Mathematics-Science 380 – History of Mathematics TRENT UNIVERSITY 2004-2005

Assignment #12

Due 11 April, 2005.

Do one of 1 or 2.

- 1. Read a story (short or long) with mathematical theme or gimmick which is central or critical to the story and write a review of the story. Make sure to describe the mathematical theme or gimmick and its role in the story. [20]
- 2. Write an original story with a mathematical theme or gimmick which is central or critical to the story. [20]

Apropos 1, there are a fair number of such stories out there. Here is a list of some of your instructor's favourite stories and novels which have a mathematical theme or gimmick. I've restricted myself to listing only one story per author ...

Flatland, Edwin A. Abbott The Feeling of Power, Isaac Asimov Sphereland, Dionys Burger A Tangled Tale, Lewis Carroll A Subway Named Moebius, A.J. Deutsch -And He Built a Crooked House, Robert A. Heinlein Cubeworld, Henry A. Gross The Dot and the Line, Norton Juster The Mathenauts, Norman Kagan The Universal Library, Kurt Lasswitz Convergent Series, Larry Niven White Light, Rudy Rucker The Geometry of Narrative, Hilbert Schenck The New Physics: The Speed of Lightness, Curved Space, and Other Heresies, Charles Sheffield An Odd Evening, Ian Stewart