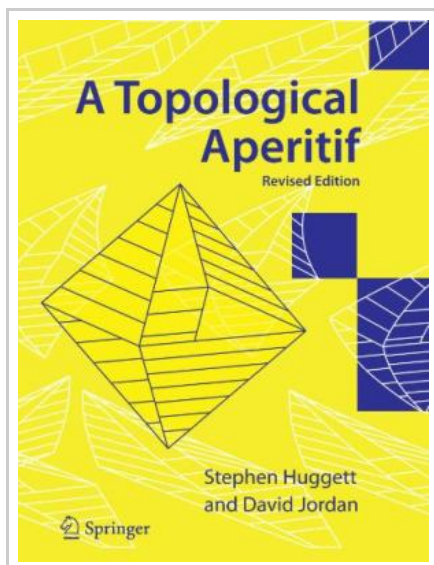



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A Topological Aperitif

By Stephen A. Huggett, David Jordan

Springer London Ltd, United Kingdom, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 2nd ed. 2009. 231 x 175 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Topology has been referred to as rubber-sheet geometry. The name is apt, for the subject is concerned with properties of an object that would be preserved, no matter how much it is stretched, squashed, or distorted, so long as it is not in any way torn apart or glued together. One's first reaction might be that such an imprecise-sounding subject could hardly be a part of serious mathematics, and would be unlikely to have applications beyond the amusement of simple parlour games. This reaction could hardly be further from the truth. Topology is one of the most important and broad-ranging disciplines of modern mathematics. It is a subject of great precision and of breadth of development. It has vastly many applications, some of great importance, ranging from particle physics to cosmology, and from hydrodynamics to algebra and number theory. It is also a subject of great beauty and depth. To appreciate something of this, it is not necessary to delve into the more obscure aspects of mathematical formalism. For topology is, at least initially, a very visual subject. Some of its concepts apply to spaces of large numbers of dimensions, and therefore do not easily submit to reasoning that depends upon direct pictorial representation. But even in such...



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