Contents

Part I A Cultural Heritage

Early Beginnings			
1.1	Prehistory	3	
1.2	Geometry in the New Stone Age	4	
1.3	Early Mathematics and Ethnomathematics	6	
The Great River Civilizations		7	
2.1	Civilizations Long Dead: And Yet Alive	7	
2.2	Birth of Geometry as We Know It	11	
2.3	Geometry in the Land of the Pharaoh	12	
2.4	Babylonian Geometry	15	
2.5	The (u,v) Explanation of Plimpton 322	22	
2.6			
		23	
2.7	Parametrization of Pythagorean Triples	25	
Greek and Hellenic Geometry			
3.1	Early Greek Geometry: Thales of Miletus	31	
3.2	The Story of Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans	34	
3.3	The Geometry of the Pythagoreans	44	
3.4	The Discovery of Irrational Numbers	46	
3.5	Origin of the Classical Problems	50	
3.6	Constructions by Compass and Straightedge 54		
3.7			
3.8	Doubling the Cube		
3.9	Trisecting Any Angle		
3.10	Plato and the Platonic Solids		
3.11	Archytas and Doubling the Cube	64	
Geom	Geometry in the Hellenistic Era		
4.1	Euclid and Euclid's Elements	75	
4.2	The Books of Euclid's Elements	77	
	4.2.1 Euclid's Definitions	77	
	4.2.2 Euclid's Postulates	78	
	1.1 1.2 1.3 The G 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7 Greek 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 3.9 3.10 3.11 Geom 4.1	1.1 Prehistory. 1.2 Geometry in the New Stone Age. 1.3 Early Mathematics and Ethnomathematics. The Great River Civilizations 2.1 Civilizations Long Dead: And Yet Alive 2.2 Birth of Geometry as We Know It 2.3 Geometry in the Land of the Pharaoh. 2.4 Babylonian Geometry 2.5 The (u,v) Explanation of Plimpton 322 2.6 Regular Reciprocal Pairs, Babylonian Number-Work and Plimpton 322 2.7 Parametrization of Pythagorean Triples Greek and Hellenic Geometry 3.1 Early Greek Geometry: Thales of Miletus 3.2 The Story of Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans 3.3 The Geometry of the Pythagoreans 3.4 The Discovery of Irrational Numbers 3.5 Origin of the Classical Problems 3.6 Constructions by Compass and Straightedge 3.7 Squaring the Circle 3.8 Doubling the Cube 3.9 Trisecting Any Angle 3.10 Plato and the Platonic Solids 3.11 Archytas and Doubling the Cube Geometry in the Hellenistic Era 4.1 Euclid and Euclid's Elements 4.2.1 Euclid's Definitions	

xiv Contents

		4.2.3 Alternative Versions of Euclid's Fifth Postulate				
		4.2.4 Euclid's Common Notions or Axioms				
	4.3	The Roman Empire				
	4.4	Archimedes				
	4.5	Eratosthenes and Doubling the Cube106				
	4.6	Nicomedes and His Conchoid				
	4.7	Apollonius of Perga and the Conic Sections110				
	4.8	The End of the Republic in Rome				
	4.9	The First Emperors				
	4.10	Heron of Alexandria	135			
	4.11	Nero and the Year of the Four Emperors				
	4.12	From Vespasian to Marcus Aurelius	139			
	4.13	Menelaus of Alexandria	143			
	4.14	Claudius Ptolemy	144			
	4.15	The Rule of Sines and the Law of Cosines	148			
	4.16	From Commodus to the End of the Crisis				
		of the Third Century	149			
	4.17	Diophantus of Alexandria	151			
	4.18	Pappus of Alexandria				
	4.19	The Late Roman Empire				
	4.20	The Murder of Hypatia	158			
	4.21	Fall of the Roman Empire	165			
	4.22	Byzantium	165			
	4.23	Preservation of a Heritage	167			
5	Arabic Mathematics and Geometry173					
	5.1	The Arab Expansion	173			
	5.2	Arab Science and Culture	177			
	5.3	The Founder of the House of Wisdom in Baghdad				
	5.4	Abu Ja'far Muhammad Ibn Musa Al Khwarizmi	181			
	5.5	Ibn Qurra and al-Battani	188			
	5.6	Muhammad Abu al Wafa al-Buzjani	189			
	5.7	Abu Sahl Wijan bin Rustam al Quhi	190			
	5.8	Yusuf al Mutaman ibn Hud and his Library	193			
	5.9	Omar al-Khayyam				
	5.10	Sharaf al-Din	201			
	5.11	Nasir al-Din al-Tusi	207			
6	The G	The Geometry of Yesterday and Today21				
	6.1	The Dark Middle Ages	211			
	6.2	Geometry Reawakening: A New Dawn in Europe				
	6.3	Elementary Geometry and Higher Geometry				
	6.4	Desargues and the Two Pascals				
	6.5	Descartes and Analytic Geometry	221			
	6.6	Newton and Leibniz				

