

Point Sets

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Preface

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PREFACE

The first edition of the E. Čech's book "Bodové množiny I" (Point Sets I) in 1936 exerted great influence on the development of mathematics in Czechoslovakia. After thirty years of rapid growth of topology, Čech's "Point Sets" have preserved their significance, though from a somewhat different aspect. When it was found that the posthumous papers of Prof. Čech, who died in 1960, contain the complete manuscript of the second volume of "Point Sets", a conviction arose that it would be useful to publish this manuscript, consisting of four chapters, as a book together with the first three chapters of the 1936 Point Sets. Actually, these seven chapters form a closed whole, progressing systematically from the elements of theory of sets and general properties of metric spaces to the topology of plane and using, whenever possible, the most elementary means. On the other hand, it seemed suitable to leave out Chapter IV of the original book, in particular because it does not fit naturally enough into the entirety of other chapters; as a consequence, the Appendix, which was written to the book in 1936 by Prof. V. Jarník, was also left out.

The new Czech version of "Point Sets" appeared in 1966, and contained, in addition, a short appendix, "On some concepts of modern topology", written by Aleš Pultr. In E. Čech's original text, only small corrections or changes of technical sort were made, and some editorial footnotes were added by the reviewer, A. Pultr.

It was supposed that the book could serve as a textbook for university students of mathematics and for widening the knowledge of those who have completed their mathematical studies, teachers in particular. For a reader who wishes to enter into modern topology more deeply, however, it would serve only as a first introduction.

The present English version is a translation of the Czech edition of 1966. However, the appendix, intended mainly for Czechoslovak readers, has been left out.

For the convenience of the reader, a short list of some textbooks and monographs on general topology has been added.

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