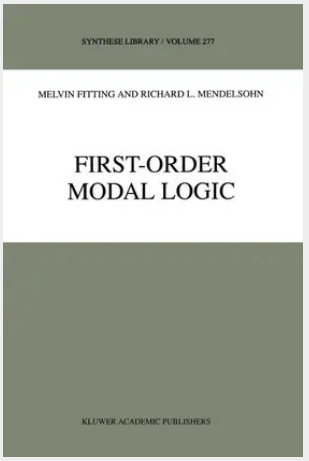
Fitting / Mendelsohn

First-Order Modal Logic

Fitting and Mendelsohn present a thorough treatment of first-order modal logic, together with some propositional background. They adopt throughout a threefold approach. Semantically, they use possible world models; the formal proof machinery is tableaus; and full philosophical discussions are provided of the way that technical developments bear on well-known philosophical problems.
The book covers quantification itself, including the difference between actualist and possibilist quantifiers; equality, leading to a treatment of Frege's morning star/evening star puzzle; the notion of existence and the logical problems surrounding it; non-rigid constants and function symbols; predicate abstraction, which abstracts a predicate from a formula, in effect providing a scoping function for constants and function symbols, leading to a clarification of ambiguous readings at the heart of several philosophical problems; the distinction between nonexistence and nondesignation; and definite descriptions, borrowing from both Fregean and Russellian paradigms.

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246,09 €
229,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Nicht mehr lieferbar

Artikelnummer: 9780792353355
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-0-7923-5335-5
Verlag: Springer US
Erscheinungstermin: 31.08.1999
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 1999
Serie: Synthese Library
Produktform: Kartoniert
Gewicht: 960 g
Seiten: 292
Format (B x H): 160 x 240 mm