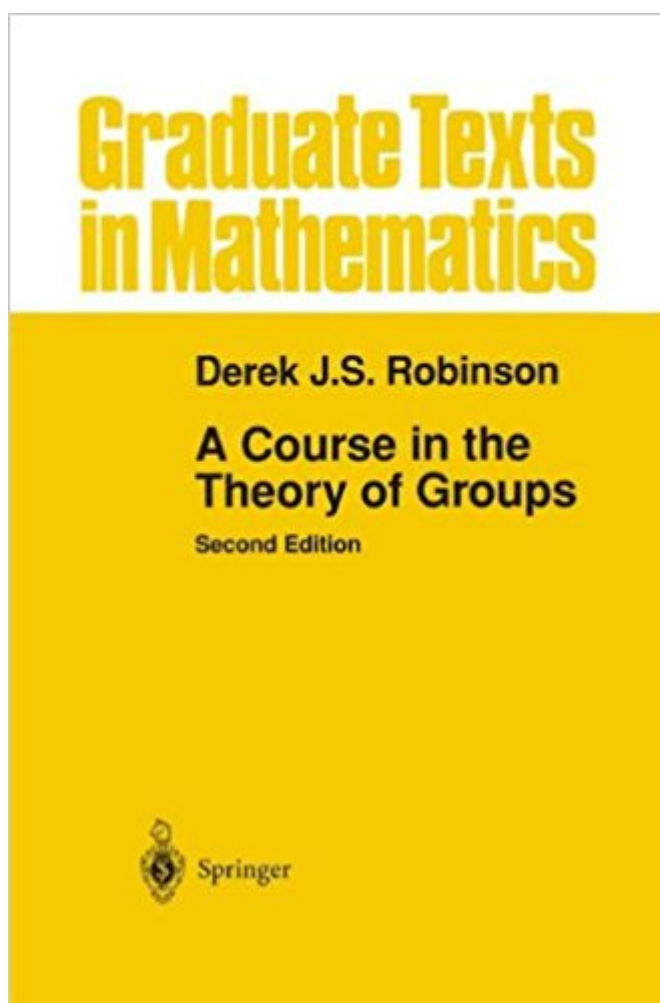


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A Course in the Theory of Groups is a comprehensive introduction to general group theory. Presupposing only a basic knowledge of abstract algebra, it introduces the reader to the different branches of group theory and their principal accomplishments. The book stresses the unity of group

theory and draws attention to connections with other areas of algebra. Numerous exercises are given which supplement the material in the text.

This book is, I suppose, the most authoritative and comprehensive text on group theory. Text is quite succinct and self-contained, proofs are elegant and rigorous. Only few sections of the first chapter cover undergraduate group theory. Therefore I do not recommend it for the one that would prefer an introductory text rather than a serious reference text. It is also a strong self study text, the example questions are well-chosen and generally demanding. Though its name begins with 'A Course...', I think it contains enough material for more than 3 courses, a semester each. It is definitely worth its value, a must for a mathematician's library.

This book is an excellent second book after the one from J Rotman (An introduction to the theory of groups). Self studying with the 2 books demands a lot of work but can be achieved by someone motivated. When a concept is not understood with one of the books, the explanation read in the second really help. This book is not for a beginner, but is perfect for someone with a real mathematical background. The concepts are organised as can be the mathematical courses in universities, concise, succinct and demanding.

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