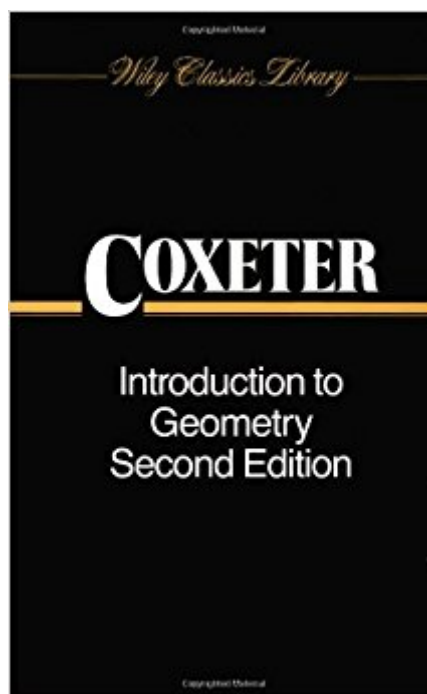# Introduction To Geometry

Synopsis

This classic work is now available in an unabridged paperback edition. The Second Edition retains all the characterisitcs that made the first edition so popular: brilliant exposition, the flexibility permitted by relatively self-contained chapters, and broad coverage ranging from topics in the Euclidean plane, to affine geometry, projective geometry, differential geometry, and topology. The Second Edition incorporates improvements in the text and in some proofs, takes note of the solution of the 4-color map problem, and provides answers to most of the exercises.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of those books that's listed in the bibliography of almost every other geometry text I've read -- and rightly so. Reading through it, you'll find some absolute gems of geometric insight. So why am I giving it only three stars? Primarily because it misrepresents itself as an "Introduction," which it isn't. It's much more like one of those fast-paced "ten countries in five days" package tours offerred by various travel agents. In a mere 412 pages, Coxeter zips through a vast number of topics -- each of them actually a specialty area in the larger field of geometry. It simply isn't possible for a book of this length to give the reader any kind of serious grounding in this material.In addition, some of the topics are ones at which Coxeter himself admitted he wasn't very skilled. During his career, his main areas of interest were symmetry, n-dimensional Euclidean geometry, projective geometry, and higher-dimensional polygons. Things like topology and differential geometry were outside his territory, so the treatment of these topics in "Introduction" is not as engaging as his discussion of various isometries.This book originally grew out of a set of lectures that Coxeter gave

to college-level math majors and math teachers. By all accounts, Coxeter was a very lively and engaging teacher; I imagine it must have been wonderful to listen to those lectures, and then have Coxeter's own lecture notes (i.e., this book) as a reminder of everything that he said. Unfortunately, I don't think the book stands as well on its own as a teacher; it needs Coxeter himself to fill in the gaps between the words and bring it to life.

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