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## An Introduction to Mathematics

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By A N Whitehead

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Excerpt: . CHAPTER XIV SERIES No part of Mathematics suffers more from the triviality of its initial presentation to beginners than the great subject of series. Two minor examples of series, namely arithmetic and geometric series, are considered; these examples are important because they are the simplest examples of an important general theory. But the general ideas are never disclosed; and thus the examples, which exemplify nothing, are reduced to silly trivialities. The general mathematical idea of a series is that of a set of things ranged in order, that is, in sequence. This meaning is accurately represented in the common use of the term. Consider, for example, the series of English Prime Ministers during the nineteenth century, arranged in the order of their first tenure of that office within the century. The series commences with William Pitt, and ends with Lord Rosebery, who, appropriately...



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