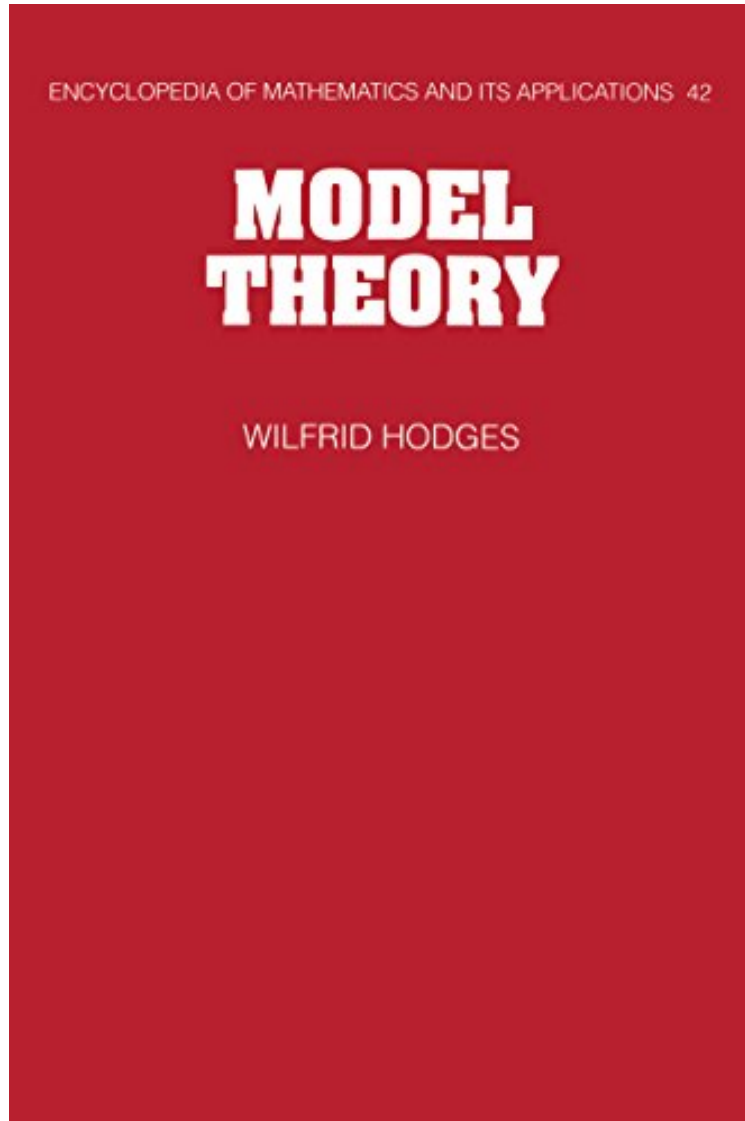


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## Model Theory (Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications)

*Wilfrid Hodges*

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**Wilfrid Hodges : Model Theory (Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Model Theory (Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications):

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Not for self study By 39mmbI study model theory as a hobby and this book was recommended to me by the model theorist Carol Wood who said it contains a lot of gossip which I learned to interpret as chatty. I bought the book around 1995 and since then developed a friendship and correspondence with the author. My copy of the book is well worn and the binding has been mended with duct tape several times. I pursued a career in industry rather than a professorship in math so I mainly use math books for self

study and this is where this book is weakest. Too many abstractions, too many incomplete proofs, too many errors, too few examples, too much left to the exercises (Morley's category Theorem!), etc. So the reader beware if left on his own. As best I can tell Hodge's view about this is although a text may be trying the reader will learn through his suffering which is what readers of the works of the master logician Sharon Shelah teaches you. On the other hand reading what a master like Hodges has to say is inspirational! His insights about the similarities between game theory and model theory and the role of amalgamation diagrams being at the heartbeat of model theory are worth the price of the book. In summary if I were to teach a course in model theory I would recommend to the brightest students to pick up this book as a reference and then would go on to teach a sixty year course to cover its contents. 18 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Excellent text, very clearly written By A Customer This is an excellent text on the model theory of first-order languages. A condensed version has also been published as: "A Shorter Model Theory." This book is a classic. Its influence should be comparable to Keisler Chang's famous book as \*the\* standard account of the relationship between the language of f.o. logic and mathematical structures. (N.B. Chang Keisler's last edition is still useful alongside this book since the contents are not identical!) The text is clear and fluent, as one has come to expect from this remarkable author. The book includes a detailed bibliography and suggestions for further reading. The binding and typesetting are beautifully done as well. The shortcomings are: (1) the large number of typos including an "incorrect lemma" (but with corrections available on the author's homepage), (2) the almost exclusive concentration on (untyped) first-order languages and (3) avoidance of certain specialized topics. All in all, this is an excellent book. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Encyclopedic but readable By Nathan Oakes The style is light, even glib, but still demanding. The prerequisites are not stated, but I would say undergraduate logic, graduate algebra, and a good deal of general mathematical experience. Motivation and context are very good and examples are frequent and clearly illustrative. What makes it challenging is that many details are glossed-over without the reader being warned about what knowledge is being assumed. His proofs also make many off-hand references rather than include every detail. Another thing I think it could use is more illustration of procedures; all of the examples seem to be of cases rather than methods. Still, explanations of specific points are often much clearer than in Marker.

This is an up-to-date and integrated introduction to model theory, designed to be used for graduate courses (for students who are familiar with first-order logic), and as a reference for more experienced logicians and mathematicians. Model theory is concerned with the notions of definition, interpretation and structure in a very general setting, and is applied to a wide variety of other areas such as set theory, geometry, algebra (in particular group theory), and computer science (e.g. logic programming and specification). Professor Hodges emphasises definability and methods of construction, and introduces the reader to advanced topics such as stability. He also provides the reader with much historical information and a full bibliography, enhancing the book's use as a reference.

"...sets forth the basic tools that the fledgling model theorist should master....a new standard reference in this subject." J.M. Plotkin, *Mathematical Science* "...an important contribution to the literature...one of the few (or perhaps the only) books in print that develop the essentials of model theory in the modern style...valuable for its novel treatment and exposition of some important topics...Throughout the book, Hodges's vast knowledge of logic impresses itself on the reader. There is a beautiful variety and mix of classical and more recent techniques and ideas, especially in applications. It is a pleasure to leaf through the book..." Anand Pillay, *J. of Symbolic Logic* About the Author fm.author\_biographical\_note 1