

Preface

Note. The term “naive” in the title of the book is meant to be in contrast to the term “axiomatic.” For an example of the axiomatic approach, see my online notes [Introduction to Set Theory](#) based on Karel Hrbacek and Thomas Jech’s *Introduction to Set Theory*, Second Edition Revised and Expanded (Dekker, 1984).

In these notes, a more informal approach is taken. Quoting from page *v*:

“The present treatment. . . is axiomatic in that some axioms for set theory are stated and used as the basis for all subsequent proofs. It is naive in that the language and notation are those of ordinary informal (but formalized) mathematics.”

Note. The informal presentation in the book does not involve “displayed theorems” followed by proofs, but instead involves a conversational presentation of the results followed by a sketch of the proof. In these notes, a more formal attempt will be given, but we still follow Halmos’ book.



Paul Halmos (wearing a tie) with your humble instructor (in a baseball cap) at Syracuse University, March 1986.

Revised: 7/13/2021