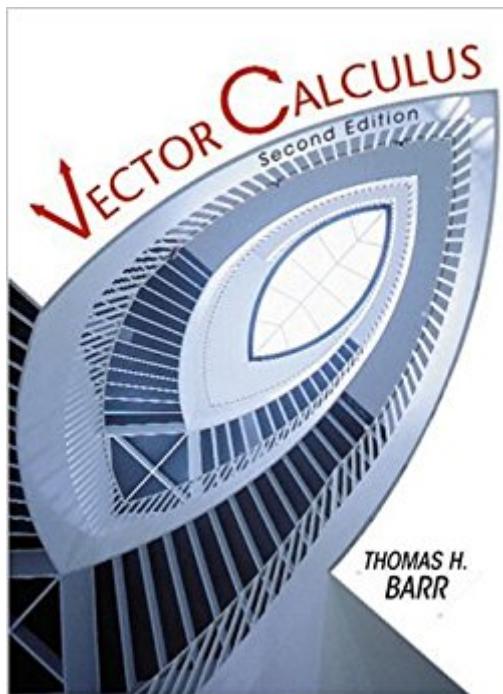


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Vector Calculus (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

This brief book presents an accessible treatment of multivariable calculus with an early emphasis on linear algebra as a tool. Its organization draws strong analogies with the basic ideas of elementary calculus (derivative, integral, and fundamental theorem). Traditional in approach, it is written with an assumption that the student reader may have computing facilities for two- and three-dimensional graphics, and for doing symbolic algebra. Chapter topics include coordinate and vector geometry, differentiation, applications of differentiation, integration, and fundamental theorems. For those with knowledge of introductory calculus in a wide range of disciplines including but not limited to mathematics, engineering, physics, chemistry, and economics.

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Customer Reviews

This book presents an accessible treatment of multivariable calculus with an early emphasis on linear algebra as a tool. The organization of the text draws strong analogies with the basic ideas of elementary calculus (derivative, integral, and fundamental theorem). Traditional in its approach, it is written with an assumption that the reader may have computing facilities for two- and three-dimensional graphics and for doing symbolic algebra. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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calculus (derivative, integral, and fundamental theorem). Traditional in approach, it is written with an assumption that the student reader may have computing facilities for two- and three-dimensional graphics, and for doing symbolic algebra. Chapter topics include coordinate and vector geometry, differentiation, applications of differentiation, integration, and fundamental theorems. For those with knowledge of introductory calculus in a wide range of disciplines including but not limited to mathematics, engineering, physics, chemistry, and economics.

Barr's Vector Calculus is an excellent book, but, as many reviewers observe, it is not for self-study, and was never intended to be. This is a systematic problem with reviewing any textbook that is to be used in a course. I entreat students to not take out your revenge on an unsuccessful course on the inoffensive textbook; the reasons for your particular problems may not lie with any one component of your course. I'm planning lessons for my Fall class out of this book, and it most certainly expects (A) the instructor to be comfortable with this particular approach, (B) it expects the students to actually attend classes, do the homework, and get help as needed, (C) it expects the instructor to leave out chapters and sections that might not be relevant to the objectives of the course--after all, there are lots of variations on Calc 3 out there, in contrast to Calc 1 and Calc 2-- and it expects that the student has paid attention to what aspects of any section or chapter is being omitted, and why. Course texts should actually be reviewed with the course, and most Calc 3 texts have to be supplemented in class by additional material, because students arriving in Calc 3 often vary wildly in their level of readiness for a particular approach. By the end of the year, I expect my own students to be just as mad at the text (and at me) as some of the reviewers here are, but I shouldn't expect the text to take the brunt of the blame for it! I do have a complaint: the text is priced too high for one that is printed on demand, and Dr Barr should consider jazzing up the illustrations, since new technology (some of which he uses in the text) make it possible to create much more illuminating diagrams than one finds in the book. Arch

Barr's "Vector Calculus" is a muddled treatment of a fascinating topic. I had a great teacher, which was lucky for me, because I could not have taught myself vector calculus from this textbook in any reasonable amount of time. The reason is simple; Barr just isn't a very good writer. He doesn't know how to break things down into their essential components, and does not seem to understand how to use his physical examples to motivate the subject. Some of his presentation has a "backwards" feel to it and I often found myself not understanding a certain paragraph until I had finished another paragraph a page later (why not put that paragraph first!). This book was written to be taught by a

good professor, someone who can fill in all of the missing pieces in class and provide the depth needed for the sometimes overly terse presentation. If you happen to get a good teacher learning from the plan of this book can be quite rewarding. Barr implements rudimentary linear algebra and some introductory topological concepts to deepen the subject matter. Unlike many other textbooks, he introduces the notion of "n"-space and defines the vector operations and differentiation and integration in that space. He also introduces vector valued functions and vector fields (the exciting stuff!) very early so that the student gets very familiar with them by the end of the semester. Yet, whenever I found myself in need of explanation outside of class I would look to Varberg's treatment as found in "Calculus". Varberg's explanations are much more structured and thorough, and he is much more adept at appealing to the student's intuition. For self-study, Varberg's treatment is hard to beat. Overall, though, Barr does an admirable job, but he may have been a little too ambitious. In the hands of an excellent professor, though, "Vector Calculus" can be coaxed into displaying its unique, rich treatment of this fascinating topic. 3.5 stars.

The book was in awful condition when I received it. The last 20 pages (Answers to Selected Problems) fell out on the first day.

Nice compact size, but the book in general is not that great. Provides good examples but doesn't really explain what is going on in the examples.

Great value.

Everything met my expectations

I agree with the other reviewers, this book is useless. It doesn't even illustrate basic ideas effectively. I totally relied on my notes in order to pass my class.

Description was spot on. Loose pages and worn cover. Got it cheaper than other sites and sources and works the same.

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