

# 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 ... One of the most common modern notations for differentiation is due to Joseph Louis Lagrange. In Lagrange's notation, a prime mark denotes a derivative. If  $f$  is a function, then its derivative evaluated at  $x$  is written  $f'(x)$ . Lagrange first used the notation in unpublished works, and it appeared in print in 1770. <sup>1</sup> 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 *Arithmetic 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]).