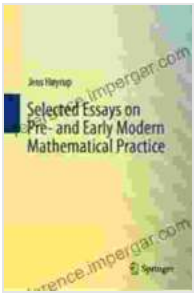
Selected Essays on Pre and Early Modern Mathematical Practice: A Journey Through the Evolution of Mathematical Thought

Mathematics is a cornerstone of human civilization, playing a vital role in our understanding of the world around us. From the pyramids of ancient Egypt to the cutting-edge technologies of the 21st century, mathematics has shaped our societies and pushed the boundaries of human knowledge.



Selected Essays on Pre- and Early Modern Mathematical Practice by Jens Høyrup

4.3 out of 5

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Print length	: 982 pages
Paperback	: 152 pages
Item Weight	: 6.1 ounces
Dimensions	: 5 x 0.38 x 8 inches

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The development of mathematical thought has been a gradual process, spanning millennia and involving contributions from countless individuals. In this comprehensive collection of essays, esteemed scholars delve into the pre and early modern periods of mathematical history, providing a captivating exploration of the foundations upon which modern mathematics is built.

Pre-Modern Mathematical Practice

The essays in this section explore the origins of mathematical ideas in ancient civilizations. Readers will discover the sophisticated mathematical knowledge of the Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, and Indians, uncovering the roots of concepts such as geometry, number theory, and algebra.

Step into the world of the ancient Egyptians, where the practical need for land measurement and construction led to the development of basic arithmetic and geometry. Marvel at the ingenuity of the Babylonians, who devised a sexagesimal system that laid the groundwork for modern timekeeping and trigonometry.

Medieval and Renaissance Mathematics

The medieval and Renaissance periods witnessed a revival of interest in mathematics, spurred by the rediscovery of ancient texts and the rise of universities. This era saw the development of new mathematical techniques and the emergence of influential thinkers such as Leonardo Fibonacci and Nicolaus Copernicus.

Explore the innovative mathematical ideas of the Islamic Golden Age, where scholars expanded on Greek geometry and trigonometry, making significant contributions to astronomy and algebra. Witness the birth of modern arithmetic and the concept of zero in medieval India, which revolutionized mathematical computation.

The Scientific Revolution and Early Modern Mathematics

The scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries brought about a transformative shift in mathematical thought. Scholars such as Galileo Galilei, Johannes Kepler, and René Descartes applied mathematics to the

study of the natural world, leading to groundbreaking discoveries in physics, astronomy, and calculus.

Delve into the development of analytic geometry, which laid the foundation for modern graphing and calculus. Trace the evolution of trigonometry, as it became an indispensable tool for navigation, surveying, and astronomy. Witness the birth of probability theory and its applications in fields ranging from gambling to insurance.

'Selected Essays on Pre and Early Modern Mathematical Practice' is an essential resource for anyone interested in the history of mathematics, the development of mathematical ideas, or the foundations of modern science. Through a captivating narrative and in-depth analysis, this collection provides a comprehensive and thought-provoking exploration of the origins and evolution of mathematical thought.

Whether you are a student, a researcher, or simply curious about the history of one of humanity's greatest intellectual achievements, this book will illuminate the fascinating journey of mathematical discovery that has shaped our civilization.

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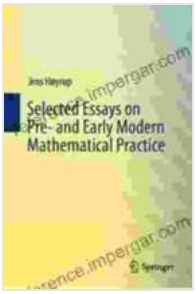

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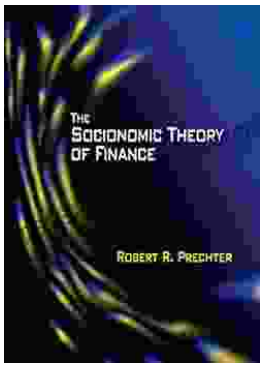

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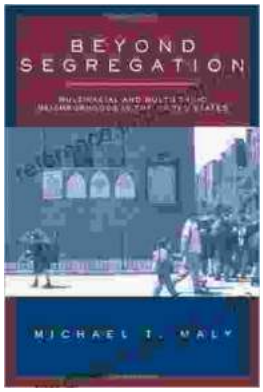

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