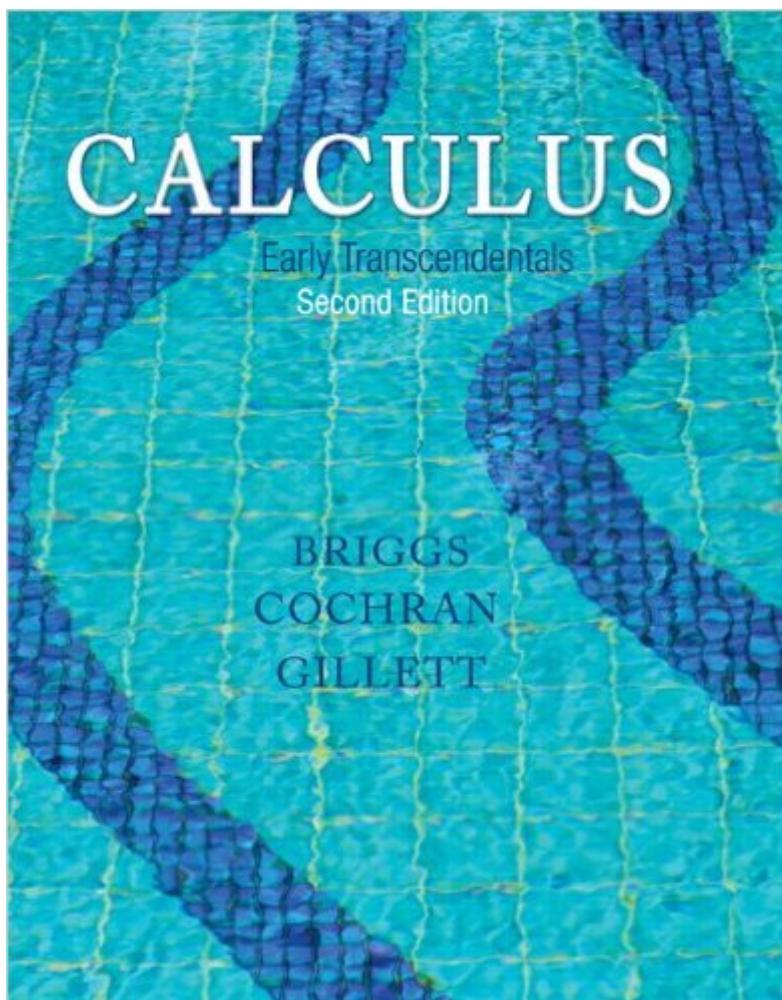


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Calculus: Early Transcendentals (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

This much anticipated second edition of the most successful new calculus text published in the last two decades retains the best of the first edition while introducing important advances and refinements. Authors Briggs, Cochran, and Gillett build from a foundation of meticulously crafted exercise sets, then draw students into the narrative through writing that reflects the voice of the instructor, examples that are stepped out and thoughtfully annotated, and figures that are designed to teach rather than simply supplement the narrative. The authors appeal to students' geometric intuition to introduce fundamental concepts, laying a foundation for the development that follows.

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Customer Reviews

After working with this book for an entire year, I can say that it has grown on me. When I previously reviewed Briggs and Cochran's Calculus, I called it the worst mathematics text I had ever read. That is still the case, however I have learned a great deal from it and I should address the real issues I've had with it and those that have become background noise. First the bad; the organisation and

presentation of material is incredibly counter intuitive. These people could have done a world of good by hiring a talented editor with some experience in mathematics and page-layout skills. Instead, images are put in awkward places with unhelpful captions. The presentation of each section begins with theory and then examples, however the examples tend to only peripherally address issues you encounter with the problems. A smaller issue, but one that certainly prevents it from being 4 stars, is how concepts are addressed. The theory sections tend to be truncated and geared toward providing a rigorous proof, but then often fall short of doing that. As an engineering student, I don't care one whit about the proofs. They're interesting, but I need to learn applications. A clearly worded explanation of how and why the theory works would have done wonders for me. It could be argued that this is an issue of the chosen direction for the book, and that's fine. In either case, I think a mathematics major would find it lacking in rigour and an engineering student finds it lacking in application. The problem sets: if you don't have algebra, trig, and geometry down solid then you will be crushed. This book pulls no punches when it comes to demanding a basic understanding of all previous areas in order to pursue calculus.

Okay first a quick note about the "loose leaf binding": If you're going to buy any book that you are likely to keep as a reference just bite the bullet and buy the bound hard or soft cover. The same axiom applies if the book you're using is going to run through 2 or 3 classes (Calc I,II,III or Chem I,II,III for example) just go ahead and grab a bound book....its worth the money for ease of use and integrity of a real binding. The loose leaf versions are a bigger pain than they are worth in money saved. Enough digression.....Regarding the book: Very difficult to read. As in damn nigh impossible. I'm retired military and used to reading technical documentation, and I realize this thing isn't supposed to be a work of literature. That said, basic teaching logic says that if you're going to try to introduce some of the more advanced concepts in mathematics, it would be wise to make some effort to make your text and the examples therein marginally readable. In this book, the student will have great difficulties with the nearly incomprehensible text long before they come to the point of actually being able to try to grasp a concept the book is trying to relate. Poor and scant examples. Examples within the text are minimal at best and often combine several steps in any given process into one. More and broader examples would be helpful, as would being consistent in showing most of the steps in a problem solution.

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