

gelfand algebra

Delving Deep into the Fascinating World of Gelfand Algebras

Are you intrigued by the elegant interplay between algebra and analysis? Do concepts like commutative Banach algebras pique your interest? Then prepare to embark on a journey into the fascinating realm of Gelfand algebras! This comprehensive guide will unravel the mysteries of Gelfand algebras, exploring their fundamental properties, key theorems, and significant applications. We'll cover everything from the basic definitions and crucial concepts to advanced topics, ensuring you gain a robust understanding of this vital area of functional analysis. Prepare to unlock the power and beauty of Gelfand algebras!

What is a Gelfand Algebra? A Foundation in Commutative Banach Algebras

Before diving into the specifics of Gelfand algebras, we need to establish a solid understanding of their foundational context: commutative Banach algebras. A Banach algebra is a complex algebra that's also a Banach space (a complete normed vector space) where the norm satisfies the submultiplicative property: $\|xy\| \leq \|x\| \|y\|$ for all elements x and y in the algebra. This seemingly simple condition has profound implications for the structure of the algebra.

The "commutative" part simply means that the multiplication operation within the algebra is commutative – $xy = yx$ for all x and y . This commutativity is crucial to the power and elegance of the Gelfand theory. It allows us to employ powerful tools from analysis to study the algebraic structure.

A Gelfand algebra, then, is a commutative Banach algebra with a unit (a multiplicative identity element, usually denoted as 1 or e , such that $1x = x1 = x$ for all x in the algebra). This seemingly small addition of the unit element opens up a wealth of possibilities. It allows us to define and explore the crucial concept of the Gelfand transform, a cornerstone of Gelfand theory.

The Gelfand Transform: Unveiling the Spectrum

The heart of Gelfand theory lies in the Gelfand transform, a powerful tool that bridges the gap between the algebraic structure of a Gelfand algebra and its analytic properties. The Gelfand transform maps elements of the algebra to continuous functions on a compact Hausdorff space (the Gelfand spectrum).

The Gelfand spectrum, denoted as $\Delta(A)$, for a Gelfand algebra A , is the set of all non-zero multiplicative linear functionals on A . A multiplicative linear functional is a linear map $\varphi: A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $\varphi(xy) = \varphi(x)\varphi(y)$ for all x, y in A . These functionals essentially provide a way to "probe" the algebraic structure of A by associating each element with a complex number.

The Gelfand transform, denoted as $\hat{G}$, maps an element $x \in A$ to a continuous function $\hat{G}(x)$ on $\Delta(A)$ defined by: $\hat{G}(x)(\varphi) = \varphi(x)$. In essence, the Gelfand transform assigns to each element x a function that evaluates the value of each multiplicative linear functional at x . This function reveals much about the element's properties within the algebra.

The significance of the Gelfand transform is profound. It allows us to analyze the algebraic properties of elements in the algebra through the lens of continuous functions, leveraging the powerful tools of analysis. This transformation unlocks a deeper understanding of the algebra's structure and behavior.

Key Theorems in Gelfand Theory: Gelfand-Mazur Theorem and Beyond

Several crucial theorems underpin the power and elegance of Gelfand theory. One of the most fundamental is the Gelfand-Mazur Theorem, which states that every complex normed division algebra (an algebra where every non-zero element has a multiplicative inverse) is isometrically isomorphic to the field of complex numbers. This theorem demonstrates a deep connection between algebraic and analytic structures.

Other important theorems within Gelfand theory concern the spectral radius formula, which relates the spectral radius of an element (the supremum of the absolute values of its eigenvalues) to the norm of its Gelfand transform. This formula provides a valuable link between the algebraic and analytic properties of the elements within the Gelfand algebra.

Applications of Gelfand Algebras: A Glimpse into the Wider World

Gelfand algebras are far from merely abstract mathematical constructs. They find applications across various fields, demonstrating their practical utility. Applications include:

Operator Theory: Gelfand algebras are essential in studying the spectral theory of operators on Banach spaces. The Gelfand transform provides a powerful tool for analyzing the spectrum of operators.

Representation Theory: Gelfand algebras play a key role in the representation theory of groups and algebras, providing insights into the structure and representations of these mathematical objects.

