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Bonilla y Asociados
desde 1950



Título: Introduction To Model Theory (Algebra, Logic And Applications Volume 15)

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Precio: \$650.00

Editorial:

Año: 2000

Tema:

Edición: 1ª

Sinopsis

ISBN: 9789056993139

Model theory investigates mathematical structures by means of formal languages. These so-called first-order languages have proved particularly useful. The text introduces the reader to the model theory of first-order logic, avoiding syntactical issues that are not too relevant to model-theory. In this spirit, the compactness theorem is proved via the algebraically useful ultraproduct technique, rather than via the completeness theorem of first-order logic. This leads fairly quickly to algebraic applications, like Malcev's local theorems (of group theory) and, after a little more preparation, also to Hilbert's Nullstellensatz (of field theory). Steinitz' dimension theory for field extensions is obtained as a special case of a much more general model-theoretic treatment of strongly minimal sets.

The final chapter is on the models of the first-order theory of the integers as an abelian group. This material appears here for the first time in a textbook of introductory level, and is used to give hints