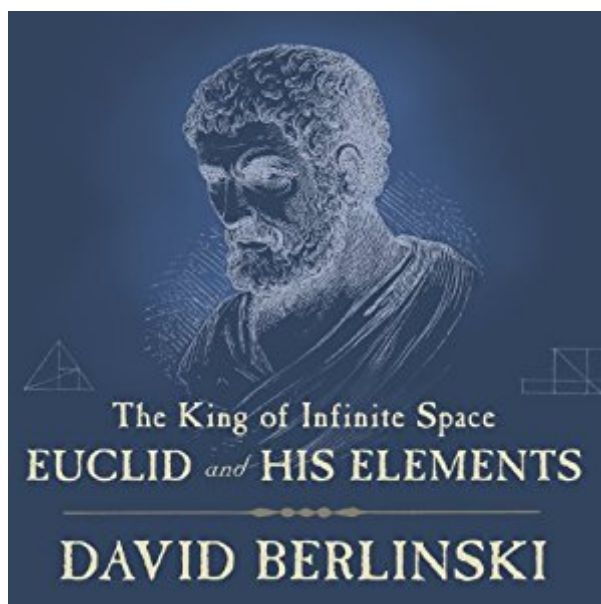


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# The King Of Infinite Space: Euclid And His Elements



## Synopsis

Geometry defines the world around us, helping us make sense of everything from architecture to military science to fashion. And for over 2,000 years, geometry has been equated with Euclid's Elements, arguably the most influential book in the history of mathematics. In *The King of Infinite Space*, renowned mathematics writer David Berlinski provides a concise homage to this elusive mathematician and his staggering achievements. Berlinski shows that, for centuries, scientists and thinkers from Copernicus to Newton to Einstein have relied on Euclid's axiomatic system, a method of proof still taught in classrooms around the world. Euclid's use of elemental logic - and the mathematical statements he and others built from it - have dramatically expanded the frontiers of human knowledge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am a retired PhD in engineering and have written, read, and reviewed papers for technical journals. I am accustomed to reading through proofs and pulling them apart as part of the review process. Papers are rejected for lack of rigor or for not making a contribution to the field, and for any number of reasons. I saw this little book in the library, read the jacket, and took it home thinking it might be a fun read. Wrong! With Euclid's 2300 year old proof, you would expect someone in the 21st century with all our history of rigor in math and modern technology to GET THE PYTHAGOREAN THEOREM CORRECT. On page 75 (paperback) in the third paragraph he drives into confusion: "The square BDEC is equal in its parts to EL and CL. But CL is equal to the square

GL; and EL to the square AK. When reassembled, the square BDEC, having been divided for purposes of proof, is equal to GL and AK." This is a mess. There is no square GL and the rest is misdescribed. What is intended, I believe, is: The square BDEC is equal in its parts to BL and CL. But BL is equal to the square GB; and CL to the square AK. When reassembled, the square BDEC, having been divided for purposes of proof, is equal to GB and AK. While explaining the proof's generic approach correctly, he misses with the details. If he doesn't get the nomenclature of the proof right, did he copy it from somewhere else perpetuating an earlier error, did an editor slip in a well-meaning "correction", or is it a mere typo? I suspect it is not a typo because there are too many letters involved. Somebody somewhere involved in the production of the book didn't understand the proof.

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