Harmonic Analysis: Gelfand algebras are fundamental in harmonic analysis,

particularly in understanding the structure of commutative group algebras. Quantum Mechanics: Certain classes of Gelfand algebras find applications in formulating and analyzing quantum mechanical systems.

A Book Outline: "Understanding Gelfand Algebras"

Book Title: Understanding Gelfand Algebras: A Comprehensive Guide

Contents:

Introduction: What are Gelfand algebras? Motivation and overview of the book.

Chapter 1: Banach Algebras: Defining Banach algebras, examples, and basic properties. The importance of commutativity.

Chapter 2: Ideals and Maximal Ideals: Exploring ideals in commutative Banach algebras. The crucial role of maximal ideals in constructing the Gelfand spectrum.

Chapter 3: The Gelfand Transform: Detailed explanation of the Gelfand transform, its properties, and its significance.

Chapter 4: The Gelfand Spectrum: A comprehensive study of the Gelfand spectrum, its topology, and its relationship to the algebra.

Chapter 5: Key Theorems of Gelfand Theory: Proofs and discussions of fundamental theorems like the Gelfand-Mazur theorem and the spectral radius formula.

Chapter 6: Applications of Gelfand Algebras: Exploring applications in operator theory, representation theory, and harmonic analysis.

Chapter 7: Advanced Topics: Exploring more advanced topics such as the Shilov boundary and applications to specific classes of Gelfand algebras.

Conclusion: Summary of key concepts and future directions in the study of Gelfand algebras.

Detailed Explanation of Each Chapter Outline Point

(Further expansion on each chapter point would significantly increase the word count beyond the requested 1500 words. The below provides a concise overview. A full treatment would require a separate document for each chapter.)

Chapter 1: Banach Algebras: This chapter would rigorously define Banach algebras, provide various examples (e.g., the algebra of continuous functions on a compact space), and establish fundamental properties like the submultiplicativity of the norm. The importance of commutativity would be emphasized as a prerequisite for the Gelfand theory.

Chapter 2: Ideals and Maximal Ideals: This chapter would explore the concept of ideals in commutative Banach algebras, focusing on maximal ideals (ideals that are not contained in any larger proper ideal). It would show how maximal ideals are closely tied to the multiplicative linear functionals that form the Gelfand spectrum.

Chapter 3: The Gelfand Transform: This chapter would provide a detailed definition and explanation of the Gelfand transform, demonstrating its properties, such as its multiplicativity and continuity. Examples would be used to illustrate the mapping from algebra elements to continuous functions.

Chapter 4: The Gelfand Spectrum: This chapter would delve into the properties of the Gelfand spectrum as a compact Hausdorff space, exploring its topological structure and its relationship to the underlying algebra. The importance of the topology in analyzing the functions obtained via the Gelfand transform would be highlighted.

Chapter 5: Key Theorems of Gelfand Theory: This chapter would formally state and prove pivotal theorems such as the Gelfand-Mazur theorem and the spectral radius formula, emphasizing their significance in understanding the structure of Gelfand algebras.

Chapter 6: Applications of Gelfand Algebras: This chapter would explore the various applications of Gelfand algebras in different mathematical fields, including detailed examples and case studies to illustrate their practical utility.

Chapter 7: Advanced Topics: This chapter could explore more advanced topics in Gelfand theory, such as the Shilov boundary (the smallest closed subset of the Gelfand spectrum on which the maximum modulus of the Gelfand transform is attained), and its significance. Specific classes of Gelfand algebras and their properties would be considered.

Conclusion: This chapter would summarize the key concepts and results discussed throughout the book, highlighting the significance of Gelfand algebras and potential areas for future research and development.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between a Banach algebra and a Gelfand algebra? A Banach algebra is a normed algebra that is complete as a metric space. A Gelfand algebra is a commutative Banach algebra with a unit.
1. What is the significance of the Gelfand spectrum? The Gelfand spectrum provides a topological space on which the Gelfand transform maps elements of the algebra, enabling the use of analytic techniques to study algebraic properties.
1. What is the spectral radius formula? The spectral radius formula relates the spectral radius of an element to the supremum of the absolute values

of its Gelfand transform.

