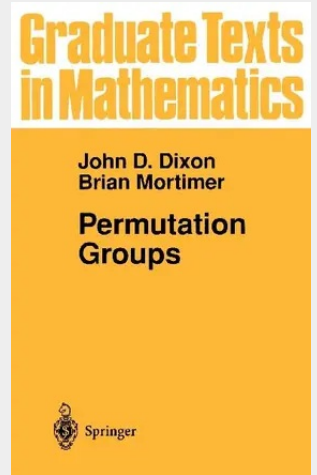


Permutation Groups

Permutation Groups form one of the oldest parts of group theory. Through the ubiquity of group actions and the concrete representations which they afford, both finite and infinite permutation groups arise in many parts of mathematics and continue to be a lively topic of research in their own right. The book begins with the basic ideas, standard constructions and important examples in the theory of permutation groups. It then develops the combinatorial and group theoretic structure of primitive groups leading to the proof of the pivotal O'Nan-Scott Theorem which links finite primitive groups with finite simple groups. Special topics covered include the Mathieu groups, multiply transitive groups, and recent work on the subgroups of the infinite symmetric groups. This text can serve as an introduction to permutation groups in a course at the graduate or advanced undergraduate level, or for self-study. It includes many exercises and detailed references to the current literature.

The study of permutation groups has always been an integral part of group theory. Permutation groups are important as a tool for solving group theoretic and combinatorial problems, and as a source of significant examples of groups. The reader is assumed to have had a first course in group theory. Numerous examples and exercises make the book suitable both as a course text and for self-study.



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