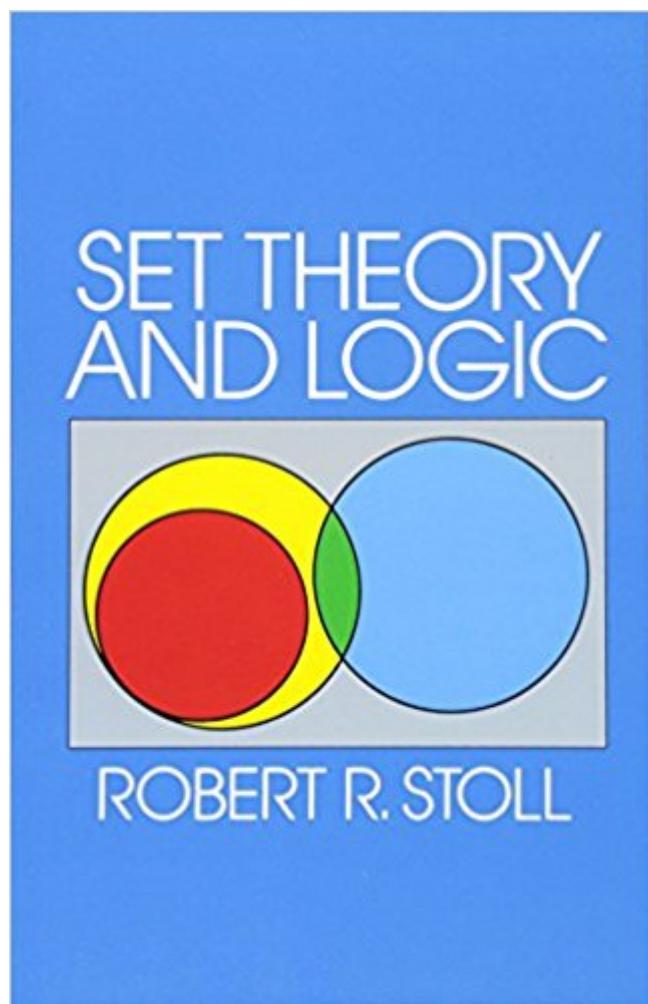


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Set Theory And Logic (Dover Books On Mathematics)



Synopsis

Set Theory and Logic is the result of a course of lectures for advanced undergraduates, developed at Oberlin College for the purpose of introducing students to the conceptual foundations of mathematics. Mathematics, specifically the real number system, is approached as a unity whose operations can be logically ordered through axioms. One of the most complex and essential of modern mathematical innovations, the theory of sets (crucial to quantum mechanics and other sciences), is introduced in a most careful concept manner, aiming for the maximum in clarity and stimulation for further study in set logic. Contents include: Sets and Relations • Cantor's concept of a set, etc. Natural Number Sequence • Zorn's Lemma, etc. Extension of Natural Numbers to Real Numbers Logic • the Statement and Predicate Calculus, etc. Informal Axiomatic Mathematics Boolean Algebra Informal Axiomatic Set Theory Several Algebraic Theories • Rings, Integral Domains, Fields, etc. First-Order Theories • Metamathematics, etc. Symbolic logic does not figure significantly until the final chapter. The main theme of the book is mathematics as a system seen through the elaboration of real numbers; set theory and logic are seen as efficient tools in constructing axioms necessary to the system. Mathematics students at the undergraduate level, and those who seek a rigorous but not unnecessarily technical introduction to mathematical concepts, will welcome the return to print of this most lucid work. "Professor Stoll . . . has given us one of the best introductory texts we have seen." • Cosmos. "In the reviewer's opinion, this is an excellent book, and in addition to its use as a textbook (it contains a wealth of exercises and examples) can be recommended to all who wish an introduction to mathematical logic less technical than standard treatises (to which it can also serve as preliminary reading)." • Mathematical Reviews.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Good introduction, especially the first few chapters. It gets increasingly technical, as you might expect. Some of the later chapters have more OCR errors than I would like.

I essentially agree with what has been said. This book might be too watered down for hard core mathematicians but it's perfect for philosophers and others with an interest in math who lack a strong math background. I study philosophy and logic, and hence have some prior background but not enough to make me competent in set theory. This book is really clear. Several key concepts are elaborated and there are plenty of proofs.

This is a good book; clear and simple; It is a bit dated but considering the low price is a good bargain

Boring, loaded with gratuitous proofs of trivial theorems. In fact, the clumsily written proofs take up around 85% of the book, and they do nothing to illuminate the theorems in question. Moreover, the proofs are unintelligible except to those who can produce their own proofs of the theorems in question. The approach is narrow and pedantic. That said, this book has two saving graces. First, it does cover more or less everything, if only in its oafish and blinkered way. Second, the material on algebra is clear and concise. But even the material on algebra is inadequate. It is not explained why the concept of a ring- is of philosophical or scientific significance. In fact, nothing in this book is explained. Where there should be explanations, there are labored proofs, the result being a wooden tome which is unintelligible to neophytes and of limited use to experts.

This is a good book for an introductory course on the subject. It contains the basic topics, but if you are looking for strong introduction to mathematical logic, maybe this is not a good choice. In any case, you can take it for granted since contains a very good selection of topics and perhaps you can support it with other books.

I abandoned this book (The ebook version) about halfway though the first chapter, due to the fact that it is riddled with typos. I am very surprised that no one else has mentioned this. Due to the fact that the first chapter is pretty basic it was easy to spot these errors and correct them, but I'm sure that such errors in later chapters could seriously affect understanding of the material. Don't buy the e-book.

This is an easy to follow treatise on set theory. It is written in a simple style that any can follow and it is a very good and complete account of the whole theory. The last chapters are particularly as the topics in them show how the theory is used in conventional mathematics. The very last chapter is an introduction to more advanced subjects that skirt model theory and talk about the standard mathematical logic topics like consistency, completeness, and categoricity of first order theories; decidable theories, and Gödel's theorem. The book has been around for ages, and I'm on my second copy as the first has been literally worn out through continual use as a reference.

This book is without peer in its breadth of coverage of the foundations of mathematics and logic. I have given this book only 4 stars, because its treatment of any given topic is not classic. It is the total package that astounds. For a mere \$15, you get a challenging undergraduate introduction to all of the following topics. I have written in parentheses the names of authors of more definitive treatments: Intuitive set theory through the axiom of choice (Halmos) Natural numbers \mathbb{N} Integers \mathbb{Z} Rational numbers \mathbb{Q} Reals (Feferman) Mathematical logic (Machover, Smullyan) Metamathematics (Machover, Mendelson) Introduction to the axiomatic approach ZF axiomatic set theory (Suppes) Boolean algebra through Stone's theorem and the completeness of sentential logic (Halmos & Givant) Algebra (Birkhoff & MacLane's "Algebra") Stoll's style is quite discursive, far from the terse lemma-theorem-corollary-remark style of so much 20th century mathematics. My only major disappointment is that the formal proof technique set out in chpt. 4 is natural deduction rather than the tableau method or Quine's Main Method. It is indeed the case that there are no solutions to the exercises, but I do not believe that that is a major flaw.

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