



Math for the people, by the people.

James Joseph Sylvester

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James Joseph Sylvester (1814 - 1897) British mathematician, poet and author, best known for Sylvester's sequence and for coining mathematical terms, some of which are still in use today (such as "totient" and "totative"). Together with Arthur Cayley, he invented the theory of subject of invariant theory, which became one of the most actively studied branches of algebra during the nineteenth century.

Born in England of a Jewish family, Sylvester studied in England and Scotland, and taught in the United States. He also studied law.

References

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- [2] L. S. Feuer, "Sylvester in Virginia" *The Mathematical Intelligencer* **9** (1987): 13 - 20
- [3] K. H. Parshall, *James Joseph Sylvester: Jewish Mathematician in a Victorian World*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press (2006)