
Part One

THE BASIC OBJECTS OF ALGEBRA

This part introduces the basic notions of algebra, and the main difficulty for the beginner is to absorb a reasonable vocabulary in a short time. None of the concepts is difficult, but there is an accumulation of new concepts which may sometimes seem heavy.

To understand the next parts of the book, the reader needs to know essentially only the basic definitions of this first part. Of course, a theorem may be used later for some specific and isolated applications, but on the whole, we have avoided making long logical chains of interdependence.