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Mathematics: beauty, culture and utility. Inaugural lecture of the academic course 2000-2001. (Matemáticas: belleza, cultura y utilidad. Lección inaugural del curso académico 2000-2001). (Spanish).

Murcia: Universidad de Murcia, 45 p. (2000).

Complete version available via [www.um.es/dp-estio/Professor/Manolo/leccion2000.pdf](http://www.um.es/dp-estio/Professor/Manolo/leccion2000.pdf).

This is the inaugural lecture of the academic course 2000-2001 and it was originally structured in three sections: 1) history and evolution of mathematics, 2) culture and popularization, and 3) utility. Addressed to a general audience, the contents of the lecture does not depart from some of the traditional views held by mathematicians regarding their discipline, including its eternal and linear character. Most of the bibliography is in Spanish and it is very useful for those beginning their undergraduate studies.

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