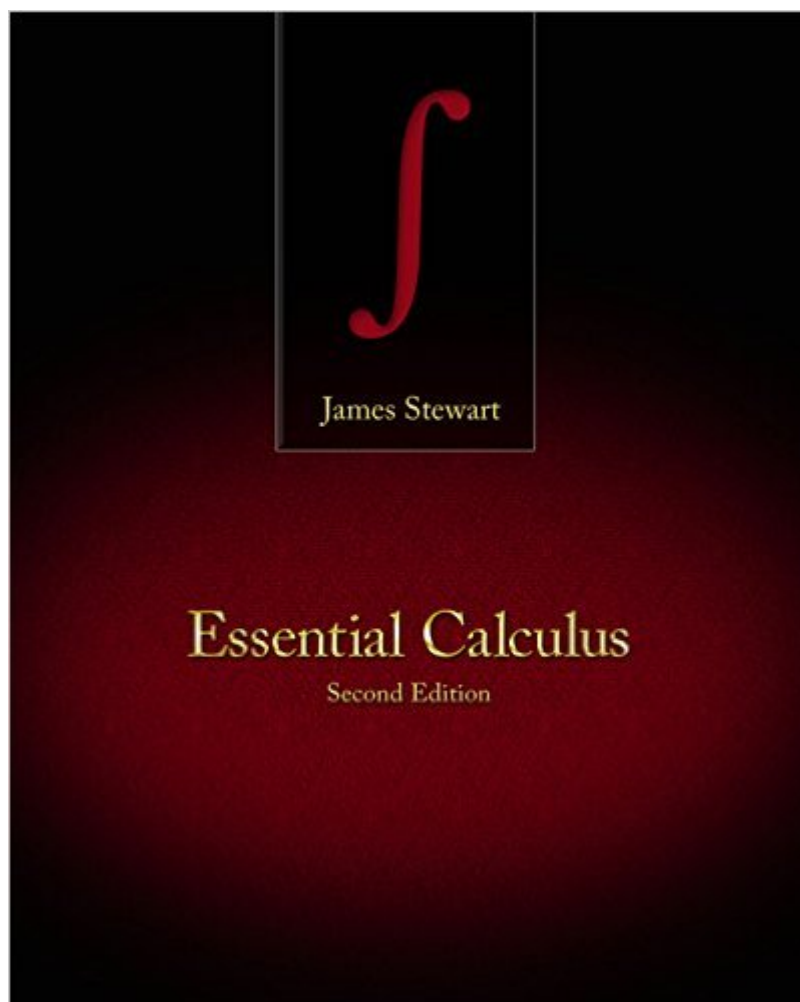


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Essential Calculus



Synopsis

This book is for instructors who think that most calculus textbooks are too long. In writing the book, James Stewart asked himself: What is essential for a three-semester calculus course for scientists and engineers? ESSENTIAL CALCULUS, Second Edition, offers a concise approach to teaching calculus that focuses on major concepts, and supports those concepts with precise definitions, patient explanations, and carefully graded problems. The book is only 900 pages--two-thirds the size of Stewart's other calculus texts, and yet it contains almost all of the same topics. The author achieved this relative brevity primarily by condensing the exposition and by putting some of the features on the book's website, www.StewartCalculus.com. Despite the more compact size, the book has a modern flavor, covering technology and incorporating material to promote conceptual understanding, though not as prominently as in Stewart's other books. ESSENTIAL CALCULUS features the same attention to detail, eye for innovation, and meticulous accuracy that have made Stewart's textbooks the best-selling calculus texts in the world. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

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Customer Reviews

I really wanted to like this book since I value a concise approach, but I think it fails to lay a solid foundation for understanding (at least multivariable) calculus. I'm only familiar with Ch.10-13 because it was required for a calc 3 class. The problem with its approach is that it quickly explains new concepts, making sense only half the time, then launches into examples where it skips important logical steps in problem setup. Stating a problem and then immediately writing the relevant theorem without any discussion doesn't teach "mathematically rigorous" thinking as so many instructors seem to love Stewart for, and it doesn't lay the foundation for creative application of the concepts in physics. If you have to get this book for a class, sorry. Watching Khan Academy videos was helpful for me, just know that Sal doesn't cover stuff in the same order as the book or most classes, and doesn't give much attention to difficult double/triple integral problems (something this book gets lost in while glossing over some of the concepts). If you're looking for a self-study book, this is definitely not it because it's hard enough to understand with the help of a professor. Plus the problems are generally uninteresting and avoid challenging the reader with physics applications. There are plenty of resources online for self-studying math so track down one of those for better recommendations.

This is actually my third semester using this book. I absolutely detest it. 1. The answer key in the back has omitted chapters 4 and 5, so I have no way of knowing if my homework is correct or not. I use the answers to gauge how well I am doing, not to cheat. I have no way to tell if I'm on the right track or not. 2. There is a lot information in this book. A lot. That's good, but the problem is that when new information is introduced there is no reminder of past information, pertinent information, that is needed to establish a full understanding of the problem. 3. In some situations understanding a problem, such as how to deal with an absolute value in an integral, are either glossed over or nonexistent. 4. It appears that most of the examples are dealing with the easiest concepts while the homework deals with far more difficult ones. It is easy to get lost in the homework with no direction from the book. I realize that the online webassign is a separate entity than the book, but the two are meant to go together, so I will add that it is every bit as bad. The book and webassign homeworks make learning calculus far more tedious and difficult than it should be. I had to purchase additional guides, including an entirely different textbook just for self study to get what I need. Of all the mathematics textbooks I have used over the years, this one is by far the worst.

Do not buy this book new. I made the mistake of doing so. It comes damaged with grease stains on

the cover and no plastic wrap protector or anything. There is no access code, I repeat NO ACCESS CODE! Buy the used ones they are probably the same quality for cheap.

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The book I needed has ISBN-13:978-1-133-11229-7 and ISBN-10:1-133-11229-3, and it is the calculus book I searched on by the ISBN number. This book (ISBN-13:978-1-133-49094-4 and ISBN-10:1-133-49094-8) popped up on the same page as the book I needed, and was advertised as the "paperback" version of the book I needed. I saw a much reduced price and ordered it. The bad news is that it is the "metric version" of the other text...it is NOT paperback, so I thought I got lucky, but when I was working problems assigned in the class, I learned that the problems were not always the same ones. So I've lost \$60-\$70 to a fraudulent advertising practice, and will probably get half that amount when I sell the book. CAVEAT EMPTOR...DON'T BUY THIS ONE IF YOU WANT THE BOOK WITH ALL OF THE CORRECT PROBLEMS IN IT.

Theory and examples are written in an understandable manner. However, my instructor was a bit annoyed by the fact that it lacks exercises for a couple of points of Calculus 2 (not a big deal though). Also, if you need more in depth proof for certain theorems and propositions, maybe a different textbook would be better.

I really love this book. I used it since calc one, and here I am using it for my final semester of calc. I would say only 5% of the book's explanations are bad, but everything else is really well written. It's great to reference back to as well. I haven't gotten below a 90 on any calc exam, and even achieved an A in calc 2. Don't let the low star reviews discourage you. Those are either complaints about the physical quality (which to me is great), shipping experience (not the responsibility of the book haha), arriving in bad condition (that's the seller's fault, not the book's fault, those reviews should be on the seller's page), not having the access code (which isn't even advertised to be included), and other dumb things like not liking the course. As long as you're a hard working student

who takes time to actually read and understand the material, this book will serve you well. Highly recommended.

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