



From Pythagoras to Einstein

By K. O. Friedrichs

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The main thread running through this somewhat unorthodox approach to the special theory of relativity is the Pythagorean theorem. It appears in its most elementary geometric form in the very beginning of this monograph. Then it reappears in algebraic garb, is further modified and finally reinterpreted to play the role of one of the main characters in the special theory of relativity.

The first four chapters are easily accessible to high school sophomores or juniors. the remaining part of the book may be a little difficult for students who never studied physics, although the author actually employs only the notion of impact and presupposes no background in physics. With the aid of the vector geometry introduced earlier, he leads the reader from the impact conversation laws to the famous formula $e=mc^2$.

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From Pythagoras to Einstein By K. O. Friedrichs Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2254345 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Mathematical Assn of Amer
- Published on: 1975-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 6.25" w x .50" l, .30 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 88 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Kurt O. Friedrichs received his doctor's degree in Göttingen in 1925, and in 1930 became professor of mathematics at the Technische Hochschule in Braunschweig. In 1937 he joined his former teacher, Richard Courant, at New York University.

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