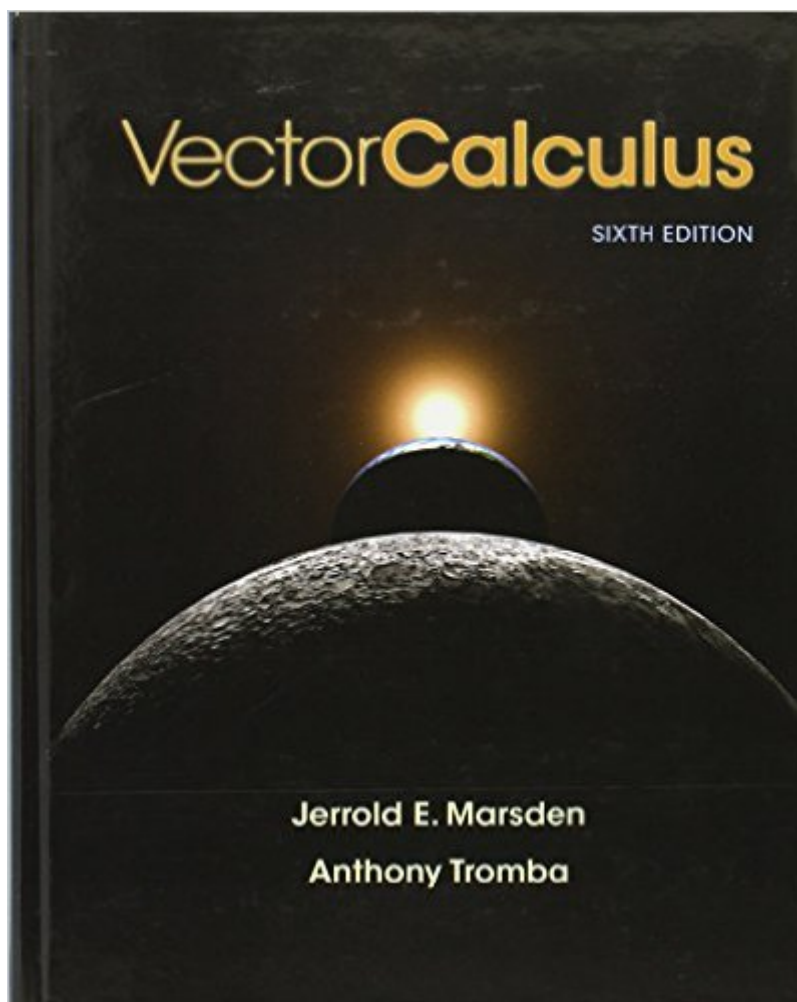


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Vector Calculus



Synopsis

This textbook by respected authors helps students foster computational skills and intuitive understanding with a careful balance of theory, applications, historical development and optional materials.

Book Information

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You are likely forced to use this book by your university, and I have found it much easier to learn from another book/source, and do the problems in this book. I have no idea why this is the best selling Calc 3 book. It's probably because it is the most complicated textbook with the most incomprehensible explanations. Only prestigious schools make you learn that way. In addition, it is identical to the 5th edition. 10 years later, and they release a copy. But guess what, they mixed up the problems and added/subtracted a few. That means you can't use solution manuals online to check your work. The solution manual they try to scam you with doesn't even do odd problems. Just a few problems from each section. The publishers have succeeded in making profits and making it even harder to learn from. The book is way heavier than it needs to be. 40% of the text is blank space due to enormous margins and generous spacing. In addition, the text is fluffed up with random 3 page biographies on mathematicians. Ironically the textbook opens with the quote "The fools who write the textbooks of advanced mathematics seldom take the trouble to explain how easy the calculations are." So apparently they are calling themselves fools. Finally, the publishers and authors do not stand behind their product. They are not open to criticism and will not respond to

you.

This book is not designed for self-learners. It is designed for students who have a very strong Calculus knowledge, bordering on knowing the material already. This is a difficult book to learn from. In many explanations and examples important steps are skipped. So for someone who is trying to learn the process, the explanations are often insufficient. The book could use simple language and mathematical notations. But it is quite technical and not a good book for calculus III course. I had to often supplement this book with MIT OCW lectures to understand the text.

I hate this book so much. The text is very jumbled and technical. It's extremely hard to learn from this book without prior knowledge of calculus and linear algebra. Also the notations used by this book are different from what my professor uses, which makes it even more confusing. The example problems shown in this book do not help me learn how to do calculus at all. I have to look it up online and figure it out from there. I use the practice problems in the book, as my professor takes programs from the book for the homework.

So you know what really grinds my gears? When you're studying for finals and the answer key for an \$170+ book is incorrect. Awesome job. Granted, I've spent more for a textbook before, but I think it's ridiculous that you can't even get the answer key correct and charge THIS MUCH. I've found numerous mistakes in this book, and for that reason, I give you one measly star. Take that, corporation that can't hire decent grad students to produce their answer key. Corporation that will never read this, but at least I feel better now.

You know a textbook is terrible when both your professor and TA admit that they hate using the book. I didn't think it was too awful, but then again, I hardly ever used this textbook. It gets harder to understand what the authors are trying to say later on in the book since they tend to stick to complicated mathematical jargon. The beginning reviews vectors for the readers. Then the book kind of talks a little bit about matrices, but not really. Later when the book talks about limits, differentiation, and integration, the definitions and theorems become almost impossible to interpret without getting a concept wrong. Luckily, my class wasn't as complicated as the book was. I will admit though I spent more time learning through online videos and past textbooks than using this book. But, this textbook has nice problems to do so I give it 3 stars.

Odds are you're being forced to buy this book. In that case I am truly sorry, be prepared to suffer. I did well in Honors Multivariable, but this book is a disaster. If you are considering forcing SOMEONE ELSE (your students) to buy this book, DON'T. The textbook is awful: boring and poorly written, does a bad job of explaining ideas and is difficult to follow. Stewart's Multivariable is a much better choice.

Easily the worst textbook I have ever used. I looked at it a little bit then decided that it was better as a paper weight in my dorm. Find a PDF of this for the problems if it is required, then use a different textbook. I don't understand why so many universities use this...

Was required to purchase this book for my Calculus 23A course (Multivariable Calculus). It's not that it doesn't contain solid practice problems, but the information is barely decipherable, and most explanations skip key steps and are otherwise not well illustrated. My one quarter course didn't go past the third chapter, so I can't comment on the rest of the book, but you can not teach yourself with this. If you have trouble with a concept, Google is going to be your friend. Also, they try to milk you for the \$40 study guide, but I would advise against it, because most questions you have can be solved by section/office hours/other students. Of course, students reading this have no choice, because they're required to buy this book, but I would advise any professors reading this to change their curriculum to a better written textbook.

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