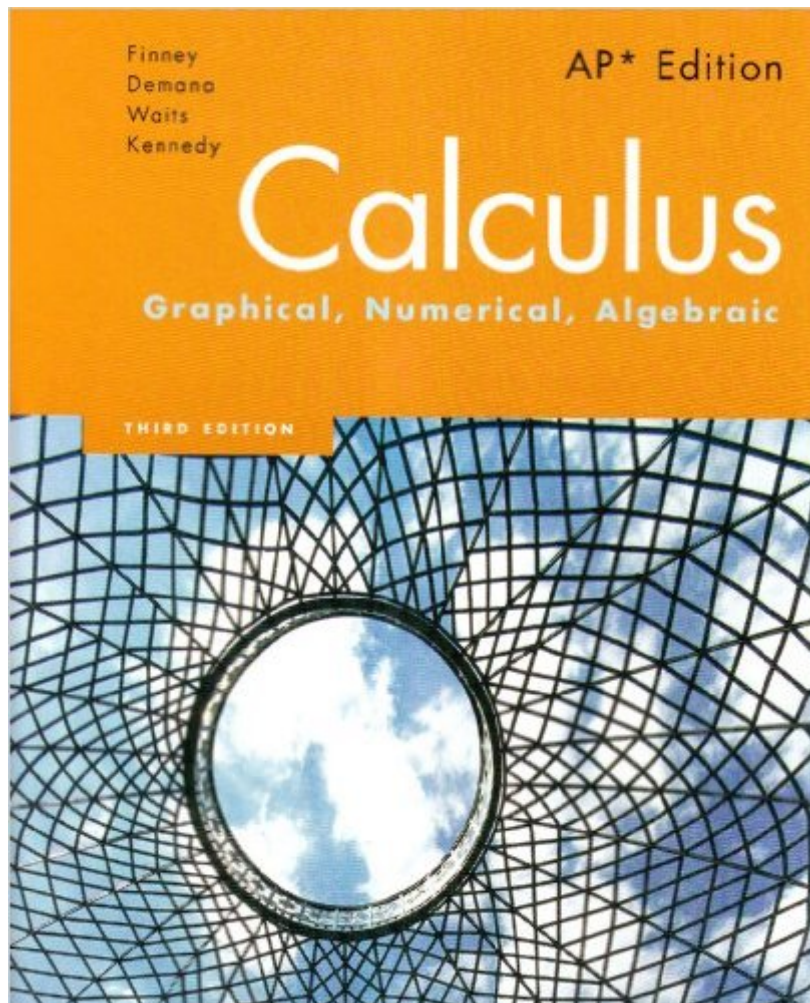# Calculus: Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic, 3rd Edition

Synopsis

The main goal of this third edition is to realign with the changes in the Advanced Placement (APÃƒ‚Ã Â®) calculus syllabus and the new type of APÃƒ‚Ã Â® exam questions. We have also more carefully aligned examples and exercises and updated the data used in examples and exercises. Cumulative Quick Quizzes are now provided two or three times in each chapter.

Book Information

Series: Calculus; Grapical, Numerical, Algebraic (Book 1)

Hardcover: 696 pages

Publisher: Prentice Hall; 3rd ed. edition (2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0132014084

ISBN-13: 978-0132014083

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 1.2 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (66 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,973 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #37 inÂ Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Mathematics   #41 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Education > Secondary Education   #57 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Mathematics > Calculus

Customer Reviews

This was the textbook my high school had used for its AP Calculus classes. They had recently switched to this text the year before I had taken the class, and let me tell you, that was a mistake. There will, undoubtedly be many people who enjoy this textbook, but I say that anyone who is even remotely interested in mathematics will notice that much is missing from this book. For instance, the chapter on limits deals only with limits of continuous functions or the obvious case of single point discontinuities. Any realistic or important examples of a function not having a limit is shown to us in a cute window representing a graphing calculator's screen. Maybe this is to tailor the notion that my generation is full of "visual learners". Or maybe its simply to avoid any real math while allowing kids to think they have learned something legitimate. This problem of presenting very low leveled material is pervasive throughout (i.e as one reviewer has mentioned before, all the problems on limits can be solved by substitution...) The chapter on infinite series is a great example of this. The authors seem to have wanted anyone in middle school (let alone a senior in high school or a college student) to "understand" this textbook. Unfortunately, they shy away from even remotely

complicated reasoning, especially where it is needed. The irony is is that by trying to make this text "readable", they leave out important mathematical reasoning that helps clarify and explain many of the more difficult topics. This leaves several chapters, such as the chapter on infinite series, completely useless and confusing despite the authors' intent.

I used this textbook when I took AP Calculus. I recall not liking it very much -- my mathematics preparation was poor, and I struggled to understand the precise statements of definitions and theorems. It didn't help that at the time I was only concerned with what would be on the AP exam, naively believing that a 5 on the AP course represented mastery of an equivalent college course.Revisiting this book years later, having taken college math classes where it's sink or swim -- and you sink if you don't read the textbook -- I appreciate this book a lot more. It is fairly rigorous but never too much so, and there are plenty of practice problems and examples. My only regret is not actually reading this book when I was in high school. Like many calculus students, I went into the AP exam very skilled at doing AP problems, but I didn't truly understand calculus. I could compute integrals or solve related rates problems with the best of them, but I wouldn't stand a chance if anyone were to press me on my foundations (luckily, the AP Calc exam didn't). It didn't help that my teacher knew very little calculus himself and let theory fall by the wayside in favor of computation. I hope that current AP Calculus students learn from my mistake and take things like the Mean Value Theorem and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus seriously -- this book proves these theorems carefully, but it's all too easy to skip the proofs and jump to the examples.I was not alone in finding this book difficult to read as a high school student -- my classmates then and my students now have expressed similar opinions. However, this text is much more informal and accessible than any mathematics text I used in college.

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