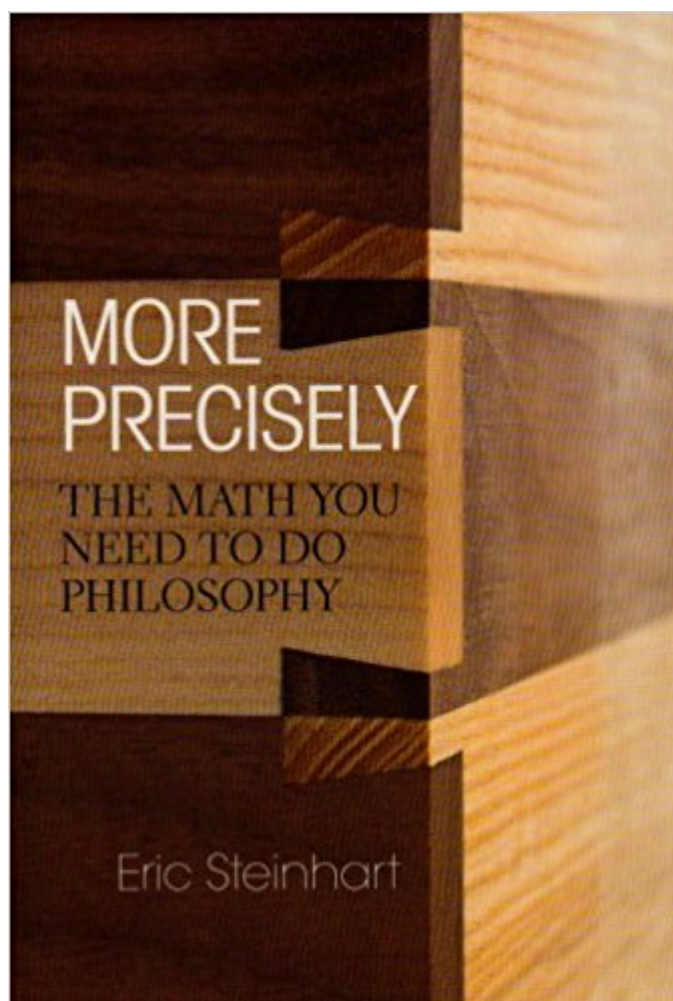


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More Precisely: The Math You Need To Do Philosophy (Broadview Guides To Philosophy)



Synopsis

More Precisely provides a rigorous and engaging introduction to the mathematics necessary to do philosophy. It is impossible to fully understand much of the most important work in contemporary philosophy without a basic grasp of set theory, functions, probability, modality and infinity. Until now, this knowledge was difficult to acquire. Professors had to provide custom handouts to their classes, while students struggled through math texts searching for insight. More Precisely fills this key gap. Eric Steinhart provides lucid explanations of the basic mathematical concepts and sets out most commonly used notational conventions. Furthermore, he demonstrates how mathematics applies to many fundamental issues in branches of philosophy such as metaphysics, philosophy of language, epistemology, and ethics.

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Customer Reviews

“[More Precisely] addresses a need by giving an elementary presentation of a number of technical concepts used in philosophy, which previously were not collected together. It should be especially useful for students preparing for graduate work whose undergraduate training is likely to have skipped over at least some of the concepts that the book covers. The material in each chapter is presented in a very clear and engaging way, without presupposing any background beyond basic high school mathematics.”
— Susan Vineberg, Wayne State University

“This is the book I wish I had when I was learning philosophy. It does an excellent job introducing students to the formal tools that philosophers use in an accessible yet rigorous way.

From set theory to possible worlds semantics to probability theory to the mathematics of infinity, all the key concepts are taught in a way that will provide students the foundation for being solid philosophers. Moreover, the concepts are taught in an engaging way, and frequent examples are given to explain why these formal notions are philosophically relevant. I'm going to ask all my incoming graduate students to read this book. And there's enough material in here that most philosophy professors could learn something from the book as well.

— Bradley Monton, University of Colorado, Boulder

"This is a splendid and innovative book. It explains accurately and accessibly a wide range of technical topics frequently drawn upon in philosophy. Wonderfully informative and clear, this book is a lifeline for students at undergraduate or graduate level."

— Chris Daly, University of Manchester

"This is a great resource! Philosophers have always used the tools of mathematics to make their claims clearer and more precise, even more so since the end of the nineteenth century. Until now we haven't had a systematic way to acquire those tools. Steinhart's book remedies the situation, presenting the fundamental ideas thoroughly and comprehensively. Highly recommended for anyone getting into the serious study of philosophy."

