

Mathema [M] – Interacting With Math In New Ways

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Overall Score
3.5

Usability: **3.5/5**

Design: **4/5**

Duration: **3.5/5**

Great interactive features | Great connection between text and examples

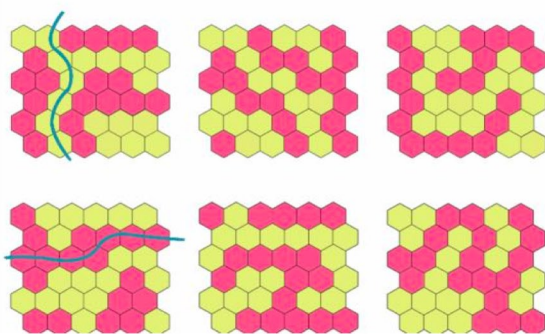
Not as understandable as some other educational apps | Not that much content

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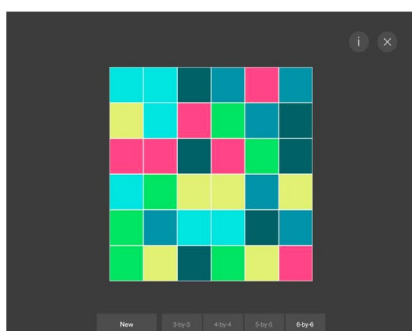
Pink and Gold Paths

When you looked at 6-by-6 honeycomb patterns, what did you notice? Here is one observation: if you imagine a honeycomb pattern to be the pink-gold paving of a small courtyard, then in some cases it will be possible to walk from top to bottom along a path stepping only on gold hexagons; in others you'll be able to walk along a path from left to right stepping only on pink hexagons. Tap the images to reveal more examples.



Mathematics isn't a subject for everyone, but it doesn't have to be that way. **Mathema [M]** is a new educational app that is designed to cover core concepts of math rather than any specific subject. Math can definitely be overwhelming with the sheer number of concepts with many building upon extensive knowledge bases. Mathema's goal is to cut through the complexities to go over topics that are made to be digested by those without years of mathematical study. The app focuses on topics that use math for specific scenarios rather than with arbitrary formulas, functions, and variables.

Mathema [M] features three main sections with each one revolving around using math concepts to explain a specific item. The highlight of Mathema [M] is the interface that integrates multimedia right in line with the text. Within the three sections, there are 21 activities, 11 video explanations, and 35 interactive images to reinforce the proceeding text. The app does a great job of integrating objects that are almost like puzzles to get the reader's mind active, and intrigued by the math behind it. Everything is made for touch to move the various interactions around the screen, and see the consequent reaction all based upon the concepts that you will read about.



It's easy to appreciate what Mathema [M] offers with text written by mathematicians translated into a highly interactive app. With that said, the content is on the short side for the premium \$10 price. Mathema's biggest problem is in comparison to other interactive educational apps like **Earth Primer**, or many **TouchPress apps**. Earth Primer covers Earth science with a friendly approach with short bits of text written for anyone to grasp. Mathema [M] doesn't do as good a job in condensing the text to be as accessible as possible, and there are quite a few math concepts you need to be cognizant of going in. Also, while it's nice to have topics that don't fit into particular subjects, it's tough to tell what exactly there is to learn from the content at hand. There are a few concepts sewn together that stay on generalized ideas that don't have as memorable of a takeaway. Still though, there are complex topics that are adeptly discussed, and explained.

Mathema [M] (\$9.99, iPad) is a well produced, interactive educational app that delivers learning through interaction that is worth picking up for a wide age range of people.

