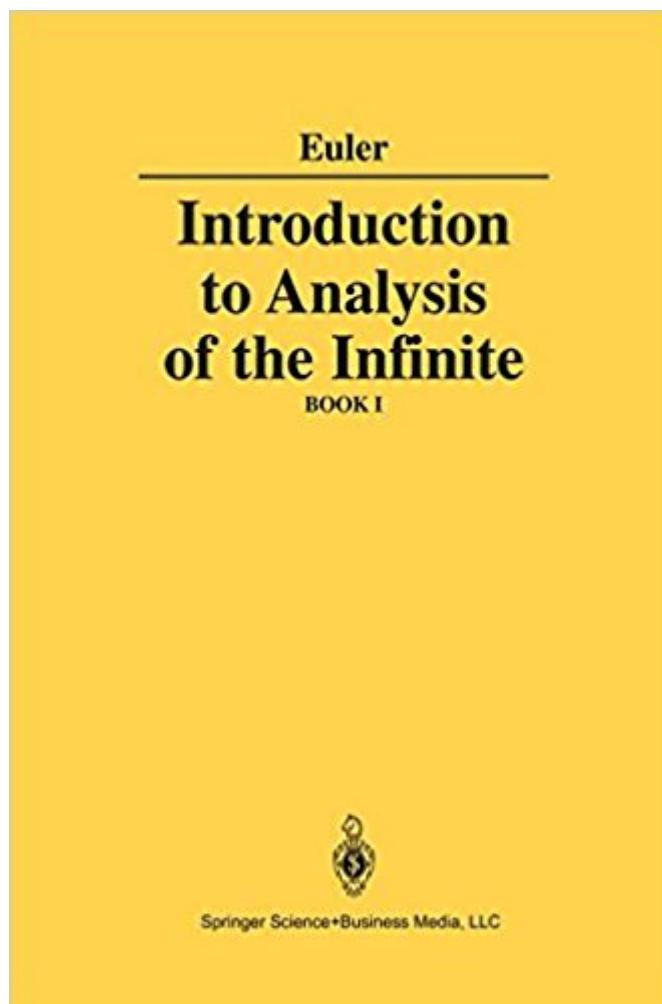


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Introduction To Analysis Of The Infinite: Book I



Synopsis

From the preface of the author: "...I have divided this work into two books; in the first of these I have confined myself to those matters concerning pure analysis. In the second book I have explained those things which must be known from geometry, since analysis is ordinarily developed in such a way that its application to geometry is shown. In the first book, since all of analysis is concerned with variable quantities and functions of such variables, I have given full treatment to functions. I have also treated the transformation of functions and functions as the sum of infinite series. In addition I have developed functions in infinite series..."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Latin (translation)

This is a seminal text by one of history's greatest mathematicians. Unique to his great mathematical peers, Euler was also an extraordinary teacher and expositor. His enthusiasm and genius pour through the pages of this book, with Euler making his characteristically bold and ingenious symbolic arguments to come up with many of the well known formulas that were probably mentioned in your math class. For example, Euler brilliantly uses basic algebra (plus infinitesimals) to come up with some very deep and beautiful formulas, such as Sine's infinite product, e's continued fraction expansion and much more. In fact, if you have ever wondered how all of Euler's beautiful formulas that you saw in class were actually derived; here is your chance to get it straight from the genius

who discovered them! As with any book by a mathematician of the highest rank, this is wholly different from any modern "textbook" and should NOT be considered as such. The should be used for self study or as a compliment to a calculus course, or perhaps most of all (like it was intended in those days believe it or not), be read for the pure enjoyment of the subject. Its format is much more flowing and intuitive than a modern textbook; Euler presents clearly stated mathematical arguments (numbered in order), which he then uses and cites later on to produce more mathematical arguments. He also seems to subtly encourage the reader to pursue various ideas for themselves, lending a certain adventurous quality that is NEVER encountered in the "modern" crap texts. Be forewarned though; it is NOT for the symbolically weak. If you lack skills in basic algebra its best to brush up before you read this book. Just because it is a "pre-calculus" text does not at all mean that this is elementary. This IS however a relatively easy read IMO due to Euler's intuitive style. Euler is the by far the most accessible compared to his modern peers; Newton and Gauss.

The title of the translation is wrong. Anyone who wrote (or writes) in Latin is well aware that the ending -orum is genitive plural, not singular. Clearly, therefore, Euler did mean his book title to read 'Introduction to the Analysis of Infinities.' In effect, the translator says that he changed this, because it doesn't accord with modern mathematics. That is, the plural term 'infinities' is archaic. All current mathematicians (who have looked into the matter) accept that not all infinities are the same size. The implication of this is that there exists more than one 'infinity' (if we're going to talk about 'infinity'). Mathematics are similar in all languages, so the book is still decent (though not as good as it could be).

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