PLANE AND SPHERICAL TRIGONOMETRY

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Plane and Spherical Trigonometry by Leonard M. Passano

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LEONARD M. PASSANO

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BY

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PREFACE

Or late years, in the writing of textbooks of trigonometry, a tendency to amplification has shown itself, doubtless with the idea that amplification means simplification. Unfortunately the amplification has spent itself upon details rather than upon principles, which latter have too often been inadequately treated. The result has been textbooks which overlook the comparative maturity of the boys and girls who study trigonometry and which cling almost with affection to the practices of the most elementary mathematics.

The present text aims to present the trigonometry in such a way as to make it interesting to students approaching some maturity, and so as to connect the subject, not only with the mathematics which the student has already had, but also with the mathematics which, in many cases at least, is to follow. A subject may be so burdened with detailed explanations as to become monotonous and lifeless, or, on the other hand, presented in so concise and difficult a manner as to be repellent. The present work endeavors to avoid both extremes. Full explanations are given of important principles, but many simple details are left to the work of the student.

The following points in the text may be noted:

- Positive and negative angles of any magnitude and the trigonometric functions of such angles, defined by means of a system of rectangular coördinates, are taken up in the beginning of the book; acute angles, with their functions, being mentioned as a special case.
- Thus the basic trigonometric identities are got at once for all angles.

- The functions of 0°, 90°, etc., are carefully explained by the theory of limits.
- The solution of right triangles and related problems are taken up early without the use of logarithms.
- Logarithms are then very carefully explained and fully discussed, not so much as to their use in computation, but rather so as to clarify their meaning.
- Right triangles are then solved by the use of logarithms, and the essentially approximate nature of all numerical results is emphasized.
- 7. The text next returns to trigonometric identities, giving a detailed and accurate proof of the addition formulæ for sines and cosines, with less detailed but sufficient explanation of other fundamental identities. The number of identities to be memorized is reduced to a minimum.
- The circular measure of an angle and the inverse functions are then taken up, emphasis being laid upon the fact that the latter are angles.
- There follows the solution of triangles in general. As each case is mentioned the theorems or formulæ needed for its solution are derived.
- 10. The last subject treated in the plane trigonometry is the solution of trigonometric equations, and the fact is emphasized that the operations are simply the solution of algebraic equations applied to a new class of quantities.
- 11. The lists of examples and problems are numerous and carefully chosen, many of them being taken from work in analytic geometry and calculus, though, of course, no knowledge of either of these subjects is assumed. Some of the problems are entirely new, being invented for this text, and all problems are chosen with a purpose to indicate the practical interest and value of trigonometry.
- 12. In the spherical trigonometry, as in the plane, the three chief aims are brevity, clarity, and simplicity; a chapter on the Earth treated as a sphere being given to enliven an otherwise somewhat formal and lifeless subject.
 - 13. The author has not tried to revolutionize the teaching

of trigonometry, believing that much that has been done in the past is good though none the less open to improvement. Such improvement has been the aim of this work.

The author wishes to acknowledge the kindness of his colleagues Professor H. W. Tyler, Professor F. L. Hitchcock, and Professor J. Lipka in reading and criticizing the manuscript of his book, and to express his thanks to Professor E. R. Hedrick, editor of the tables appended, for permission to make use of them.

L. M. PASSANO.



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