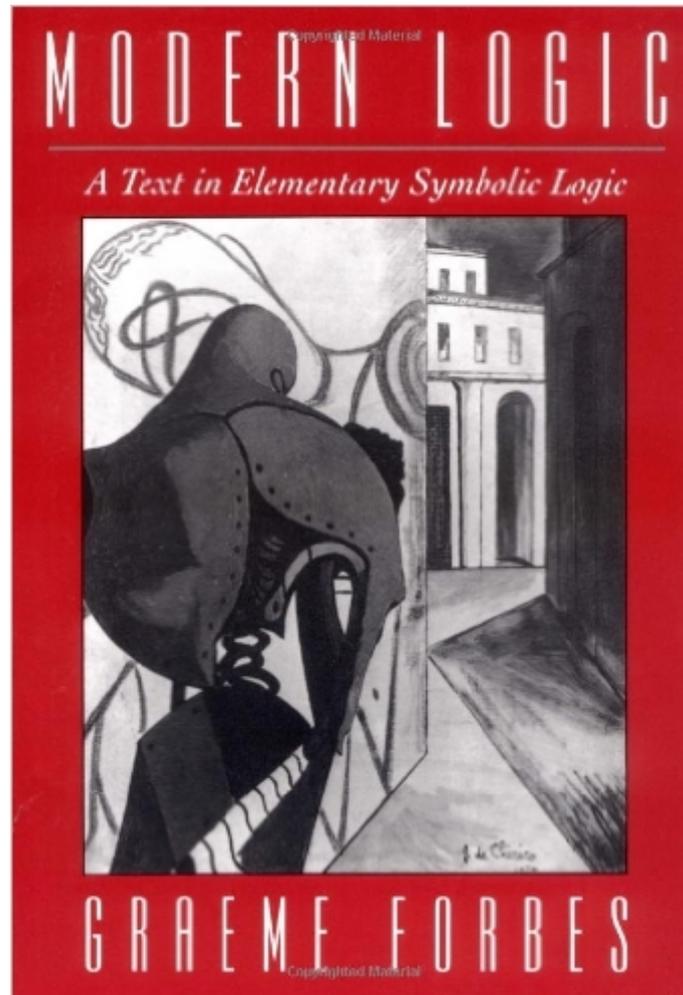# Modern Logic: A Text In Elementary Symbolic Logic

MODERN LOGIC

A Text in Elementary Symbolic Logic

GRAEME FORBES

Synopsis

Filling the need for an accessible, carefully structured introductory text in symbolic logic, Modern Logic has many features designed to improve students' comprehension of the subject, including a proof system that is the same as the award-winning computer program MacLogic, and a special appendix that shows how to use MacLogic as a teaching aid. There are graded exercises at the end of each chapter--more than 900 in all--with selected answers at the end of the book. Unlike competing texts, Modern Logic gives equal weight to semantics and proof theory and explains their relationship, and develops in detail techniques for symbolizing natural language in first-order logic. After a general introduction featuring the notion of logical form, the book offers sections on classical sentential logic, monadic predicate logic, and full first-order logic with identity. A concluding section deals with extensions of and alternatives to classical logic, including modal logic, intuitionistic logic, and fuzzy logic. For students of philosophy, mathematics, computer science, or linguistics, Modern Logic provides a thorough understanding of basic concepts and a sound basis for more advanced work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I initially attempted to learn symbolic logic using this terrible textbook, and I really struggled with it, and eventually just assumed that symbolic logic wasn't for me, even though I had gotten A's in two previous logic classes that both emphasized traditional logic. For years I just gave up, but my failure haunted me and I always suffered from the nagging sense that I had been screwed out of

something that I really wanted to learn (and master) and even could learn (and master) with extreme ease. It turns out that this suspicion was well-founded. I had just gotten stuck with a lousy textbook and a worse teacher. I say this, because years on, I decided to give symbolic logic another go, and I got my hands on a few different textbooks, including the Teller Logic Primer. I learned everything I had failed to learn my first time around in a fraction of the time, and without any frustration or set backs at all. Symbolic logic is preposterously easy to learn (and, yes, in fact, master), and now I do proofs as a fun way to pass the time. My new found mastery, of course, drove me to revisit Modern Logic by Graeme Forbes, in the hope that I could discover the cause of my failure to learn something that I had later mastered so easily. As I went thru Modern Logic a second time, I realized that all my anguish and emotional turmoil over not being able to master symbolic logic had nothing to do with my own limitations, as I initially thought, but had everything to do with this horrendously bad textbook. Having mastered the material, I read thru Modern Logic in absolute horror. Straightforward and uncomplicated concepts are explained in a manner that is so abstruse that you'd never suspect you were trying to learn something easy.

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