— Anthony Dardis, Hofstra University

More Precisely provides a rigorous and engaging introduction to the mathematics necessary to do philosophy. It is impossible to fully understand much of the most important work in contemporary philosophy without a basic grasp of set theory, functions, probability, modality and infinity. Until now, this knowledge was difficult to acquire. Professors had to provide custom handouts to their classes, while students struggled through math texts searching for insight. *More Precisely* fills this key gap. Eric Steinhart provides lucid explanations of the basic mathematical concepts and sets out most commonly used notational conventions. Furthermore, he demonstrates how mathematics applies to many fundamental issues in branches of philosophy such as metaphysics, philosophy of language, epistemology, and ethics.

The amazing thing about the little handful of books on Mathematical Philosophy--2 by Shapiro, Frege, Russell and of course Benacerraf and Putnam's classic, is the paucity of literature in this key field! Some will say that mathematical philosophy, or the closely related philosophy of mathematics, only began in the 1980's in earnest. But reading the "big 5" shows threads going back to antiquity. The field is far from settled, and the two aspects--the philosophy of math itself, and the closely related field of applying math and logic TO other branches of philosophy, has enough active

journalized information in the mid 2014+ years to fill 50 volumes. Since thousands have been written in mainline philosophy, and even the philosophy of science as well as logic, this is not without surprise and mystery. The good news is that an invested, energetic reader can pick up this handful of keys and be in the top percent of folks on the planet with a good foundation! This is hardly true of any other field. I'd start with Shapiro's Oxford Encyclopedia, study Benacerraf and Putnam's classic collection of essays, then finish with Shapiro's deep and difficult "Thinking about" and of course Russell and Frege for historic and specialized puzzle pieces. One "sleeper" I'd like to recommend that is not usually included in comparisons of books in this field is Steinhart: *More Precisely: The Math You Need to Do Philosophy*. Eric helps with both math within philosophy (the basics) and tangentially helps with the math used as examples within the philosophy OF math. Beyond the issues of categorization, discovery, math as model vs. underpinning reality ala the Matrix, there of course is the whole field of logic, induction, deduction, etc. which has thousands of volumes. The six mentioned here cover logic, but are much more specific in the broader subject area of mathematics, which now includes dynamical systems and differential equations undreamt of in the past, and bringing many new mental tools to bear, from intuition to analytic, qualitative, numeric, perturbative and of course stochastic. Here are the other links to those mentioned in this survey: [The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic \(Oxford Handbooks\)](#) [Thinking about Mathematics: The Philosophy of Mathematics](#) [Philosophy of Mathematics: Selected Readings](#) [The Foundations of Arithmetic: A Logico-Mathematical Enquiry into the Concept of Number](#) [Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy](#) Enjoy!

This is a very readable book on the mathematics needed for philosophy. I enjoyed reading it.

Killer book. Only one of its kind that I know of. More philosophers need to read it. It's just so clear.

This book is hardly thorough but what it covers is excellent. I've had a mental block with certain aspects of math for years: I see an equation and my eyes roll into the top of my head. But somehow Steinhart's treatment broke through that. I would love to see an expanded scope. His goal is to treat the most essential concepts needed to do philosophy. He does this well. However, I think there are a number of concepts that could be brought to bear in philosophy (and other subjects) that could use his rare ability to explain. I found myself disappointed as I approached the end because I wasn't ready to quit learning mathematical concepts.

I love this book. As someone who is preparing for grad school, I really wanted to be sure that I was up to date on all of the logic and mathematics that are needed to do contemporary analytic philosophy. More Precisely is an excellent tool for reaching this goal. It is incredibly informative with great examples and is very easy to read. It painlessly teaches many essential concepts, such as set theory, Bayesian inference, and modal semantics. This book should be required for all serious philosophy students.

Amazing book. I bought this book because it was a recommended book in the book philosophical devices. I think that this should be required in philosophy programs, If they want to seriously prepare there students to read current philosophical work. In every contempory book that I have read that said you just need a little logical knowledge to read it, the logic they are using is metalogic not the basic logic you learn in undergrad. Not everyone that studies philosophy gets a course in this subject (I haven't found a single school), and learning set theory is difficult if you are a liberal arts person. This gives you enough to read analytic philosophical text with a reasonable degree of understanding. This is necessary if you want to get anywhere in contemporary philosophy. Also, I recommend the book philosophical Devices to get a working understanding of the language of philosophy. This is what professor will expect you to know, but you don't get in most undergraduate programs.

Very good

If you want to get onto the ground floor in modernization of philosophy then this is the book to get.

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