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K-Theory For Operator Algebras (Mathematical Sciences Research Institute Publications)

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Synopsis

K-theory has helped convert the theory of operator algebras from a simple branch of functional analysis to a subject with broad applicability throughout mathematics, especially in geometry and topology, and many mathematicians of diverse backgrounds must learn the essential parts of the theory. This book is the only comprehensive treatment of K-theory for operator algebras, and is intended to help students, non-specialists, and specialists learn the subject. This first paperback printing has been revised and expanded and contains an updated reference list.

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Customer Reviews

The books covers not only K-theory but also KK-theory that was introduced by G. G. Kasparov. The original article by Kasparov are very hard to read because of the generality of his approach. Furthermore the theory was much simplified by Skandalis et al. The second part of the book offers a very readable introduction to KK-theory. Now the new edition even contains a short exposition of E-theory."Elements of KK-theory" by K. K. Jensen and K. Thomsen is good introduction too.

K-theory is a challenging subject; Kasparov’s KK-theory even more so. But Bruce Blackadar’s textbook manages to present both of these in a clear and coherent fashion, readable both by mathematicians and physicists. The ideal reader of this book will already be familiar with the basics of operator algebras and will have had some exposure to K-theory (perhaps through Wegge-Olsen’s

remarkable book) and noncommutative geometry; but an extensive background is not needed.One especially good feature of this book is the wealth of examples it contains, especially those examples of most relevance to string theory. (Where K-theory is finding some of its most interesting applications today) A wide range of subjects such as "topological" K-theory (the K-theory of gauge fields) and supersymmetry (referred to as "grading," following mathematicians' notation) round out this presentation of one of the most exciting subjects on the border of mathematics and physics.

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