



# Basic Notions of Algebra

By Igor R. Shafarevich

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Wholeheartedly recommended to every student and user of mathematics, this is an extremely original and highly informative essay on algebra and its place in modern mathematics and science. From the fields studied in every university maths course, through Lie groups to cohomology and category theory, the author shows how the origins of each concept can be related to attempts to model phenomena in physics or in other branches of mathematics. Required reading for mathematicians, from beginners to experts.

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"... According to the preface, the book is addressed to "students of mathematics in the first years of an undergraduate course, or theoretical physicists or mathematicians from outside algebra wanting to get an impression of the spirit of algebra and its place in mathematics." I think that this promise is fully justified. The beginner, the experts and also the interested scientist who had contact with algebraic notions - all will read this exceptional book with great pleasure and benefit." (*Zeitschrift für Kristallographie*, 1991)

"This is a truly wonderful book, one that anyone teaching algebra should read and which should be pointed out to talented students, particularly those who want to know a little more about what and why abstract algebra is. This book is volume 1 in the Algebra section of the Springer Encyclopedia of Mathematical Sciences ... . The examples are particularly well chosen, simple enough to understand... . one that will enrich your understanding of algebra and deepen your knowledge of mathematics as a whole." (Fernando Q. Gouvêa, MathDL, March, 2007)

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