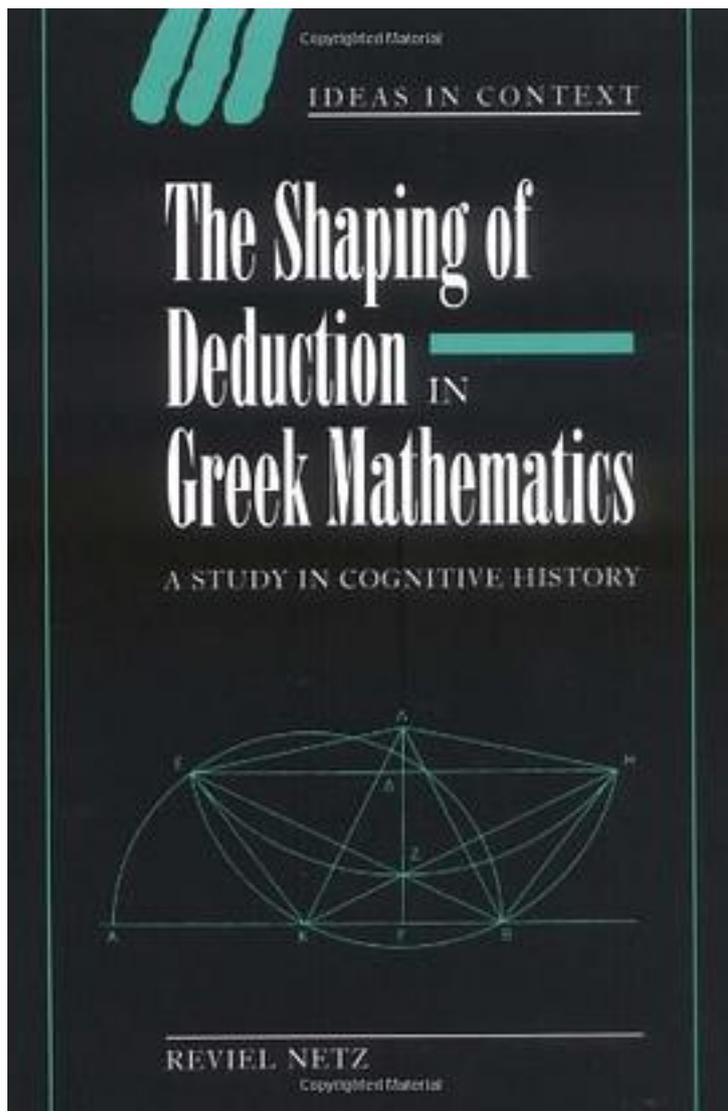


# The Shaping of Deduction in Greek Mathematics



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出版者:Cambridge University Press

出版时间:2003-9-18

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780521541206

The aim of this book is to explain the shape of Greek mathematical thinking. It can be read on three levels: as a description of the practices of Greek mathematics; as a theory of the emergence of the deductive method; and as a case-study for a general view on the history of science. The starting point for the enquiry is geometry and the lettered diagram. Reviel Netz exploits the mathematicians' practices in the construction and lettering of their diagrams, and the continuing interaction between text and diagram in their proofs, to illuminate the underlying cognitive processes. A close examination of the mathematical use of language follows, especially mathematicians' use of repeated formulae. Two crucial chapters set out to show how mathematical proofs are structured and explain why Greek mathematical practice manages to be so satisfactory. A final chapter looks into the broader historical setting of Greek mathematical practice.

作者介绍:

"Reviel Netz has written a stimulating book about diagrams and mathematics, telling us facts that we all know, but hardly ever thought of." MAA Online

"...a novel work...Greek intellectual culture will be of interest to many classicists...Netz has made an important contribution to intellectual history and has asked a diverse set of questions whose answers, while difficult, will broaden our understanding of the development of deductive practices." Daryn Lehoux, University of Toronto

"Netz's book has made this reviewer look at Greek mathematics with new eyes, and it will certainly provoke further thought and discussion. Netz is to be thanked for a stimulating contribution to an important topic." Isis

"It's a first-contribution to intellectual history... also an enjoyable book....The Shaping of Deduction in Greek Mathematics will be of interest, not just to historians of mathematics, but to mathematicians and philosophers seeking to understand the aims and achievements of mathematics today." Philosophia Mathematica

This book provides a way to understand a momentous development in human intellectual history: the phenomenon of deductive argument in classical Greek mathematics. The argument rests on a close description of the practices of Greek mathematics, principally the use of lettered diagrams and the regulated, formulaic use of language.

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