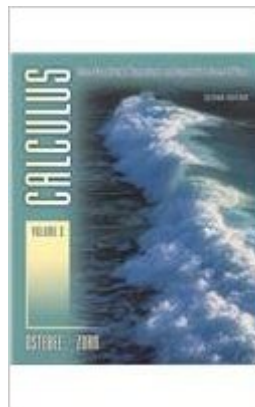




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Calculus : From Graphical, Numerical, And Symbolic Points Of View, Volume 2



Synopsis

Ostebee and Zorn provide concrete strategies that help students understand and master concepts in calculus. This user-friendly text continues to help students interact with the main calculus objects (functions, derivatives, integrals, etc.) not only symbolically but also, where appropriate, graphically and numerically. Ostebee/Zorn strikes an appropriate balance among these points of view, without overemphasizing any of them. New exercises, examples, and much more have added tremendously to this great book.

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Customer Reviews

Ostebee and Zorn provide concrete strategies that help students understand and master concepts in calculus. This user-friendly text continues to help students interact with the main calculus objects (functions, derivatives, integrals, etc.) not only symbolically but also, where appropriate, graphically and numerically. Ostebee/Zorn strikes an appropriate balance among these points of view, without overemphasizing any of them. New exercises, examples, and much more have added tremendously to this great book.

It was a tad bit dirty, but no rips, and still cheaper then barns and nobles. I would buy it again.

I can't rate this book because what I got delivered was volume 2, when I needed volume 1 and the description above at the time of my order did not state this. It only listed an edition(2nd), not the

volume. So, I'm out shipping \$\$ as I have to return it. Just want to make people aware of this. Cheers.

We used the preliminary version of this text, when it was apparently still being finalized, for 3 quarters of Calculus when I took it at Portland State University. I believe the school was paid money to have the students use the first edition of the book. The good thing about it was that it was a very cheap paperback (\$20 or less...great price.) The book was not at all liked by anyone. I remember, I went from an 'A' in the first course to a 'C' in the third course...and actually, I'd say that was mostly because of the text and not because the material got more difficult. The authors do not explain things in depth. As I remember, the intro to the books (Vols 1 and 2) stated that the secondary education math community had largely agreed that a shift towards a "leaner, more conceptual approach" was needed in college-level math courses. Instead of giving "drill" exercises or spending a lot of textbook space explaining concepts, the student hence becomes more responsible for their own learning. And I think that's what Ost and Zorn aim for. They give you the framework, and then they throw you into the deep end. Now, that's not to say that the content of the book isn't good. Some topics, I think they do explain quite well, although there are many that they don't cover in depth (Solids of Revolution is one topic, as I recall, that they glossed over very quickly in Volume 2, and in Volume 1, they use something called The Racetrack Principle, involving dogs on a racetrack, in their teaching of the Limit Definition of Derivative.) Their margin notes are also usually good and occasionally entertaining and the end-of-section problems are alright - some are extremely difficult though. All of this having been said, it doesn't seem like their textbook caught on too well, and it appears the last version was published in 2001. Maybe this is just as well. As for myself, I will say that I did learn Calculus sufficiently, well enough to graduate with a degree in Chemistry, and well enough to take Linear Algebra (400-level course). I do remember struggling a lot in Multivariable Calculus (Ost/Zorn's texts are just single variable) because my foundation was shaky. Anyhow, who knows if anyone uses Ost/Zorn's books anymore...I'd say they COULD be good, but only for a particular kind of student who is willing to go the extra mile on their own and fill in the gaps using their own resources (with other textbooks, the internet, etc.) Oh, as an aside, Ost/Zorn's constant references to Maple were annoying, especially because we did not use Maple in those undergrad courses at all. We used a software called Derive.

This book was inflicted upon me as an undergrad student at St. Olaf. Thus far, I had mastered all previous math-related classes - Algebra, Trig, Analytic Geometry, Physics, Statistics...always

getting A's in high school and college. (I was pre-med bio major). Suffice to say, I'm not an idiot. I graduated with a 3.6 in my undergrad and 3.9 in my doctorate. With that said, I could not make head or tail of what on earth they were trying to get us to do in this text! From my understanding, they were trying to teach us not the function of Calculus, but how to reason your way through it?!? However, this is not appropriate for a beginner. I met with the prof individually...I enlisted the help of other students in Advanced Calc II to help me understand the assignments. Guess what? The Advanced Calc II students had no idea how to help me. Does that tell you anything? I ended up dropping the class because I thought I was going to get a B. I re-took it and got a B. I still don't understand calculus. And it has disheartened me to the whole subject. If you want to say "goodbye" to math, I highly recommend using this text for Calculus I.

This is the third calculus book I've had, and the only one I haven't understood. In the others I could always follow their examples and relate them to the homework questions. In this book the example problems have nothing to do with the homework questions. I imagine if one had a good calculus teacher this would be less of a problem. Basically this book taught me nothing more than to hate calculus.

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