1. What is the Gelfand-Mazur theorem? The Gelfand-Mazur theorem states that every complex normed division algebra is isometrically isomorphic to the complex numbers.
1. What are some applications of Gelfand algebras? Applications include operator theory, representation theory, harmonic analysis, and quantum mechanics.
1. Is the Gelfand transform always injective? No, the Gelfand transform is injective if and only if the algebra is semisimple (its Jacobson radical is $\{0\}$).
1. What is a multiplicative linear functional? A multiplicative linear functional is a linear map from the algebra to the complex numbers that preserves multiplication.
1. What is the Shilov boundary? The Shilov boundary is the smallest closed subset of the Gelfand spectrum on which the maximum modulus of the Gelfand transform is attained.
1. Are all commutative Banach algebras Gelfand algebras? No, a commutative Banach algebra must also possess a unit element to be considered a Gelfand algebra.

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gelfand algebra: Algebra I.M. Gelfand, Alexander Shen, 2003-07-09 This book is about algebra. This is a very old science and its gems have lost their charm for us through everyday use. We have tried in this book to refresh them for you. The main part of the book is made up of problems. The best way to deal with them is: Solve the problem by yourself - compare your solution with the solution in the book (if it exists) - go to the next problem. However, if you have difficulties solving a problem (and some of them are quite difficult), you may read the hint or start to read the solution. If there is no solution in the book for some problem, you may skip it (it is not heavily used in the sequel) and return to it later. The book is divided into sections devoted to different topics. Some of them are very short, others are rather long. Of course, you know arithmetic pretty well. However, we shall go through it once more, starting with easy things. 2 Exchange of terms in addition Let's add 3 and 5: $3+5=8$. And now change the order: $5+3=8$. We get the same result. Adding three apples to five apples is the same as adding five apples to three - apples do not disappear and we get eight of them in both cases. 3 Exchange of terms in multiplication Multiplication has a similar property. But let us first agree on notation.

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gelfand algebra: Lectures on Linear Algebra I. M. Gelfand, 1989-01-01 Prominent Russian mathematician's concise, well-written exposition considers n -dimensional spaces, linear and bilinear forms, linear transformations, canonical form of an arbitrary linear transformation, and an introduction to tensors. While not designed as an introductory text, the book's well-chosen topics, brevity of presentation, and the author's reputation will recommend it to all students, teachers, and mathematicians working in this sector.

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gelfand algebra: Functions and Graphs I. M. Gelfand, E. G. Glagoleva, E. E. Shnol, 2013-04-09 This text demonstrates the fundamentals of graph theory. The first part employs simple functions to analyze basics; second half deals with linear functions, quadratic trinomials, linear fractional functions, power functions, rational functions. 1969 edition.

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gelfand algebra: Trigonometry I.M. Gelfand, Mark Saul, 2012-12-06 In a sense, trigonometry sits at the center of high school mathematics. It originates in the study of geometry when we investigate the ratios of sides in similar right triangles, or when we look at the relationship between a chord of a circle and its arc. It leads to a much deeper study of periodic functions, and of the so-called transcendental functions, which cannot be described using finite algebraic processes. It also has many applications to physics, astronomy, and other branches of science. It is a very old subject. Many of the geometric results that we now state in trigonometric terms were given a purely geometric exposition by Euclid. Ptolemy, an early astronomer, began to go beyond Euclid, using the geometry of the time to construct what we now call tables of values of trigonometric functions. Trigonometry is an important introduction to calculus, where one studies what mathematicians call

analytic properties of functions. One of the goals of this book is to prepare you for a course in calculus by directing your attention away from particular values of a function to a study of the function as an object in itself. This way of thinking is useful not just in calculus, but in many mathematical situations. So trigonometry is a part of pre-calculus, and is related to other pre-calculus topics, such as exponential and logarithmic functions, and complex numbers.

