Reading mathematics for pleasure

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This is a list of mathematical videos, journals and journal articles, and books that I happen to know about and be fond of, and that I recommend looking at or reading for pleasure. The list is accidental — I include whatever I happen to come across, become familiar with, and enjoy. I am not giving very detailed links and references here, since Google makes that redundant.

- Grant Sanderson's 3Blue1Brown YouTube channel.
- Steven Strogatz, "Sync: The Emerging Science of Spontaneous Order". A beautiful non-technical book on synchronization phenomena.
- David Acheson, "The Spirit of Mathematics". Very elementary, yet wonderful. David Acheson is an applied mathematician, and an Emeritus Fellow at Jesus College, University of Oxford.
- Jordan Ellenberg, "How Not to Be Wrong". Funny and entertaining, probability and statistics (and other kinds of mathematics) applied to practical questions. Jordan Ellenberg is a mathematician at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- The *Mathematical Gazette* is a British journal for broad mathematically educated audiences.

  > *C. Börgers and C. Greengard, Extreme wealth inequality from randomness, Mathematical Gazette, January 2026.* This is about a mechanism by which random effects in an economy can create a drift towards extreme inequality.
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  > (If you don't have access to the journal, but want to read the paper, e-mail cborgers@tufts.edu.)

- The *Mathematics Magazine* is an American analogue of the British *Gazette*.

  > *C. Börgers, Hanging cables and spider threads, Mathematics Magazine, volume 97, 9. issue 5, pages 452-470 (2024).* This explains what hanging cables have to do with hyperbolic cosines, and how that changes when the cable is elastic, like a spider thread.
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  > (A preliminary version, quite close to the journal article and publicly available, is here.)

- The *Mathematical Intelligencer* is another American journal of a similar flavor.

C. Börgers and S. Nour Eddine, Variations on the two-child problem, Mathematical Intelligencer (2023). This is about an old puzzle concerning conditional probabilities, and variations.

(A preliminary version, quite close to the journal article and publicly available, is here.)

- Mark Levi, a professor of mathematics at Pennsylvania State University, writes a series of beautiful brief articles in *SIAM News*. The list is here.