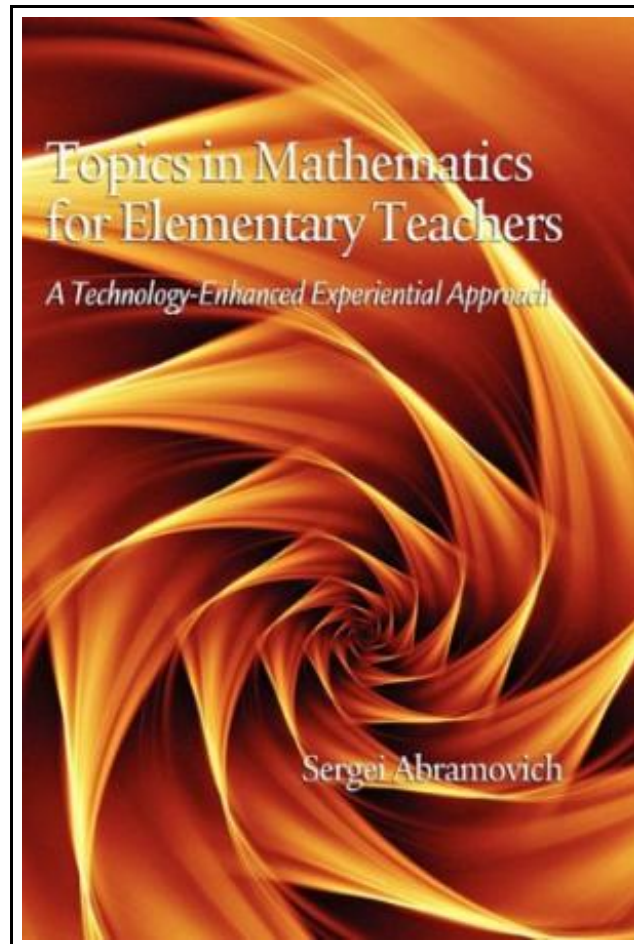


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Reviews

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(Prof. Antone Olson II)*

TOPICS IN MATHEMATICS FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS: A TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH (HARDBACK)



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Information Age Publishing, United States, 2010. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 156 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. This book reflects the author s experience in teaching a mathematics content course for pre-service elementary teachers. The book addresses a number of recommendations of the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences for the preparation of teachers demonstrating how abstract mathematical concepts can be motivated by concrete activities. Such an approach, when enhanced by the use of technology, makes it easier for the teachers to grasp the meaning of generalization, formal proof, and the creation of an increasing number of concepts on higher levels of abstraction. A strong experiential component of the book made possible by the use of manipulative materials and digital technology such as spreadsheets, The Geometer s Sketchpad, Graphing Calculator 3.5 (produced by Pacific Tech), and Kid Pix Studio Deluxe makes it possible to balance informal and formal approaches to mathematics, allowing the teachers to learn how the two approaches complement each other. Classroom observations of the teachers learning mathematics as a combination of theory and experiment confirm that this approach elevates one s mathematical understanding to a higher ground. The book not only shows the importance of mathematics content knowledge for teachers but better still, how this knowledge can be gradually developed in the context of exploring grade-appropriate activities and tasks and using computational and manipulative environments to support these explorations. Most of the chapters are motivated by a problem/activity typically found in the elementary mathematics curricula and/or standards (either National or New York State - the context in which the author prepares teachers). By exploring such problems in depth, the teachers can learn fundamental mathematical concepts and ideas hidden within a seemingly mundane problem/activity. The need to have experience in going beyond traditional expectations for...



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