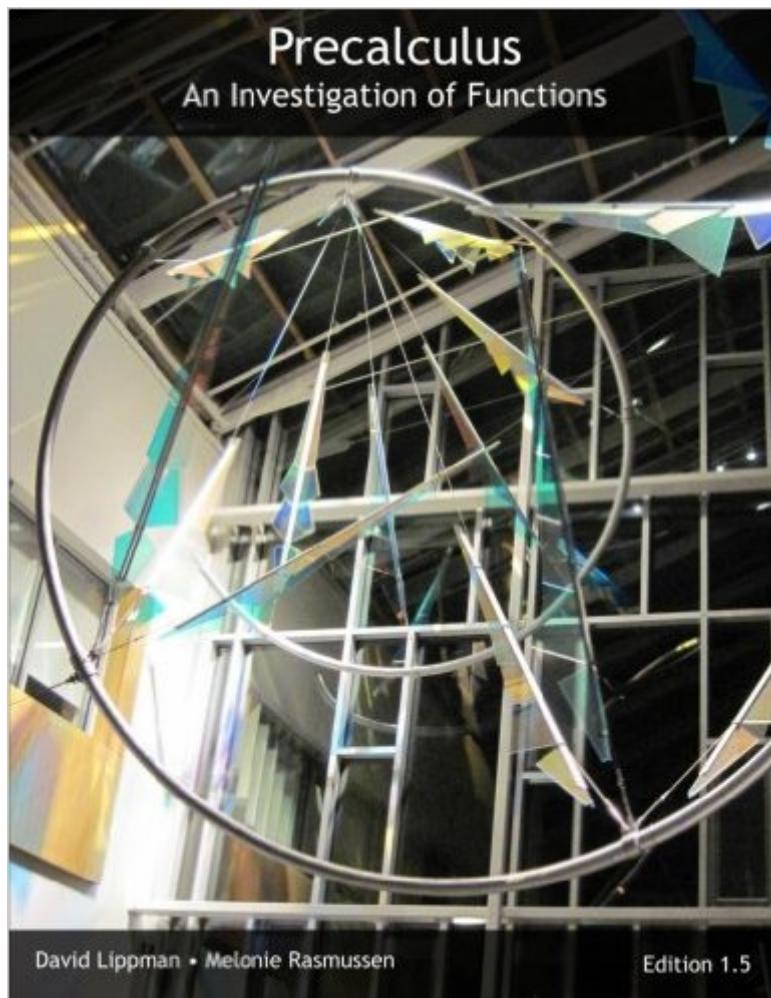


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# Precalculus: An Investigation Of Functions



## Synopsis

Precalculus: An Investigation of Functions is a free, open textbook covering a two-quarter pre-calculus sequence including trigonometry. The first portion of the book is an investigation of functions, exploring the graphical behavior of, interpretation of, and solutions to problems involving linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. An emphasis is placed on modeling and interpretation, as well as the important characteristics needed in calculus. The second portion of the book introduces trigonometry. Trig is introduced through an integrated circle/triangle approach. Identities are introduced in the first chapter, and revisited throughout. Likewise, solving is introduced in the second chapter and revisited more extensively in the third chapter. As with the first part of the book, an emphasis is placed on motivating the concepts and on modeling and interpretation.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (29 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This textbook is unlike anything I have ever seen before. Math has never been my enemy before either, it's usually been one of my favorite and comforting subjects, rare for an autistic like me. It is now the bane of my existence and I feel genuine hatred towards my professor for changing texts on us at the last minute, from the usual college algebra w/ trig and functions focus to this ... whatever this is. I actually have trouble stepping foot in the classroom because I dread how frustrated and exhausted I will become very quickly in the class period. This text is quite hellish for me to glean info from, there is a lot of subtleties in the language and seemingly deliberate attempts at being cryptic and obscure with methodology. Maybe it just seems worse to me because as an autistic I require very straight-forward, explicit instruction, and literal use of language in academic material. I do need

that extra spoonfeeding but only initially; after seeing clear examples just a few times, it all suddenly clicks and I can extrapolate the concepts to a wide range of subjects, which is typically very difficult for autistics due to our penchant for uber-compartmentalization of learned material. And once it's there, it stays. I'm also afraid that I took the textbook's introduction a little personally, I understand and respect the authors' goal to make students actually \*think\* and \*reason\* through problems, but the introduction seemed to say "if you can't handle the way we teach math, then oh well, that's too bad, we don't care." This is intended to be a textbook for a gatekeeper class, and they make no attempt to hide their intentions. Which is fine I suppose, as a physical science major I understand the need to graduate students who are actually competent ...

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