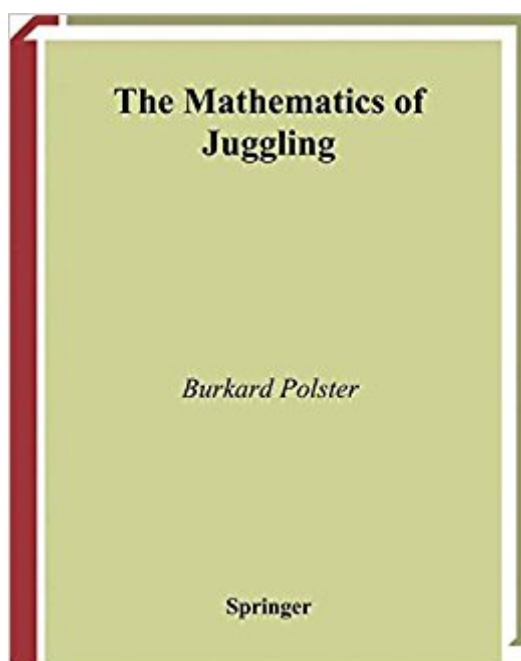


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# The Mathematics Of Juggling



## Synopsis

As a juggler the author likes to finish his performances with a stunt that combines props and techniques from a variety of juggling disciplines. Imagine him idling on a giraffe unicycle, while balancing a spinning basketball on a mouth stick, and toss-juggling a sword, a toilet plunger, and a rubber chicken. As a mathematician he is also interested in the treasure trove of beautiful mathematics used to model the different activities in a juggler's repertoire. In this book he provides an intellectually stimulating collection of mostly self-contained mathematical essays that introduce the reader to many elegant results and techniques from a wide range of mathematical disciplines such as combinatorics, graph theory, knot theory, mechanics, differential equations, control theory, and robotics. "The Mathematics of Juggling" is the first comprehensive account summarizing and expanding the results in the literature on juggling tricks and skills, as well as the mathematics behind these tricks and skills. Anybody who is not put off by the word "mathematics" in the title of this book should have a good time reading it.

## Book Information

Paperback: 226 pages

Publisher: Springer; 2003 edition (February 22, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0387955135

ISBN-13: 978-0387955131

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,619,916 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #103 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Infinity](#) #297 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Combinatorics](#) #392 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Geometry & Topology > Topology](#)

## Customer Reviews

I have a master's degree in math and an interest in juggling. I am sure the author has a good understanding of the mathematics of juggling; however he does not seem to be able to convey it in a clear or understandable fashion. I tried reading through this several times and found it too confusing to get through, as things seemed to appear out of thin air with no background exposition. I feel I learned a few things from the book, but overall am disappointed.

Level of content is unmatched. I've never found a source that covers this topic with such depth. Most sources assume things like a finite number of objects being juggled or a finite pattern length. Examples are not always the clearest and writing is very dense though.

I am a mathematical dunce. I have a better than average IQ, I passed high school algebra, I have been juggling for 35 years, and I even came up with diagrams on my own to remember and devise patterns. I thought I would enjoy this book, and I imagine I would if it were at all comprehensible to me. Though the book is hyped as "useful," "accessible" and "entertaining," buyers should be warned that Polster's book is about math and is written entirely in the language of math. There is no effort to bridge the gap between a practical understanding of juggling logic and his numeric abstractions. He writes in plain English prose until 3/4 of the way down page 8, and by the bottom of that page he has ditched you and disappeared into a world of opaque notation that might as well have been written by G.E. Moore and Bertrand Russell. If page after page of greek letters, academic jargon and abstract equations is easy reading for you, get this book. If you don't already speak higher math, Polster isn't going to teach you how. For a book that does what Polster does not, find *Laws of Form* by G. Spencer Brown.

I had no idea this much had been written about the mathematics of juggling, or that Claude Shannon was a juggler, until I stumbled across this book. It was a bit much for me to delve into deeply at the time, but I hope to come back and read it properly at some point. Definitely worth a look for my fellow math and juggling geeks.

As a fan of math and juggling, I must say that this is the greatest thing along with jugglinglab

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