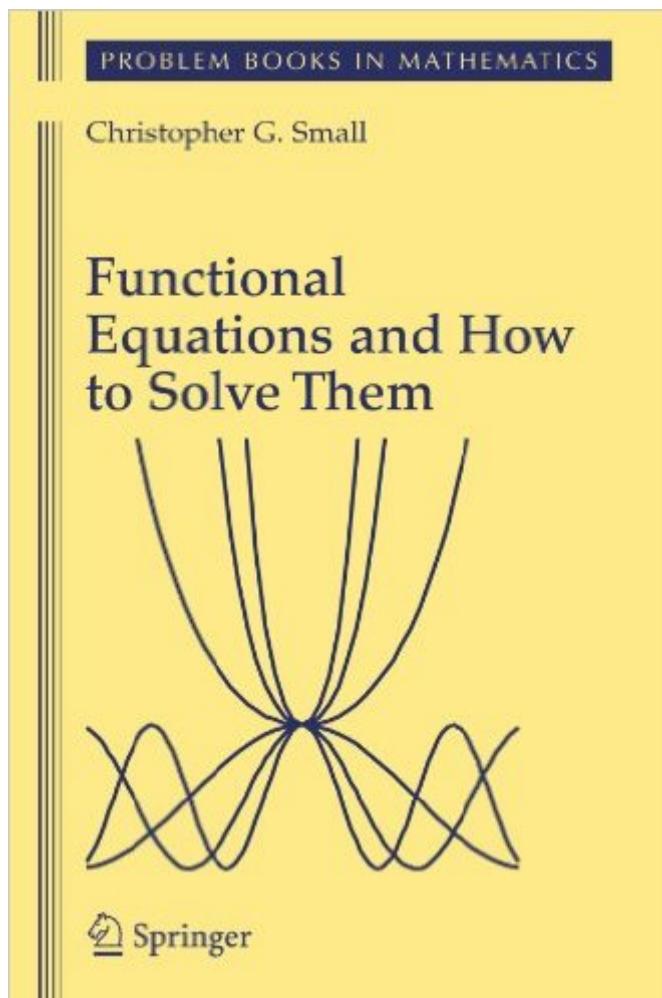


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Functional Equations And How To Solve Them (Problem Books In Mathematics)



Synopsis

Many books have been written on the theory of functional equations, but very few help readers solve functional equations in mathematics competitions and mathematical problem solving. This book fills that gap. Each chapter includes a list of problems associated with the covered material. These vary in difficulty, with the easiest being accessible to any high school student who has read the chapter carefully. The most difficult will challenge students studying for the International Mathematical Olympiad or the Putnam Competition. An appendix provides a springboard for further investigation of the concepts of limits, infinite series and continuity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a nice introduction to the topic. It is very concise and brief. The author has placed a good effort to selected what he thinks as the most important ideas in the topic and create a unified point of view in his presentation. It is written in a nice lively way with brief historical comments. For those who want to be introduced to the field of functional equations and study the core ideas, it will be very valuable. However, for a demanding reader the book is too short and leaves him/her partially unsatisfied. Having read this book and *Introduction to Functional Equations: Theory and Problem-solving Strategies for Mathematical Competitions and Beyond* (MSRI Mathematical Circles Library), I feel that the latter is a better choice for those readers who want a more in-depth coverage of the topic. The latter book also has by far more solved and unsolved problems. Even more, Small

does not label the problems which are taken from math competitions. In contrast, the other book clearly states at the beginning in which competition it was given or from which journal it was taken. Finally, Small gives only 17 references compared to 66 references in the other book. For those readers who have some extra time to invest, it is probably a good idea to start with Small's book to get a crash course, then move to the other which is certainly more extensive and thorough. Both books have good and solid writing although the styles are quite different. And the combined knowledge and perspective will certainly be an advantage to anyone who reads them.

Concise and informative, but spotty. It is neither introductory, nor systematic, but well worth skimming, and gives one a taste of the intrinsic sweetness of the field, as well as the basic tools of the trade. Aczel's book is far superior, however.

The book is excellent because it fills an important contribution to the literature of functional equations, which is not easy to find.

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