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私の 本棚

My favorite books



● Urban Operations Research

I came across this book during my graduate school days. It is a textbook written by two authors who produced outstanding achievements in wide-ranging fields of OR. It allows the reader to appreciate the excitement of boldly approaching urban and regional problems using mathematical models. Especially noteworthy is the section about stochastic models, which is highly original and tremendously powerful. Here, the authors developed queueing models and various other stochastic models in a spatial context. Though first published in 1981, the appeal and impact of this book remain unchanged even after 35 years.

● Network and Discrete Location

Looking overseas, quite a few technical books and textbooks concerning facility location problems have been published to date. Of these, this is my most favorite one. Being a world-renowned researcher leading this field of study, the author has demonstrated an outstanding sense for writing a textbook as well. He emphasizes the process of mathematical modeling, which is a great feature of this book. As it is written in easy-to-understand English, I recommend this book as the first book for students who wish to learn facility location models.

● The Structure of Scientific Revolutions; Physics and God (in Japanese)

How have we humans perceived the world around us since the earliest times to this day? And how have incidents, which could urge revolutionary changes to our view of the world, occurred? These themes are very intriguing topics. The first book uses numerous examples to illustrate that the development of science has not been a linear path and that "scientific revolutions" urging drastic paradigm shift have played major roles instead. The second book, "Physics and God," is unique and easy to read. It interprets the development of physics as changes in the image of God. Since I try to describe the world around us using mathematical models, thinking about these problems may not only enjoyable but also part of my research activity.

● The Museum of Stag Beetles; Brilliant Beetles

Among the insects, beetles having armor-like bodies are particularly numerous in variety and very attractive. Using beautiful and impactful pictures, these two books introduce beetles' uniquely attractive forms that they have acquired over an overwhelmingly long period of time. My son, an elementary school second-grader, is looking forward to meeting these insects on a summer vacation trip.

● Introduction to Linear Algebra

First published more than 50 years ago, this book is a masterpiece for learning linear algebra. I became a university teacher in April 2005 and the first subject I became responsible for was "Exercises in Mathematics". Designated as a recommended reference book, this book was the first one I read to prepare for the class. Logical development is very clear – the way a beautiful theorem is proved after several preparatory steps is impressive. Although some part contains advanced topics, I recommend this book to students in all fields of science and technology.

● When Least Is Best (Japanese Edition)

After moving to Keio University, I read this book with my lab students as a textbook. This book introduces how optimization problems have been used in the fields of mathematics, physics and engineering to this day since thousands of years ago. It also describes how historically important problems have been addressed by great physicists and mathematicians, such as Fermat, Descartes, Newton, Euler and Lagrange. This book on my shelf is the Japanese translated version. After reading it, I became a fan of the author, who wrote many other wonderful books.