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978-0-521-29915-2 - The Foundations of Analysis: A Straightforward Introduction

K. G. Binmore

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THE FOUNDATIONS OF ANALYSIS:  
A STRAIGHTFORWARD INTRODUCTION

BOOK 1  
LOGIC, SETS AND NUMBERS

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INTRODUCTION

BOOK 1

LOGIC, SETS AND NUMBERS

K. G. BINMORE

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## CONTENTS

	<b>Introduction</b>	<i>page ix</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Proofs</b>	1
1.1	What is a proof?	1
1.5	Mathematical proof	3
1.7	Obvious	5
1.8	The interpretation of a mathematical theory	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Logic (I)</b>	7
2.1	Statements	7
2.4	Equivalence	7
2.6	Not	8
2.7	And, or	8
2.10	Implies	9
2.12	If and only if	11
2.13	Proof schema	12
<b>3</b>	<b>Logic (II)</b>	14
3.1	Predicates and sets	14
3.4	Quantifiers	16
3.6	Manipulations with quantifiers	17
3.10	More on contradictories	18
3.13	Examples and counter-examples	19
<b>4</b>	<b>Set operations</b>	21
4.1	Subsets	21
4.4	Complements	22
4.7	Unions and intersections	23
4.13†	Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory	25
<b>5</b>	<b>Relations</b>	28
5.1	Ordered pairs	28

† This material is more advanced than the main body of the text and is perhaps best omitted at a first reading.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29915-2 - The Foundations of Analysis: A Straightforward Introduction

K. G. Binmore

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>vi</i>	<i>Contents</i>	
5.2	Cartesian products	28
5.3	Relations	29
5.5	Equivalence relations	30
5.8	Orderings	31
<b>6</b>	<b>Functions</b>	33
6.1	Formal definition	33
6.2	Terminology	35
6.5	Composition	39
6.6†	Binary operations and groups	40
6.8†	Axiom of choice	41
<b>7</b>	<b>Real numbers (I)</b>	44
7.1	Introduction	44
7.2	Real numbers and length	44
7.3	Axioms of arithmetic	46
7.6	Some theorems in arithmetic	49
7.10	Axioms of order	50
7.13	Intervals	51
<b>8</b>	<b>Principle of induction</b>	54
8.1	Ordered fields	54
8.2	The natural numbers	54
8.4	Principle of induction	56
8.7	Inductive definitions	56
8.10	Properties of $\mathbb{N}$	59
8.13	Integers	60
8.14	Rational numbers	60
<b>9</b>	<b>Real numbers (II)</b>	63
9.1	Introduction	63
9.2	The method of exhaustion	63
9.3	Bounds	66
9.4	Continuum axiom	66
9.7	Supremum and infimum	67
9.11†	Dedekind sections	70
9.13†	Powers	71
9.16	Infinity	73
9.19	Denseness of the rationals	74
9.21†	Uniqueness of the real numbers	75
<b>10†</b>	<b>Construction of the number systems</b>	78
10.1†	Models	78
10.2†	Basic assumptions	79

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29915-2 - The Foundations of Analysis: A Straightforward Introduction

K. G. Binmore

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>		<i>vii</i>
10.3†	Natural numbers	79
10.4†	Peano postulates	80
10.6†	Arithmetic and order	80
10.10†	Measuring lengths	83
10.11†	Positive rational numbers	84
10.13†	Positive real numbers	86
10.16†	Negative numbers and displacements	88
10.17†	Real numbers	89
10.19†	Linear and quadratic equations	91
10.20†	Complex numbers	92
10.22†	Cubic equations	94
10.23†	Polynomials	96
<b>11†</b>	<b>Number theory</b>	98
11.1†	Introduction	98
11.2†	Integers	100
11.3†	Division algorithm	100
11.5†	Factors	101
11.8†	Euclid's algorithm	101
11.9†	Primes	101
11.12†	Prime factorisation theorem	102
11.13†	Rational numbers	102
11.16†	Ruler and compass constructions	104
11.20†	Radicals	107
11.21†	Transcendental numbers	108
<b>12</b>	<b>Cardinality</b>	109
12.1	Counting	109
12.2	Cardinality	110
12.4	Countable sets	112
12.14	Uncountable sets	118
12.17†	Decimal expansions	119
12.20†	Transcendental numbers	121
12.23†	Counting the uncountable	122
12.24†	Ordinal numbers	124
12.25†	Cardinals	126
12.26†	Continuum hypothesis	127
	<b>Notation</b>	128
	<b>Index</b>	129

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29915-2 - The Foundations of Analysis: A Straightforward Introduction

K. G. Binmore

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION

This book contains an informal but systematic account of the logical and algebraic foundations of mathematical analysis written at a fairly elementary level. The book is entirely self-contained but will be most useful to students who have already taken, or are in the process of taking, an introductory course in basic mathematical analysis. Such a course necessarily concentrates on the notion of convergence and the rudiments of the differential and integral calculus. Little time is therefore left for consideration of the foundations of the subject. But the foundational issues are too important to be neglected or to be left entirely in the hands of the algebraists (whose views on what is important do not always coincide with those of an analyst). In particular, a good grasp of the material treated in this book is essential as a basis for more advanced work in analysis. The fact remains, however, that a quart will not fit into a pint bottle and only so many topics can be covered in a given number of lectures. In my own lecture course I deal with this problem to some extent by encouraging students to read the more elementary material covered in this book for themselves, monitoring their progress through problem classes. This seems to work quite well and it is for this reason that substantial sections of the text have been written with a view to facilitating 'self-study', even though this leads to a certain amount of repetition and of discussion of topics which some readers will find very elementary. Readers are invited to skip rather briskly through these sections if at all possible.

This is the first of two books with the common title

*Foundations of Analysis: A Straightforward Introduction.*

The current book, subtitled

*Logic, Sets and Numbers,*

was conceived as an introduction to the second book, subtitled

*Topological Ideas*

and as a companion to the author's previous book

*Mathematical Analysis: A Straightforward Approach.*

Although *Logic, Sets and Numbers* may profitably be read independently of these other books, I hope that some teachers will wish to use the three books together as a basis for a sequence of lectures to be given in the first two years of a mathematics degree.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)*x Introduction*

Certain sections of the book have been marked with a † and printed in smaller type. This indicates material which, although relevant and interesting, I regard as unsuitable for inclusion in a first year analysis course, usually because it is too advanced, or else because it is better taught as part of an algebra course. This fact is reflected in the style of exposition adopted in these sections, much more being left to the reader than in the body of the text. Occasionally, on such topics as Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory or transfinite arithmetic, only a brief indication of the general ideas is attempted. Those reading the book independently of a taught course would be wise to leave those sections marked with a † for a second reading.

A substantial number of exercises have been provided and these should be regarded as an integral part of the text. The exercises are not intended as intelligence tests. By and large they require little in the way of ingenuity, and, in any case, a large number of hints are given. The purpose of the exercises is to give the reader an opportunity to test his or her understanding of the text. Mathematical concepts are sometimes considerably more subtle than they seem at first sight and it is often not until one has failed to solve some straightforward exercises based on a particular concept that one begins to realise that this is the case.

Finally, I would like to thank Mimi Bell for typing the manuscript for me so carefully and patiently.

*June 1980*

K. G. BINMORE