

Elements of mathematics in some science-fiction novels and stories
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It happens that in science fiction stories and novels mathematicians and mathematics are mentioned. The appearance of mathematics, although rather occasional, is sometimes quite surprising. In the talk, several of those "mathematical glimpses" in science-fiction by the authors of different countries will be presented. One of the writers whose work will be considered is Stanislaw Lem (1921-2006). His books were translated into 41 languages and sold in more than 45 million copies. It is said that he is the most widely read science fiction writer in the world. It turns out that mathematics and mathematical terms appear in his books. Another Polish writer mentioned in the talk will be Janusz A. Zajdel (1938-1985), who is regarded second in popularity in Poland to Lem. His so-called social science-fiction included mathematics and physics. Anyway, some pieces of work of non-Polish authors will be also presented. Among them are John Boyd, Rudy Rucker from the USA, Russian writer Alexander Zytinski. In the novels mentioned in the talk, we can find such phrases as "my real home is Hilbert space", "In this girl, he had found the square root of minus one" and "In Riemann, Hilbert or in Banach space, let superscripts and subscripts go their ways".