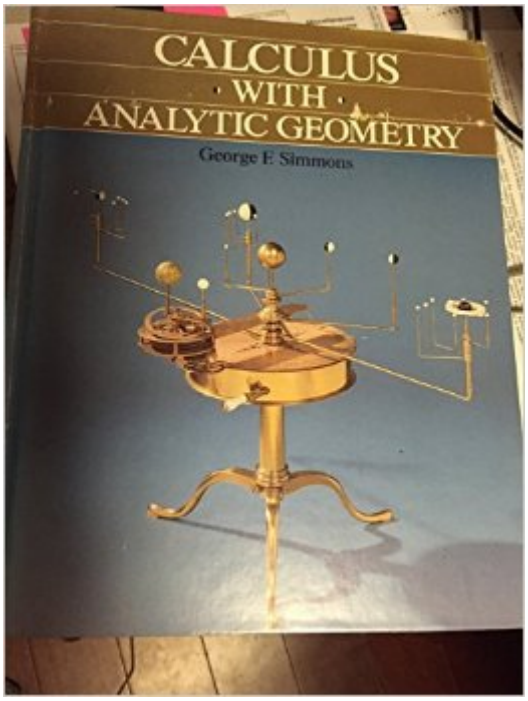
Calculus With Analytic Geometry



Synopsis

Hardcover Calculus textbook

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book is truly wonderful. Dr. Simmons includes material you will not find elsewhere. His writing is eloquent and clear. The material is well presented and balanced. Highly recommended.

George Simmons is an excellent teacher. If you really want to learn calculus but don’t want to deviate too far from the standard freshman presentation then you need this book. It will keep you ahead of everyone else in your classes.

I had the misfortune of teaching from this text a couple of years ago (1997). The book has many problems. First, Simmons introduces the derivative before presenting the limit operation. Now, some may call this motivation, but I believe it is confusing. Is it standard practice to teach division before addition? Since the derivative is defined in terms of the limit process, he introduces two new principles at the same time! This certainly confuses students. Second, later in the book, he says that INT(1/x) dx = ln x, and makes mention that the student must remember that if x assumes negative values, then the integral is ln (-x). Simmons further says that he omits using ln (ABS (x)) because the student may be confused by the absolute value. In my opinion, if absolute value is confusing to the student, he/she is in the WRONG course! This treatment leads to errors further in the text. I

worked a problem on the board, and got a different answer from the one in the book. Simmons integrated a non-negative function on a bounded interval and got a NEGATIVE answer! The problem was that he FORGOT about that pesky negative sign that he tells the students to remember. Another reviewer made mention of lack of objectivity. Yes, Simmons spends about 15% of his time patting himself on the back about how his method/book is better than all of the other treatments currently available. All the while, giving the wrong answers, mind you. In conclusion, if you want to learn calculus, avoid Simmons like the plague! Try Larson and Hostetler for a better treatment.

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