Contents xv

	6.7	Geometry in the Eighteenth Century	222
	6.8	Some Features of Modern Geometry	
	6.9	Archimedean Polyhedra and Tessellations	
	0.9	Archimedean Polyhedra and Tessenations	233
7	Geon	netry and the Real World	241
	7.1	Mathematics and Predicting Catastrophes	241
	7.2	Catastrophe Theory	243
	7.3	Geometric Shapes in Nature	245
	7.4	Fractal Structures in Nature	247
Par	tII I	ntroduction to Geometry	
8	Axior	natic Geometry	253
	8.1	The Postulates of Euclid and Hilbert's Explanation	
	8.2	Non-Euclidian Geometry	
	8.3	Logic and Intuitive Set Theory	
	8.4	Axioms, Axiomatic Theories and Models	
	8.5	General Theory of Axiomatic Systems	
9	Axiomatic Projective Geometry		
	9.1	Plane Projective Geometry	265
	9.2	An Unsolved Geometric Problem	
	9.3	The Real Projective Plane	
10	Mode	els for Non-Euclidian Geometry	283
	10.1	Three Types of Geometry	
	10.2	Hyperbolic Geometry	
	10.3	Elliptic Geometry	
	10.4	Euclidian and Non-Euclidian Geometry in Space	
	10.5	Riemannian Geometry	
11	Maki	ng Things Precise	299
	11.1	Relations and Their Uses	
	11.2	Identification of Points	300
	11.3	Our Number System	
	11.4	Complex Numbers and Trigonometry	
12	Proje	ective Space	313
	12.1	Coordinates in the Projective Plane	
	12.2	Projective n-Space	
	12.3	Affine and Projective Coordinate Systems	

xvi Contents

13	Geom	etry in the Affine and the Projective Plane	325
	13.1	The Theorem of Desargues	
	13.2	Duality for $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{R})$	
	13.3	Naive Definition and First Examples of Affine Plane Curves	328
	13.4	Straight Lines	328
	13.5	Conic Sections in the Affine Plane \mathbb{R}^2	329
	13.6	Constructing Points on Conic Sections	
		by Compass and Straightedge	336
	13.7	Further Properties of Conic Sections	
	13.8	Conic Sections in the Projective Plane	
	13.9	The Theorems of Pappus and Pascal	
14	Algeb	raic Curves of Higher Degrees in the Affine Plane \mathbb{R}^2	351
	14.1	Curves of Degree 3 and 4 in \mathbb{R}^2	351
	14.2	Affine Algebraic Curves	
	14.3	Singularities and Multiplicities	
	14.4	Tangency	
15	Higher Geometry in the Projective Plane		367
	15.1	Projective Curves	
	15.2	Projective Closure and Affine Restriction	
	15.3	Smooth and Singular Points on Affine and Projective Curves	
	15.4	The Tangent to a Projective Curve	
	15.5	Projective Equivalence	
	15.6	Asymptotes	
	15.7	General Conchoids	
	15.8	The Dual Curve	
	15.9	The Dual of Pappus' Theorem	
	15.10	Pascal's Mysterium Hexagrammicum	
16	Sharp	ening the Sword of Algebra	397
	16.1	On Rational Polynomials	
	16.2	The Minimal Polynomial	
	16.3	The Euclidian Algorithm	
	16.4	Number Fields and Field Extensions.	
	16.5	More on Field Extensions	
17	Const	ructions with Straightedge and Compass	413
	17.1	Review of Legal Constructions	
	17.2	Constructible Points	
	17.3	What is Possible?	
	17.4	Trisecting Any Angle	
	17.5	Doubling the Cube and Constructing	
		the Regular Heptagon	422
	17.6	Squaring the Circle	

Contents	XVI
Contents	A11

	17.7	Regular	Polygons	424
	17.8		ections by Folding	
			, .	
18	Fracta	al Geome	try	435
	18.1	Fractals	and their Dimensions	435
	18.2	The vor	1 Koch Snowflake Curve	436
	18.3	Fractal	Shapes in Nature	437
	18.4	The Sie	rpinski Triangles	437
	18.5	A Canto	or Set	439
19	Catas	trophe T	heory	441
	19.1	The Cu	sp Catastrophe: Geometry of a Cubic Surface	441
	19.2	Rudime	ents of Control Theory	443
20	Gener	ral Polyh	edra and Tessellations, and Their Groups of Symm	etrv 445
	20.1		ies of \mathbb{R}^n	
	20.2		gical Spaces and Topological Groups	
	20.3	Discrete Transformation Groups of Metric Spaces		
	20.4	Isometries of \mathbb{R}^2		
	20.5	Symmetry of Plane Ornaments		
		20.5.1	Rosette Groups	
		20.5.2	Frieze Groups	
		20.5.3	Wallpaper Groups	458
		20.5.4	The 17 Types of Wallpaper Groups	
	20.6			468
		20.6.1	Systems of Rotational Symmetries in Space	469
		20.6.2	Reflection Symmetry	472
		20.6.3	Prismatic Symmetry Types	
		20.6.4	Compound Symmetry and the S_{2n} Symmetry Type.	475
		20.6.5	Cubic Symmetry Types	475
		20.6.6	The Possible Symmetry Types	478
21	Hints	and Solu	tions to Some of the Exercises	483
Ref	erence	S		503
Ind	ex			507