

Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction	1
1 Euclid's Geometry	
The origins of geometry	5
The axiomatic method	8
Undefined terms	9
Euclid's first four postulates	12
The parallel postulate	16
Attempts to prove the parallel postulate	19
Exercises	22
2 Logic	
Informal logic	31
Theorems and proofs	32
Reductio ad absurdum proofs	34
Negation	37
Quantifiers	38
Implication	41
Law of excluded middle	41
Incidence geometry	42
Models	44
The danger in diagrams	48
Exercises	50
3 Hilbert's Axioms	
Flaws in Euclid	57
Axioms of betweenness	59
Axioms of congruence	70

Axioms of continuity	79
Axiom of parallelism	84
Exercises	85
4 Neutral Geometry	
Geometry without the parallel axiom	95
Alternate interior angle theorem	96
Exterior angle theorem	98
Measure of angles and segments	101
Saccheri- Legendre theorem	103
Equivalence of parallel postulates	106
Angle sum of a triangle	108
Exercises	113
5 History of the Parallel Postulate	
Proclus	122
Wallis	125
Saccheri and Lambert	127
Wolfgang Bolyai	129
Exercises	132
6 The Discovery of Non-Euclidean Geometry	
János Bolyai	143
Gauss	145
Lobachevsky	148
Hyperbolic geometry	150
Angle sums (again)	152
Similar triangles	153
Parallels that admit a common perpendicular	155
Limiting parallel rays	158
Classification of parallels	161
Strange new universe?	163
Exercises	164
7 Independence of the Parallel Postulate	
Consistency of hyperbolic geometry	181
The Beltrami- Klein model	184
The Poincare models	190
Perpendicularity in the Beltrami-Klein model	196

Inversion in circles	199
The projective nature of the Beltrami-Klein model	214
Exercises	225
8 Philosophical Implications	
What is the geometry of physical space?	248
What is mathematics about?	250
The controversy about the foundations of mathematics	253
Topics for essays	257
Appendix A Further Results in Hyperbolic Geometry	
Area and defect	263
The angle of parallelism	267
Strange curves	268
The pseudosphere	271
Appendix B Elliptic and Other Riemannian Geometries	
Elliptic geometry	275
Riemannian geometry	280
Suggestions for Further Reading	289
Bibliography	291
List of Axioms	295
List of Symbols	298
Subject Index	299
Name Index	303