

Mathematics has played a role in psychology since its beginning; however, the term, "Mathematical psychology", does not refer simply to the application of mathematics to psychology. Instead, mathematical psychology was started as a field in the United States in the 1950s by a small group of distinguished scholars, who expressed dissatisfaction with the current state of theory in experimental psychology. the field grew rapidly with the advent of graduate training programs, handbooks, research monographs, a journal, a professional society, annual meetings, and specialty conferences, all of which continue to characterize it. Further, the field has a characteristic approach to experimental and cognitive psychology that has remained fairly constant over the years. In fact, research in mathematical psychology has established new research areas and set the standards for theory construction in others. This essay has three subsections: 1. Founding and Development, 2. Research Areas, and 3. Theory Construction. the first section describes a number of important landmarks in the development of the field as well as its basic research areas. the second section discusses the current state of research in these subareas, and the third section on theory construction touches on what is probably the most unique aspect of mathematical psychology