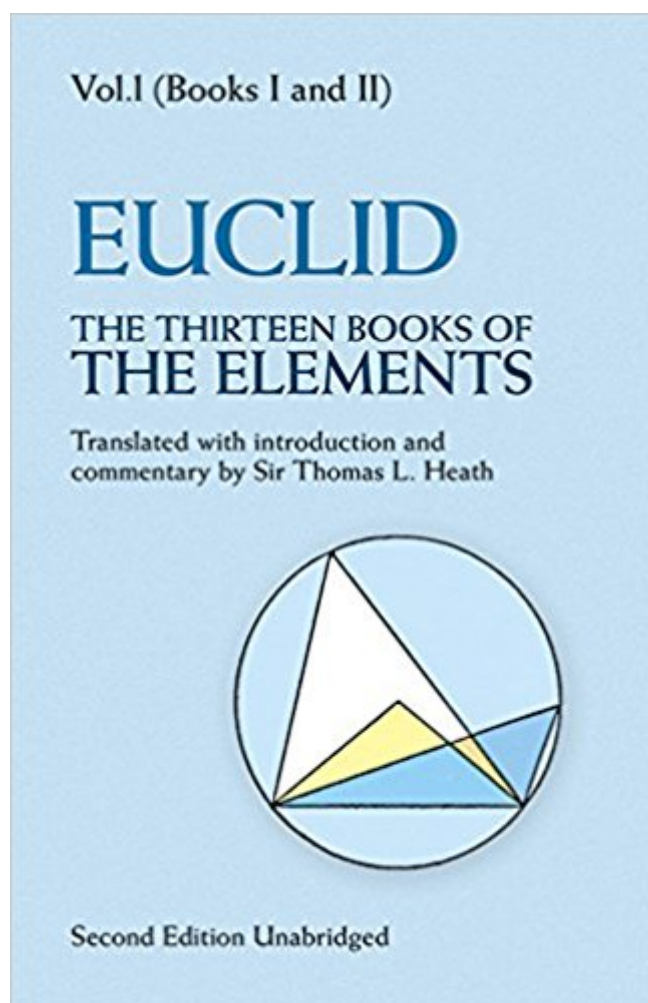


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The Thirteen Books Of The Elements, Vol. 1: Books 1-2



Synopsis

This is the definitive edition of one of the very greatest classics of all time – the full Euclid, not an abridgement. Using the text established by Heiberg, Sir Thomas Heath encompasses almost 2,500 years of mathematical and historical study upon Euclid. This unabridged republication of the original enlarged edition contains the complete English text of all 13 books of the Elements, plus a critical apparatus that analyzes each definition, postulate, and proposition in great detail. It covers textual and linguistic matters; mathematical analyses of Euclid's ideas; classical, medieval, Renaissance, modern commentators; refutations, supports, extrapolations, reinterpretations, and historical notes, all given with extensive quotes. The textbook that shall really replace Euclid has not yet been written and probably never will be. • Encyclopaedia Britannica. Volume 1. 151-page Introduction: life and other works of Euclid; Greek and Islamic commentators; surviving mss., scholia, translations; bases of Euclid's thought. Books I and II of the Elements, straight lines, angles, intersection of lines, triangles, parallelograms, etc. Volume 2. Books III-IX: Circles, tangents, segments, figures described around and within circles, ratios, proportions, magnitudes, polygons, prime numbers, products, plane and solid numbers, series of ratios, etc. Volume 3. Books X to XIII: planes, solid angles, etc.; method of exhaustion in similar polygons within circles, pyramids, cones, cylinders, spheres, etc. Appendix: Books XIV, XV, sometimes ascribed to Euclid.

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Customer Reviews

I like the writing style. As a foreigner, Heath's English is kind of different from today's newspaper

and blogs. For example, the first paragraph of the preface to second edition is just ONE sentence, but it takes nine lines. Such long sentences are here and there. Long sentence with complicated structure is elegant and an indicator that the writer is well educated. And Heath likes to use subjunctive mood, which many non-native speaker do not feel comfortable about. It is a good book to learn English writing.

Very interesting work that takes a serious look at geometry building from the ultimate basic assumptions and building from there. I definitely love Thomas L. Heath's commentary. It is daunting to read the entire commentary as it is quite longer than Euclid's book; however, many times the commentary shows the depth of Euclid. Why did Euclid choose the proof he did and not an alternative, and what the alternatives are. I found those comments the most interesting, though he offers many more types of insights. For example he gives a history in the beginning and a discussion about axioms and proofs, with much much more.

A very clear and effective re-packaging of the classic.

First of all, this book is a Dover, so you get tons for your dollar!! I used this book as a supplement for my math history class. It was very helpful! It shows all of the logic behind Euclid's definitions, postulates, common notions (axioms), and book-one propositions! It goes far beyond proposition-picture-proof. I benefited from the lengthy descriptions and alternate solutions following each proposition! Good little book!

Good book

This is a Dover reprint of a 1908 version of Euclid's Geometry. It contains the first two of thirteen books of The Elements, and it's a treasure, assuming you're a scholar of Ancient Greece or Greek mathematics. It combines extensive scholarly commentary along with text and diagrams. If you're looking to learn geometry, this book will be daunting. If you're looking to see what textbooks looked like over 100 years ago, this will open your eyes. There's a saying in Biblical Studies that students shouldn't take on Scripture without commentary. The same goes for this deep and interesting volume. That goodness for Dover Books, the publisher; everything they print is a treasure. Five stars if you're a scholar. Four stars if you enjoy owning an early 20th Century gem. Two stars if you're a beginner in Geometry looking for a textbook.

Euclid's "Elements" may very well be the most influential mathematical text in all of history. This fact alone justifies purchasing this book, which is the first of three volumes of Thomas L. Heath's English translation of this classic. This volume contains a lengthy introduction, and the actual mathematics covers plane geometry. Highlights include the construction of the regular 15-gon using straightedge and compass. The actual text of Euclid's work is not particularly long, but this book contains extensive commentary about the history of the Elements, as well as commentary on the relevance of each of the propositions, definitions, and axioms in the book. As such, this book is a good scholarly reference for English readers interested in the historical evolution of Euclidean geometry. For example, there is considerable discussion on the well-known fifth postulate about parallel lines. All this being said, do not try to learn geometry from this book. The content is more suited for readers who already know geometry and want to learn about the historical origins of the subject of geometry. There are many modern books written for readers new to geometry (some good, some bad). It's probably true that Abraham Lincoln studied the Elements as a young lawyer, but there are easier (if not better) ways to learn geometry nowadays. The Elements will be much more enlightening if the reader has a good grasp of the actual mathematics in the book prior to reading it.

The essence of ALL fundamental reasoning distilled into three very affordable and faithful translations...I would think giving it five stars would be an understatement, but that's as much as I can do! Definitely a must for, well, everyone.

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