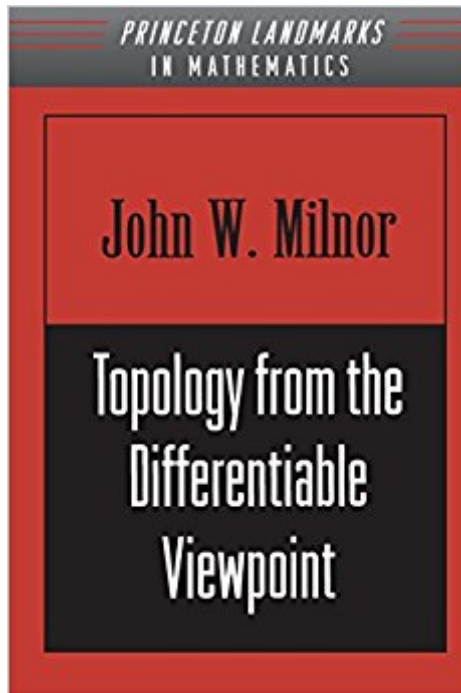


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Topology From The Differentiable Viewpoint



Synopsis

This elegant book by distinguished mathematician John Milnor, provides a clear and succinct introduction to one of the most important subjects in modern mathematics. Beginning with basic concepts such as diffeomorphisms and smooth manifolds, he goes on to examine tangent spaces, oriented manifolds, and vector fields. Key concepts such as homotopy, the index number of a map, and the Pontryagin construction are discussed. The author presents proofs of Sard's theorem and the Hopf theorem.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Milnor's "Topology from the Differentiable Viewpoint" is a brief sketch of differential topology, well written, as are all books by Milnor, with clear, concise explanations. For students who wish to learn the subject, it should be read as a companion to a more substantive text, such as Guillemin & Pollack's Differential Topology or Hirsch's Differential Topology, as too much of the material is left out for this to be adequate as a textbook. OTOH, it does make for good bedtime reading. While this book is highly regarded among mathematicians, it is not without its faults, namely,- it fails to cover many topics of importance, such as transversality (only mentioned in an exercise), embeddings, differential forms, integration, Morse theory, and the intersection form;- it only cites some theorems without proving them, or it leaves the proofs to the reader;- it offers proofs of many theorems that are really only sketches without all the details;- manifolds are only defined as subsets of Euclidean

spaces;- there is only 1 collection of 17 problems at the end of the book, which are used to introduce important concepts; and- it probably moves too quickly for true beginners, packing a lot into only 51 pages. So don't buy this as your only, or even first, book on differential topology.

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