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the Gelfand-Kirillov dimension had emerged as a very useful and powerful tool for investigating non-commutative algebras. At that time, the basic ideas and results were scattered throughout various journal articles. The first edition of this book provided a much-needed reliable and coherent single source of information. Since that time, the book has become the standard reference source for researchers. For this edition, the authors incorporated the original text with only minor modifications. Errors have been corrected, items have been rephrased, and more mathematical expressions have been displayed for the purpose of clarity. The newly added Chapter 12 provides broad overviews of the new developments that have surfaced in the last few years, with references to the literature for details. The bibliography has been updated and accordingly, almost double the size of the original one. The faithful revision and contemporary design of this work offers time-honored expertise with modern functionality. A keenly appealing combination. So, whether for the classroom, the well-tended mathematical books collection, or the research desk, this book holds unprecedented relevance.

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gelfand algebra: Geometry Israel M. Gelfand, Tatiana Alekseyevskaya (Gelfand), 2020-02-22 This text is the fifth and final in the series of educational books written by Israel Gelfand with his colleagues for high school students. These books cover the basics of mathematics in a clear and simple format – the style Gelfand was known for internationally. Gelfand prepared these materials so as to be suitable for independent studies, thus allowing students to learn and practice the material at their own pace without a class. Geometry takes a different approach to presenting basic geometry for high-school students and others new to the subject. Rather than following the traditional axiomatic method that emphasizes formulae and logical deduction, it focuses on geometric constructions. Illustrations and problems are abundant throughout, and readers are encouraged to draw figures and “move” them in the plane, allowing them to develop and enhance their geometrical vision, imagination, and creativity. Chapters are structured so that only certain operations and the instruments to perform these operations are available for drawing objects and figures on the plane. This structure corresponds to presenting, sequentially, projective, affine, symplectic, and Euclidean geometries, all the while ensuring students have the necessary tools to follow along. Geometry is

suitable for a large audience, which includes not only high school geometry students, but also teachers and anyone else interested in improving their geometrical vision and intuition, skills useful in many professions. Similarly, experienced mathematicians can appreciate the book's unique way of presenting plane geometry in a simple form while adhering to its depth and rigor. "Gelfand was a great mathematician and also a great teacher. The book provides an atypical view of geometry. Gelfand gets to the intuitive core of geometry, to the phenomena of shapes and how they move in the plane, leading us to a better understanding of what coordinate geometry and axiomatic geometry seek to describe." - Mark Saul, PhD, Executive Director, Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival "The subject matter is presented as intuitive, interesting and fun. No previous knowledge of the subject is required. Starting from the simplest concepts and by inculcating in the reader the use of visualization skills, [and] after reading the explanations and working through the examples, you will be able to confidently tackle the interesting problems posed. I highly recommend the book to any person interested in this fascinating branch of mathematics." - Ricardo Gorin, a student of the Extended Gelfand Correspondence Program in Mathematics (EGCPM)

gelfand algebra: Homological Algebra S.I. Gelfand, Yu.I. Manin, 2013-12-01 This book, the first printing of which was published as volume 38 of the Encyclopaedia of Mathematical Sciences, presents a modern approach to homological algebra, based on the systematic use of the terminology and ideas of derived categories and derived functors. The book contains applications of homological algebra to the theory of sheaves on topological spaces, to Hodge theory, and to the theory of modules over rings of algebraic differential operators (algebraic D-modules). The authors Gelfand and Manin explain all the main ideas of the theory of derived categories. Both authors are well-known researchers and the second, Manin, is famous for his work in algebraic geometry and mathematical physics. The book is an excellent reference for graduate students and researchers in mathematics and also for physicists who use methods from algebraic geometry and algebraic topology.

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gelfand algebra: The Nature and Role of Algebra in the K-14 Curriculum Center for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Education, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences Education Board, National Research Council, 1998-10-07 With the 1989 release of *Everybody Counts* by the Mathematical Sciences Education Board (MSEB) of the National Research Council and the Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the standards movement in K-12 education was launched. Since that time, the MSEB and the NCTM have remained committed to deepening the public debate, discourse, and understanding of the principles and implications of standards-based reform. One of the main tenets in the NCTM Standards is commitment to providing high-quality mathematical experiences to all students. Another feature of the Standards is emphasis on development of specific mathematical topics across the grades. In particular, the Standards emphasize the importance of algebraic thinking as an essential strand in the elementary school curriculum. Issues related to school algebra are pivotal in many ways. Traditionally, algebra in high school or earlier has been considered a gatekeeper, critical to participation in postsecondary education, especially for minority students. Yet, as traditionally taught, first-year algebra courses have been characterized as an unmitigated disaster for most students. There have been many shifts in the algebra curriculum in schools within recent years. Some of these have been successful first steps in increasing enrollment in algebra and in broadening the scope of the algebra curriculum. Others have compounded existing problems. Algebra is not yet conceived of as a K-14 subject. Issues of opportunity and equity persist. Because there is no one answer to the dilemma of how to deal with algebra, making progress requires sustained dialogue, experimentation, reflection, and

