Boarding Faster

Waiting in line while boarding a plane isn't just irritating, it's also costly: The extra time on the ground amounts to millions of dollars each year in lost revenue for the airlines. Research into different boarding procedures uses mathematics such as Lorentzian geometry and random matrix theory to demonstrate that open seating is a quick way to board while back-to-front boarding is extremely slow. In fact, mathematical models show that even people boarding at random get to their assigned seats faster than when boarding back-to-front.

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*The **Mathematical Moments** program promotes appreciation and understanding of the role mathematics plays in science, nature, technology, and human culture.*

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