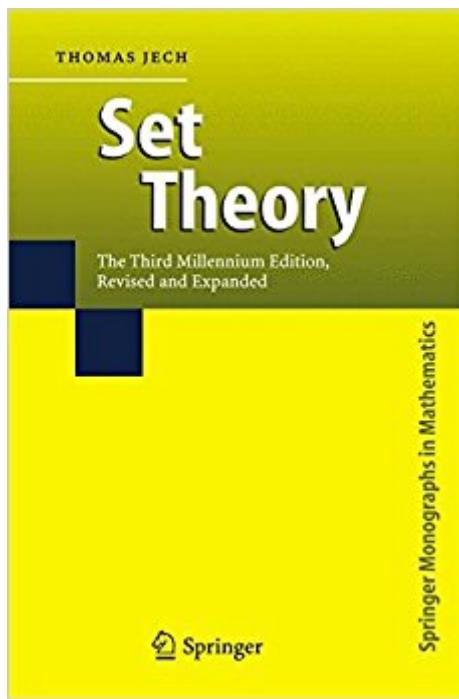


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Book Information

Series: Springer Monographs in Mathematics

Hardcover: 772 pages

Publisher: Springer; 3rd edition (April 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3540440852

ISBN-13: 978-3540440857

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #984,905 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Set Theory #460 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Logic #9295 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Mathematics

Customer Reviews

In 1979, I was a first-year graduate student in mathematics. One summer day, I was looking in the math section of Stanford bookstore and saw this thick green volume with the simple title Set Theory (by Thomas Jech). I couldn't help pulling the tome off the shelf. I flipped through the pages in awe. This book had everything about mathematics that I had always wanted to know. After about an hour, I reluctantly looked at the price and it was just too much; I had to put it back on the shelf. But for the next month, that book was all I could think about. I finally went back and bought it. Two years later after hooking up with my adviser and embarking on research in set theory, I started working through Jech's book starting on page 1. It took me 2 years to work through the entire book, and for much of that time I had the opportunity to present what I was learning in seminars. That book is a real treasure. I don't think I've spent as much time poring over any other book. I think the presentation of material is fantastic and the coverage is thorough (or it was at the time I studied it--probably his

recently updated work also has this attribute). I would recommend this book (or rather the most recent edition of it) to any serious graduate student specializing in set theory. Two areas where I needed supplementary study were in his approaches to the constructible universe and to forcing. These are important areas, and Jech does a fine job in his approach, but certain approaches other than his have become more of a standard, and any serious researcher will have to become familiar with these standards. Jech uses Boolean algebras (primarily) in his development of forcing (and his development is excellent) whereas by now, the usual approach is with partial orders.

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