communication of ideas and practices at both the local and national levels. As an initial step in moving from national-level dialogue and speculations to concerted local and state level work on the role of algebra in the curriculum, the MSEB and the NCTM co-sponsored a national symposium, The Nature and Role of Algebra in the K-14 Curriculum, on May 27 and 28, 1997, at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

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gelfand algebra: *A Course in Universal Algebra* S. Burris, H. P. Sankappanavar, 2011-10-21 Universal algebra has enjoyed a particularly explosive growth in the last twenty years, and a student entering the subject now will find a bewildering amount of material to digest. This text is not intended to be encyclopedic; rather, a few themes central to universal algebra have been developed sufficiently to bring the reader to the brink of current research. The choice of topics most certainly reflects the authors' interests. Chapter I contains a brief but substantial introduction to lattices, and to the close connection between complete lattices and closure operators. In particular, everything necessary for the subsequent study of congruence lattices is included. Chapter II develops the most general and fundamental notions of universal algebra-these include the results that apply to all types of algebras, such as the homomorphism and isomorphism theorems. Free algebras are discussed in great detail-we use them to derive the existence of simple algebras, the rules of equational logic, and the important Mal'cev conditions. We introduce the notion of classifying a variety by properties of (the lattices of) congruences on members of the variety. Also, the center of an algebra is defined and used to characterize modules (up to polynomial equivalence). In Chapter III we show how neatly two famous results-the refutation of Euler's conjecture on orthogonal Latin squares and Kleene's characterization of languages accepted by finite automata-can be presented using universal algebra. We predict that such applied universal algebra will become much more prominent.

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gelfand algebra: *An Introduction to the Classification of Amenable C^* -algebras* Huaxin Lin, 2001 The theory and applications of C^* -algebras are related to fields ranging from operator theory, group representations and quantum mechanics, to non-commutative geometry and dynamical systems. By Gelfand transformation, the theory of C^* -algebras is also regarded as non-commutative topology. About a decade ago, George A. Elliott initiated the program of classification of C^* -algebras (up to isomorphism) by their K -theoretical data. It started with the classification of AT -algebras with real rank zero. Since then great efforts have been made to classify amenable C^* -algebras, a class of C^* -algebras that arises most naturally. For example, a large class of simple amenable C^* -algebras is discovered to be classifiable. The application of these results to dynamical systems has been established. This book introduces the recent development of the theory of the classification of amenable C^* -algebras. It is the first such attempt. The first three chapters present the basics of the theory of C^* -algebras which are particularly important to the theory of the classification of amenable C^* -algebras. Chapter 4 offers the classification of the so-called AT -algebras of real rank zero. The first four chapters are self-contained, and can serve as a text for a graduate course on C^* -algebras. The last two

chapters contain more advanced material. In particular, they deal with the classification theorem for simple AH -algebras with real rank zero, the work of Elliott and Gong. The book contains many new proofs and some original results related to the classification of amenable C Oeu -algebras. Besides being as an introduction to the theory of the classification of amenable C Oeu -algebras, it is a comprehensive reference for those more familiar with the subject. Sample Chapter(s). Chapter 1.1: Banach algebras (260 KB). Chapter 1.2: C*-algebras (210 KB). Chapter 1.3: Commutative C*-algebras (212 KB). Chapter 1.4: Positive cones (207 KB). Chapter 1.5: Approximate identities, hereditary C*-subalgebras and quotients (230 KB). Chapter 1.6: Positive linear functionals and a Gelfand-Naimark theorem (235 KB). Chapter 1.7: Von Neumann algebras (234 KB). Chapter 1.8: Enveloping von Neumann algebras and the spectral theorem (217 KB). Chapter 1.9: Examples of C*-algebras (270 KB). Chapter 1.10: Inductive limits of C*-algebras (252 KB). Chapter 1.11: Exercises (220 KB). Chapter 1.12: Addenda (168 KB). Contents: The Basics of C Oeu -Algebras; Amenable C Oeu -Algebras and K -Theory; AF- Algebras and Ranks of C Oeu -Algebras; Classification of Simple AT -Algebras; C Oeu -Algebra Extensions; Classification of Simple Amenable C Oeu -Algebras. Readership: Researchers and graduate students in operator algebras.

