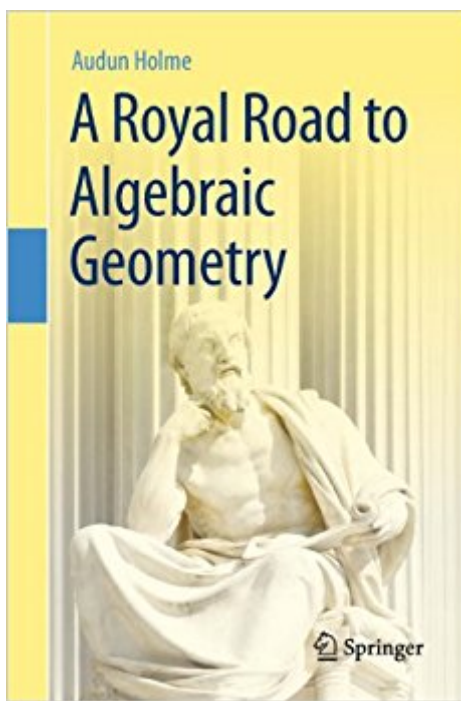


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A Royal Road To Algebraic Geometry



Synopsis

This book is about modern algebraic geometry. The title *A Royal Road to Algebraic Geometry* is inspired by the famous anecdote about the king asking Euclid if there really existed no simpler way for learning geometry, than to read all of his work *Elements*. Euclid is said to have answered: "There is no royal road to geometry!" • The book starts by explaining this enigmatic answer, the aim of the book being to argue that indeed, in some sense there is a royal road to algebraic geometry. From a point of departure in algebraic curves, the exposition moves on to the present shape of the field, culminating with Alexander Grothendieck's theory of schemes. Contemporary homological tools are explained. The reader will follow a directed path leading up to the main elements of modern algebraic geometry. When the road is completed, the reader is empowered to start navigating in this immense field, and to open up the door to a wonderful field of research. The greatest scientific experience of a lifetime!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Holme has written a singular text, one which, in my view, could very well become standard material for undergraduates and non-algebraists. Academic works are often marked by relatively poor writing, but this is not the case with this book. While the author is no Fitzgerald or Hemmingway, but he is clear and at times in this book even somewhat literary. Unfortunately, there are quite a few spelling and grammar errors, but they are inconsequential. Pedagogically, Holme manages to retain a complete, logical presentation but do so in such a way as to avoid complete, often very complicated proofs. In this way, the present text truly presents a "royal road" to the subject. The approach is an interesting mixture of historical and logical; Holme always has the student in mind. Part 1 covers what one might think of as truly "classical" material which is very much geometric in nature and some of which one might expect to find in a different setting entirely (i.e. not in a course or book on algebraic geometry), whereas Part 2 covers the more algebraic and theoretical approach of Grothendieck using schemes (this is what most think of algebraic geometry as being). While nothing as exotic or modern as tropical geometry is presented, Holme has, quite remarkably, included a non-trivial amount of intersection theory, cohomology, and other topics of great interest. Another interesting aspect of A Royal Road ... is that it presents much of the prerequisite algebra and does not seem to assume the reader has an extensive algebraic background. For instance, Part 2 begins with coverage of basic category theory; moreover, much of the requisite commutative and homological algebra is covered, albeit in brief. In my initial review, I gave 5 stars, but I have since changed it to 4.

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