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Stability in model theory, by Daniel Lascar. Translated by J. E. Wallington. Pitman Monographs and Survey in Pure and Applied Mathematics, vol. 36, Longman Scientific and Technical, Essex, 1987, 193 pp., $77.95. ISBN 0-470-20386-2

Officially, model theory was created in 1950 by Alfred Tarski **[Ta]**, who described it as a subject that lies on the "borderline between algebra and metamathematics." Many see it, nowadays, as generalized algebra, a point of view that is strongly emphasized in this book.

There is one obvious connection between algebra and the concept of model. The familiar classes of algebraic structures are usually described as the class of *models* of a given list of axioms. Such are, for instance, the class of groups, the class of fields, the class of algebraically closed fields. In these examples and in many more, the axioms can be stated as *first order sentences* in a suitable language. Let us explain what we mean by this. A logical language L comes equipped with a supply of operation and relation symbols of given arities (thus, we have a language for groups, another one for fields, a third one for ordered fields, etc.); one of them is always the equality symbol '='. The first order sentences of L are statements that use these symbols as well as variables and are constructed by means of logical connectives ("not", "and", "or", etc.) and quantifiers ("for all x", "there exists x", where x is a variable). The variables are required to be of the