



Surfing Through Hyperspace: Understanding Higher Universes in Six Easy Lessons

By Clifford A. Pickover

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Do a little armchair time-travel, rub elbows with a four-dimensional intelligent life form, or stretch your mind to the furthest corner of an uncharted universe. With this astonishing guidebook, *Surfing Through Hyperspace*, you need not be a mathematician or an astrophysicist to explore the all-but-unfathomable concepts of hyperspace and higher-dimensional geometry.

No subject in mathematics has intrigued both children and adults as much as the idea of a fourth dimension. Philosophers and parapsychologists have meditated on this mysterious space that no one can point to but may be all around us. Yet this extra dimension has a very real, practical value to mathematicians and physicists who use it every day in their calculations. In the tradition of *Flatland*, and with an infectious enthusiasm, Clifford Pickover tackles the problems inherent in our 3-D brains trying to visualize a 4-D world, muses on the religious implications of the existence of higher-dimensional consciousness, and urges all curious readers to venture into "the unexplored territory lying beyond the prison of the obvious." Pickover alternates sections that explain the science of hyperspace with sections that dramatize mind-expanding concepts through a fictional dialogue between two futuristic FBI agents who dabble in the fourth dimension as a matter of national security. This highly accessible and entertaining approach turns an intimidating subject into a scientific game open to all dreamers.

Surfing Through Hyperspace concludes with a number of puzzles, computer experiments and formulas for further exploration, inviting readers to extend their minds across this inexhaustibly intriguing scientific terrain.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Clifford Pickover is IBM's Renaissance-guy-in-residence. His job is to play with cool ideas--time travel (*Time: A Traveler's Guide*), extraterrestrials (*The Science of Aliens*), and the line between genius and crackpot (*Strange Brains and Genius*). His latest game is an oldie but goodie: trying to imagine the fourth dimension.

Like a number of his other books, *Surfing* is structured as a fiction, in this case an *X-Files* romance--Pickover clearly has a deep and personal appreciation for Scully (whom he calls "Sally," presumably on advice of counsel). You, dear reader, are the FBI's chief investigator of four-dimensional phenomena. As you and your cohorts chase bizarre manifestations from "upsilon" (4-D up) and "delta" (4-D down), Pickover provides explanations, paradoxes, and problems, with many helpful drawings and computer-generated illustrations.

Pickover's book, like every work on higher dimensions, is something of a sequel to Edwin Abbott's classic story, *Flatland*. Like Abbott, Pickover doesn't just look at the mathematics: "I want to know if humankind's Gods could exist in the fourth dimension." Not for the theologically squeamish, this book is lively, provocative, outrageous, and fascinating. --*Mary Ellen Curtin*

From Publishers Weekly

Hyperbeings have kidnapped the president! Prolific Discover magazine columnist Pickover (*Time: A Traveler's Guide*, etc.) alternates expositions of math, physics and geometry with episodes of instructional science fiction while showing interested amateurs the mathematical and physical properties of higher spatial dimensions. Familiar analogies from Edwin Abbott's classic *Flatland* link up with odder ones from Baha'i and Christian scripture, *The X-Files* and the superstring theories of modern cosmologists, as Pickover explains how to trap a 4-D organism or why one twirl through a fourth dimension could turn you into your mirror image. Pickover's usual whimsy is in full force here, as he focuses on what four-dimensional organisms could (or do) look like to us: 4-D lifeforms, he explains, could make any 3-D object vanish (or reappear) by lifting it out of (or dropping it back into) our 3-D space. And 4-D creatures with anatomies analogous to ours would probably look, from our limited perspective, like sets of floating, unconnected flesh blobs. In the book's science fictional sections, "you" (a Mulder-esque FBI agent) team up with a skeptic named Sally to investigate mysterious hyperbeings. These second-person adventures seem aimed at young readers, though they don't get in the way of the more sophisticated ideas. Several substantial appendices describe puzzles and games related to hyperspace, while others explain related topics (like the mathematical entities called quaternions) or suggest further reading. Line drawings throughout. (Oct.)

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Review

"Pickover alternates expositions of math, physics and geometry with episodes of instructional science fiction while showing interested amateurs the mathematical and physical properties of higher spatial dimensions."--*Publishers Weekly*

"Is there, asks Clifford Pickover, more to our Universe than forwards, sideways, and up? Before I knew it, I

was well and truly infected. After explaining how his book would cover all the usual stuff about higher dimensions--their unimaginability, their weird properties, and how physicists think they may hold the key to understanding the Universe--Pickover sprung his trap: 'I want to know if humankind's gods could exist in the fourth dimension'....I read the book in two sittings. I'm still under its influence, which is all the more perplexing considering how abstract and unworldly higher dimensions are."--Robert Mathews, *New Scientist*

"Mark my words: within a few months, you too will come across others in the grip of infection by this amazing book."--*New Scientist*

"Extraordinary book."--*Daily Telegraph* (UK)

"In recent years, Pickover has taken up the helm once worn by Isaac Asimov as the most compelling popular explainer of cutting-edge scientific ideas."--"In Pittsburgh"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Stockton:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled *Surfing Through Hyperspace: Understanding Higher Universes in Six Easy Lessons*. Try to stumble through book *Surfing Through Hyperspace: Understanding Higher Universes in Six Easy Lessons* as your good friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Marlene Wiedman:

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Harry Baxter:

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