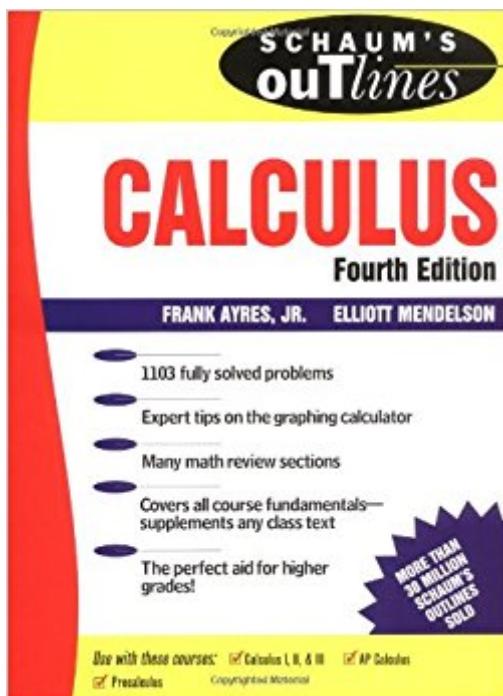


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Schaum's Outline Of Calculus (Fourth Edition)



Synopsis

Students can gain a thorough understanding of differential and integral calculus with this powerful study tool. They'll also find the related analytic geometry much easier. The clear review of algebra and geometry in this edition will make calculus easier for students who wish to strengthen their knowledge in these areas. Updated to meet the emphasis in current courses, this new edition of a popular guide--more than 104,000 copies were bought of the prior edition--includes problems and examples using graphing calculators.

Book Information

Paperback: 578 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill; 4 edition (June 28, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0070419736

ISBN-13: 978-0070419735

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 1 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #572,200 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Geometry & Topology > Analytic Geometry #326 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Mathematics > Geometry #443 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Mathematical Analysis

Customer Reviews

I found this book to be a very good supplement to anyone taking a calculus course. The main highlights (and some, but few) lowlights are as follows:

The Good:

1. LOTS and LOTS of topics covered ranging from limit concepts to l'Hopital's rule to integral tests to multiple integrals, this book covers A LOT (and even a brief intro to differential equations.)
2. Enough practice problems to ensure that the reader will comprehend the material (as is the case with most Schaum Outline books).
3. Lots of graphs for visual learners.
4. A fraction of the price of most calculus books.

The Bad:

1. The only bad thing I could possibly think of in this book is that it explains vector concepts and differentiation and integration of vector functions and gradient, divergence, and curl, but leaves out Green's and Stokes' theorems (must be covered in the vector analysis Schaum book). For more detail, check out the list of chapter topics on the back cover of the book (it's a pretty thick paragraph)

I've worked with several versions of the Schaum's Calculus over the years. This work has excellent coverage of derivatives, integrals, curvilinear motion, polar coordinates, indeterminate forms, indefinite integrals, centroids, arc length, tests for divergence/convergence, partial derivatives, volumes, triple integrals and a host of exotic areas. There are many multi-dimensional diagrams to aid in your understanding of this fairly complex subject. I did well in Intermediate Calculus garnering an "A". In addition, the Fundamentals of Engineering Licensure Exam covered quite a bit of basic and intermediate calculus. This is an excellent supplementary work to complement the course textbook and class notes.

This outline will work best for those looking for a concise supplement to their course text. The strength of this outline is in the solved problems. The weakness is in the explanation of concepts. As advertised, the book contains over 1100 fully worked problems. These problems are indeed fully worked and looking over them can be of tremendous value if you are struggling with solving particular problems in your class. If you are having a tough time with the concepts rather than the problems of calculus I would not recommend this book. The explanations are kept to a bare minimum and tough topics like delta-epsilon proofs and Riemann Integrals are not explained in detail. For instance, this book will not try to justify why you can set delta equal to epsilon to complete your limit proof, it just tells you to do it (which is exactly what you need to do to solve the problem). In other words, this book will help you solve the problems you need to solve in order to pass your exams, but it will not necessarily help you understand why those solutions work. So please do not buy this thinking it will have fuller conceptual explanations. Its strength is in its fully solved problems.

A good overview of calculus, though--admittedly--I am using it to review the subject rather than learn it for the first time. Very practical, and offers enough examples to get the hang of it in most cases. However, the egregious number of serious errors in the book (in a 4th edition?!) can often be frustrating if not misleading. Some errors are misstatements of theorems or errors in the worked problems! Others include mislabeled graphs, incorrect PROBLEMS (yes!), incorrect answers etc. Believe, me, I've spent hours checking my work, assuming I had made the mistake (but have verified using Mathematica, graphing calculators etc.) For someone working nearly every problem, this leads to a lot of confusion and a huge waste of time. I estimate that I have found 20-30 major errors already, and I've only finished the chapters covering calculus of a single variable. :(If they had errata published, it might be a little better, but haven't been able to find any. Unfortunately, haven't

tried other review texts...probably better just to get a real calculus book. I've forgotten the one I used in high school and subsequently sold. :(

My instructor had a nervous breakdown about 1 month into an integral calculus class. He spent the rest of the semester discussing his personal problems during class, instead of teaching. He stopped giving tests and cancelled his office hours. We had a midterm, which I failed (with a 28/100), along with the rest of the class. My entire grade hinged on the final exam. I bought this book and spent the last half of the year using this book to teach me integral calculus. Two weeks before the final, the instructor told the class that he was throwing out the midterm, and that our grade for the class would be based solely on our performance on the final exam. I got a 96/100 on the final, and an "A" for the course. This book saved me. (This sounds ridiculous, I know...but it is absolutely true.)

A good, fast review of your first two college semesters of calculus. A lot of material covered, 59 chapters, 575 pages but take note, it isn't called an outline for nothing. The worst problem is the problem that mars many technical efforts such as this - errors. Errors are abundant, especially in the figures containing graphics right where you don't need them most. If you are looking for a review like I was, it will work, but don't take this route your first time through.

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