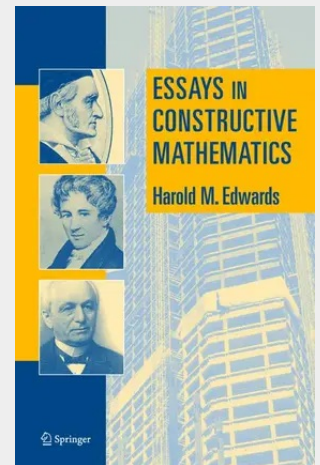


Essays in Constructive Mathematics

Contents and treatment are fresh and very different from the standard treatments. Presents a fully constructive version of what it means to do algebra. The exposition is not only clear, it is friendly, philosophical, and considerate even to the most naive or inexperienced reader.

He [Kronecker] was, in fact, attempting to describe and to initiate a new branch of mathematics, which would contain both number theory and algebraic geometry as special cases.—Andre Weil [62] This book is about mathematics, not the history or philosophy of mathematics. Still, history and philosophy were prominent among my motives for writing it, and historical and philosophical issues will be major factors in determining whether it wins acceptance. Most mathematicians prefer constructive methods. Given two proofs of the same statement, one constructive and the other not, most will prefer the constructive proof. The real philosophical disagreement over the role of constructions in mathematics is between those—the majority—who believe that to exclude from mathematics all statements that cannot be proved constructively would omit far too much, and those of us who believe, on the contrary, that the most interesting parts of mathematics can be dealt with constructively, and that the greater rigor and precision of mathematics done in that way adds immensely to its value.



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