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gelfand algebra: Teaching School Mathematics: Pre-Algebra Hung-Hsi Wu:, 2016-06-29 This is a systematic exposition of a major part of the mathematics of grades 5 to 8 (excluding statistics), written specifically for Common Core era teachers. It differs from other books for teachers in that the mathematics is correct, in the sense that all the concepts are clearly and correctly defined, and a grade-appropriate explanation (that is, proof) is given for every assertion. For example, it gives a precise definition of percent and explains how to use the definition to do all the standard problems about percent in an entirely routine manner. It also gives a leisurely explanation for "negative times negative is positive". Another key feature is an intuitive introduction to plane geometry via rotations, translations, reflections, and dilations that, instead of treating these transformations as merely fun activities, shows how they make sense of the usual geometric topics in middle school, including congruence, similarity, length, area, and volume. In short, the readers will find in this volume a clear explanation of whatever was once puzzling to them in the mathematics of grades 5 to 8.

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gelfand algebra: Linear Algebra and Geometry Igor R. Shafarevich, Alexey O. Remizov, 2012-08-23 This book on linear algebra and geometry is based on a course given by renowned academician I.R. Shafarevich at Moscow State University. The book begins with the theory of linear algebraic equations and the basic elements of matrix theory and continues with vector spaces, linear transformations, inner product spaces, and the theory of affine and projective spaces. The book also includes some subjects that are naturally related to linear algebra but are usually not covered in such courses: exterior algebras, non-Euclidean geometry, topological properties of projective spaces, theory of quadrics (in affine and projective spaces), decomposition of finite abelian groups, and finitely generated periodic modules (similar to Jordan normal forms of linear operators). Mathematical reasoning, theorems, and concepts are illustrated with numerous examples from various fields of mathematics, including differential equations and differential geometry, as well as from mechanics and physics.

gelfand algebra: Linear Algebra Done Right Sheldon Axler, 1997-07-18 This text for a second course in linear algebra, aimed at math majors and graduates, adopts a novel approach by banishing determinants to the end of the book and focusing on understanding the structure of linear operators on vector spaces. The author has taken unusual care to motivate concepts and to simplify proofs. For example, the book presents - without having defined determinants - a clean proof that every linear operator on a finite-dimensional complex vector space has an eigenvalue. The book starts by discussing vector spaces, linear independence, span, basics, and dimension. Students are introduced to inner-product spaces in the first half of the book and shortly thereafter to the finite-dimensional spectral theorem. A variety of interesting exercises in each chapter helps students understand and manipulate the objects of linear algebra. This second edition features new chapters on diagonal matrices, on linear functionals and adjoints, and on the spectral theorem; some sections, such as those on self-adjoint and normal operators, have been entirely rewritten; and hundreds of minor improvements have been made throughout the text.

gelfand algebra: Topics in Algebra and Analysis Radmila Bulajich Manfrino, José Antonio Gómez Ortega, Rogelio Valdez Delgado, 2015-02-09 The techniques presented here are useful for solving mathematical contest problems in algebra and analysis. Most of the examples and exercises that appear in the book originate from mathematical Olympiad competitions around the world. In the first four chapters the authors cover material for competitions at high school level. The level advances with the chapters. The topics explored include polynomials, functional equations, sequences and an elementary treatment of complex numbers. The final chapters provide a comprehensive list of problems posed at national and international contests in recent years, and solutions to all exercises and problems presented in the book. It helps students in preparing for national and international mathematical contests from high school level to more advanced competitions and will also be useful for their first year of mathematical studies at the university. It will be of interest to teachers in college and university level, and trainers of the mathematical Olympiads.

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