

Download A History Of Mathematical Notations

Florian Cajori

The history of mathematical notation includes the commencement, progress, and cultural diffusion of mathematical symbols and the conflict of the methods of notation confronted in a notation's move to popularity or inconspicuousness. Mathematical notation comprises the symbols used to write mathematical equations and formulas. Notation generally implies a set of well-defined representations of ... In differential calculus, there is no single uniform notation for differentiation. Instead, several different notations for the derivative of a function or variable have been proposed by different mathematicians. The usefulness of each notation varies with the context, and it is sometimes advantageous to use more than one notation in a given context.¹ Note: In his book *A History of Mathematical Notations*, Florian Cajori credits the English mathematician, John Wallis, with inventing the modern notation for Infinity, citing Wallis' works *Arithmetica Infinitorum* (1655) and *De Sectionibus Conicis*: "Cum enim primus terminus in serie Primanorum sit 0, primus terminus in serie reciproca erit vel infinitus." L'usage du « S » barré (\$) comme symbole du dollar américain aurait pour origine le dessin qui figurait sur les pesos de la Nouvelle Espagne. Après avoir constitué la base du système monétaire des États-Unis jusqu'en 1793, la pièce de 8 reals espagnole y est restée un moyen de paiement légal jusqu'en 1856 (on appelait ce dollar le « Pillar dollar » [1]).