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Sudoku: Is it Mathematics?

~ *Peter Cameron* ~

Like them or loathe them, Sudoku puzzles are everywhere. But are they mathematics, or are they just "logic and reasoning" as one national British newspaper suggested?

All the ingredients of Sudoku had been developed by mathematical scientists long before the puzzle made its first official appearance in 1979. This lecture will look at the mathematical origins of Sudoku and at a variant called "symmetric Sudoku" that has close links with finite geometry and error-correcting codes.

A highly entertaining presenter and expert in a wide range of mathematical fields, Peter Cameron was one of the London Mathematical Society's Popular Lecturers in 2001, and has received various awards, including the Euler Medal. Peter is the 2008 Forder Lecturer, a distinguished Fellowship awarded by the London Mathematical Society every two years to visit and lecture at New Zealand universities.