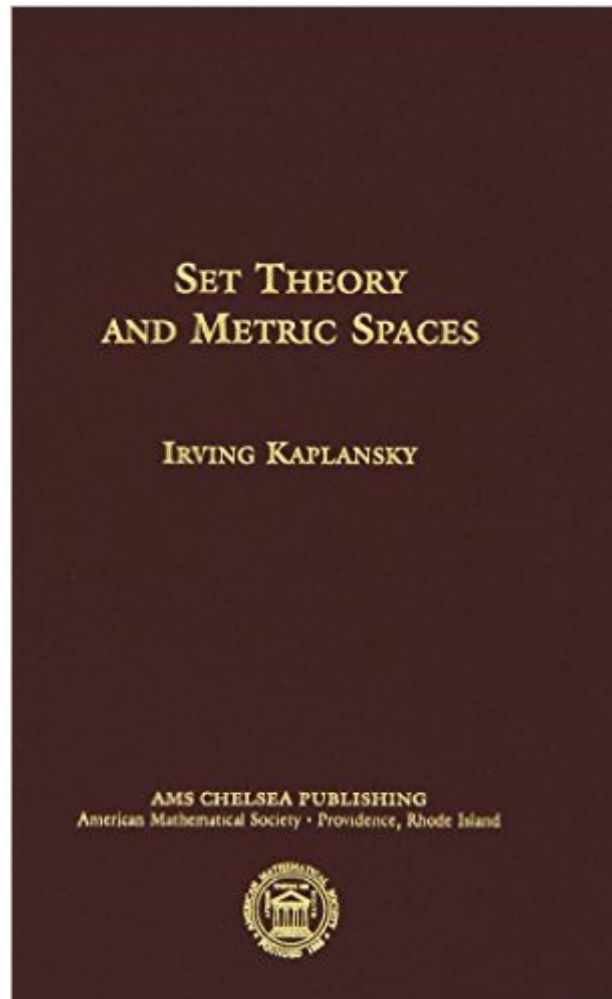


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Set Theory And Metric Spaces (AMS Chelsea Publishing)



Synopsis

This book is based on notes from a course on set theory and metric spaces taught by Edwin Spanier, and also incorporates with his permission numerous exercises from those notes. The volume includes an Appendix that helps bridge the gap between metric and topological spaces, a Selected Bibliography, and an Index.

Book Information

Series: AMS Chelsea Publishing

Hardcover: 140 pages

Publisher: American Mathematical Society; 2nd edition (May 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0821826948

ISBN-13: 978-0821826942

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #729,813 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Set Theory](#) #6908 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Mathematics](#) #175624 in [Books > Reference](#)

Customer Reviews

This is a very good book especially for self-study. It is very good for the material it treats but some caveats need to be noted. The set theory is naive and not axiomatic. Zorn's lemma, well-ordering theorem, and point-set theory are covered -- but Peano's axioms are not. There is no coverage of Real Numbers or Ordinals. For the topics that are treated the coverage is very good, and book is well-organized and lucid. The development is logical and rigorous; the language is very helpful in understanding the material, as are the historical asides. There are plenty of nice exercises. The material is pitched at the advanced undergraduate or beginning graduate level. *Classic Set Theory* by Goldrei is very good too.

This is an exceptionally good introduction to the core definitions and theorems of naive set theory. That is to say, it is written in an informal style, yet remains adequate for building deeper knowledge later. I found the treatment somewhat idiosyncratic in that it gives some insights about how Kaplansky views sets and some natural proofs of their properties. Note: this last point suggests

the following analogy: you're in college and you take two logic classes just because you love logic so much. However, both are taught by different teachers. One teacher simply goes from the text; the other one hands out a set of lecture notes that is very personal and interesting and adds insight to the textbook. Kaplansky's work is this set of lecture notes. It is also rare to find coverage of metric spaces in a work of its kind, which adds to its appeal. This book is brief, but is not intended to pry beyond the bare essentials -- the written style is ideally suited to this end. A pleasure to read! Highly recommended for a first go.

Kaplansky's *Set Theory and Metric Spaces* is one of the most helpful math books that I've ever used. Beginning with basic set theory and covering such topics as cardinal numbers, countability, the Axiom of Choice, Zorn's Lemma, well ordering, basic properties of metric spaces, completeness, separability, and compactness. Kaplansky's explanations are clear and concise, his examples are illuminating, and the problems are challenging without being far too difficult. As a bonus, this book is quite reasonably priced. A must for anyone who is taking a first or second set theory class!

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