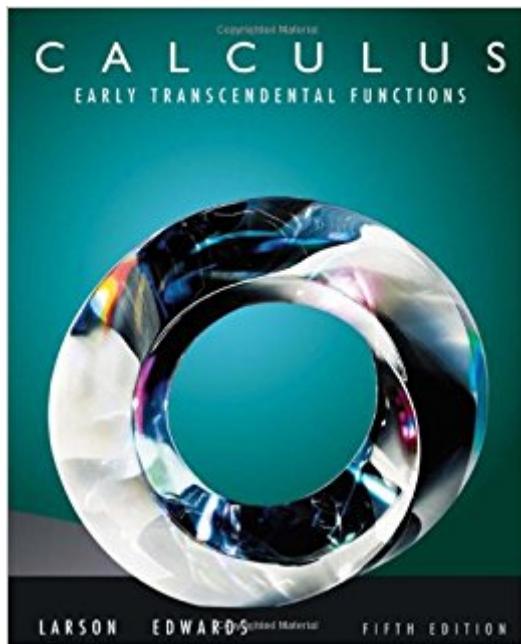


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Calculus: Early Transcendental Functions (Available Titles CourseMate)



Synopsis

Designed for the three-semester engineering calculus course, CALCULUS: EARLY TRANSCENDENTAL FUNCTIONS, 5/e, continues to offer instructors and students innovative teaching and learning resources. The Larson team always has two main objectives for text revisions: to develop precise, readable materials for students that clearly define and demonstrate concepts and rules of calculus; and to design comprehensive teaching resources for instructors that employ proven pedagogical techniques and save time. The Larson/Edwards Calculus program offers a solution to address the needs of any calculus course and any level of calculus student. Every edition from the first to the fourth of CALCULUS: EARLY TRANSCENDENTAL FUNCTIONS, 5/e has made the mastery of traditional calculus skills a priority, while embracing the best features of new technology and, when appropriate, calculus reform ideas.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book could provide a solid formal foundation when paired with an excellent instructor who will lecture in a way that brings the big picture together in the classroom. However, there is little here beyond highly formal presentations of theorems, proofs, and definitions with little-to-no discussion of the intuition behind the numbers. Worked examples generally assume total mastery of algebra and trigonometric identities. This is also true of the student solutions manual, where one would hope to find some of the missing links explained. Most students hitting Calculus I are fresh out of

Precalculus from the prior semester or two, and would benefit from seeing the algebra and trig steps highlighted in worked examples and the student solutions manual. If your instructor is a "read from the book" type, you might like to find a supplemental textbook for reference during your study time. You'll also want to keep your old precalculus textbook handy, because the algebra & trig appendix and inside-cover quick reference guides in this book are sparse. The text shows a formal description of lots of individual trees, but leaves it to the student to unify them into a picture of the forest. The website calcchat.com is touted as a benefit to students; however, in the first month of my studies, I have visited the site several times only to find no tutors present even when the indicator claims they are there, and zero reply to questions submitted to email. Students, take note: the contents of the student solutions manual are available online at calcchat.com free of charge. At least there, you will definitely get your money's worth. In summary, if you are the kind of student who can't stand it when professors show all the steps in a problem, then you might just love this textbook.

There's a real elegance in math that I think, ironically, isn't captured "in the trenches" of solving problems. The elegance is in abstracting mathematical ideas and understanding them from multiple angles. The power of mathematics is in rigorous proof, but it's really all procedural knowledge without the complete picture that this approach paints, which instills abstract, associative thinking patterns that develop what brains do best. This book is very attractive and well-presented. The graphs are clear, even 3D shapes and surfaces, and they never hesitate to throw in some diagrams to help explain or justify a claim graphically. It sounds like an insignificant distinction, but some of the other calc books are a mess and are harder to learn from, while this one is a pleasure just to read through. I mean really, you will be wowed by how well this book is organized and presented, and you can grasp concepts at a glance rather than muddling through equations. Each section has a long opener that introduces concepts very generally so you can keep in mind what you're trying to do as you learn them specifically. This book takes a very wordy, prose approach to teaching concepts. Stewart and other books tend you define a concept just by the math behind it: the variables, the operations, and the equations. Apparently that's a very complete, satisfying definition for mathematicians, but for the engineers that this book is designed for, it's easier to learn by constructing equations from ideas than by deconstructing equations to figure out what the heck they're really doing.

I am the type of person that needs to see complex topics explained in writing in order to understand them. I purchased this book for my Calc 1 class because the assigned book for the class offered

very little in the way of written explanations. I was quite pleased to find that the book was offered in Kindle format because it allowed me to start reading it immediately. After just one weekend, my understanding improved tremendously. However, I noticed things like the small text boxes that explained theorems, proofs, or really anything that wasn't exclusively text was too small to read. I adjusted the settings on my Kindle and my PC but to no avail. The formatting issues really became a problem when I got to the exercises at the end of each section. The font was so small that I could not see the problems to solve them. Calculus is definitely a subject that requires a lot of practice. I could not check my comprehension without being able to solve the problems at the end of each section. I called Kindle support. They were able to fix the exercises at the end of the sections fairly quickly, however, it was still nearly impossible to read the theorems. After waiting for over a week, I asked for a refund so that I could purchase the hardcover version of the book. I cannot stress enough how helpful the content of the book is. I improved by two whole letter grades after I started using this book. I would highly recommend the book itself but I would warn against getting the Kindle version, at least until they work all the kinks out.

I love this calculus book. I transferred colleges once and ended up using Larson's at one and Stewart's at the other. In addition, I had to TA a course with Stewart's. I have to say that I think Larson's is more geared to the Engineers and Science than Stewart's. However, I still think Larson's book works so much better on all majors at introducing Calculus to students that are new to college and have little background in theory. This is not a theory book. However, if the student is in the math field he will have plenty of time in his analysis series to learn all the theory. The one part that this book and Stewart's book lack is where theory is needed more, Vector Calculus. For this part, I always recommend (and am trying to get the department to make standard) is Vector Calculus by Marsden.

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