provides ideas for enjoyment.

Abstinence leads to impotence in the long run.

Sex-help books are written to help readers gain confidence in enhancing their sexual life.

Attaining orgasm from the sexual act resonates within the mind itself and relieves internal tensions.

Molestation & accessibility to yellow literature and blue desire movies fulfill a hidden sexual desire.

Words like anal sex, oral sex, venereal diseases, and the like conjure up images of fear and disgust.

In male teenagers, experiencing a "wet dream" discharges sexual tensions and anxieties about having sex.

Nightmares involving sitting for math exams and low scores fulfill the dreamer's fears.

Mathematical maturity: the participants solve a mathematical problem in the shortest time.

The study of mathematics provides the best remedy against the lusts of the flesh.

Intercourse between different branches of mathematics produces new results which are often beautiful, shorter and useful.

Mathematics provides an oasis for the sexually frustrated.

A willingness to get away from conventional mathematical thinking may lead one to an unexpected elegant result.

Abstract mathematics is repulsive to immature young minds.

A sexually mathematical joke characterizes the intercourse between reason and unreason.

Very little of mathematics is useful practically for numerical competence, and that little is comparatively dull.

Number worship has diabolically enticed the mathematically ignorant.

Magic squares provide recreational enjoyment for the mathematical mind.

Mathematics is about trust and understanding: Pure mathematicians don't trust applied mathematicians, and applied mathematicians don't understand pure mathematicians.

Pure math (number theory) has prostituted itself into applied math for the sake of fulfilling the practical wants of mankind (e.g., use of prime numbers in cryptography).

Idiot-savants boast about their extra-numerical skills.

Applied mathematicians are often regarded as second-hand mathematicians as compared to pure mathematicians who are ranked first-class.

Nightmares involving illicit sexual encounters (forbidden acts) fulfill the dreamer's fears/desires.

Sexual maturity: the participants achieve sexual bliss simultaneously in the shortest time.

The study of sexology provides the best remedy against the abstractness of mathematics.

Intercourse between people of different races produces offspring who are often prettier, stronger and smarter.

Sex provides an oasis for the mathematically frustrated.

A willingness to get away from conventional sexual practices may lead one to experience an unexpected bliss.

Unorthodox sex knowledge is repulsive to immature young minds.

A mathematically sexual joke characterizes the tension between sexual fulfilment and deprivation.

Very little of sex is useful practically for reproduction, and that little is comparatively dull.

Sex worship has diabolically lured the sexually ignorant.

Magic squares engraved on talismans are used to relieve pain during childbirth.

Sex is about trust and understanding: Women don't trust men, and men don't understand women.

Men and women have prostituted themselves for the sake of fulfilling the sexual desires of mankind.

Don Juans boast about their extramarital adventures.

Male and female prostitutes are often regarded as "second-hand goods" as compared with those who lead a monogamous lifestyle.

Mathematics may be abused to meet the selfish whims of the military in developing lethal weapons to annihilate the enemy.	Sex may be abused to meet the selfish whims of sex perverts by forcing their victims to perform fetish acts.
Mathematics has come to symbolize all social ills through technological advancement.	Sex has come to symbolize all social ills through the spread of incurable diseases (AIDS, cancer...).
Mathematics is the No. 1 mental killer of all academic disciplines in society.	Sex is the No. 1 emotional and physical killer in society.
Mathematics under untrained teachers has led to a high rate of drop-outs among its practitioners.	Unprotected sex has led to a high rate of diseases among its practitioners.
One must be old enough to understand abstract mathematical concepts, e.g., topology, infinity, and Hilbert-space.	One must be old enough to make sense of abstract sexual behaviors, e.g., sado-masochism, pederasty, and homosexuality.
Math manipulatives (Soma cubes, abacus...) meet the desires of the mathematically curious.	Sex gadgets (vibrators, dolls...) meet the desires of the sexually curious.
Numerology is exploitative mathematics, but abstract mathematical ideas are the quintessence of the mind.	Pornography is exploitative sex, but sexuality is art.
Factoring a quadratic becomes confused with genuine mathematical talent.	Fathering a child becomes confused with genuine sexual virility.
Mathematical results are often sexualized: $\int e^x = f(u^n)$ "Sex is quadratic." Stanislaw Ulam Some graphs conjure up images of sexual organs.	Sexual behaviors and positions are often quantized: 6, 7, 40, 69, ...
Mathematics is a dangerous activity; an overdose can result in madness. It undermines one's mental health.	Sex is a dangerous activity; an overdose can result in cancer. It undermines one's physical and mental health.
Mathematics extols rigor.	Sex extols vigor.
Lying in math is common: you never tell the whole truth to simplify your explanation.	Lying about sexual matters is common: you never tell the whole truth to avoid hurting your partner.
The cardinal sin of division by zero results in a mathematical breakdown (fallacy & paradox).	The cardinal sin of adultery results in a marital breakdown (divorce & separation).
Mathematics is predominantly a man's activity.	Sex predominates a large portion of a man's brain.
Going through the details of a mathematical proof is boring and uninteresting, but giving the gist of it is enlightening.	Watching the detailed motions of a sexual act is disgusting and unexciting, but watching an erotic movie is more satisfying.

Men dislike women who are mathematically active.	Men dislike women who are sexually inactive.
There will always be a more beautiful theorem and a more elegant proof.	There will always be a prettier woman or playboy.
The only mathematical activity known to the average person is that of reproducing work for examinations.	The only sexual activity known to the average person is that of providing egg or sperm cells for reproduction.
Mathematical magic relegates mathematics to number mysticism.	Sex shows relegate the participants to mere sexual objects.
Mathematics is used as a powerful tool to destroy the enemy.	Sex is used as an enticement to lure the enemy.
Mathematics (solid foundation) opens the door to many high-paying jobs.	Sexual offers (feminine charm) may open the door to many high-paying jobs.
Cybermath will revolutionize the teaching and learning of mathematics. Virtual mathematics will substitute tutoring.	Cybersex will revolutionize sex education. Virtual sex will substitute prostitution.
The aha-feeling of being able to solve a challenging problem.	The oomph-feeling of both partners attaining orgasm simultaneously.

**REFERENCE**

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## Imaginary

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*May be sung to the tune of "Imagine" by John Lennon.*

Imaginary numbers, multiples of  $i$   
Everybody wonders, "are they used in real life?"  
Well, try the amplifier I'm using right now—A.C.!

You say it's absurd,  
this root of minus one.  
but the same things once were heard  
About the number negative one!

Imaginary numbers are a bit complex,  
But in real mathematics, everything connects:  
Geometry, trig and calc all see " $i$  to  $i$ ." Ah-hai!