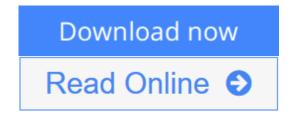


Calculus Gems (Spectrum)

By George F. Simmons



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A classic book is back in print! It can be used as a supplement in a Calculus course, or a History of Mathematics course. The first half of Calculus Gems entitles, Brief Lives is a biographical history of mathematics from the earliest times to the late nineteenth century. The author shows that Science and mathematics in particular is something that people do, and not merely a mass of observed data and abstract theory. He demonstrates the profound connections that join mathematics to the history of philosophy and also to the broader intellectual and social history of Western civilization. The second half of the book contains nuggets that Simmons has collected from number theory, geometry, science, etc., which he has used in his mathematics classes. G.H. Hardy once said, A mathematician, like a painter or poet, is a maker of patterns. If his patterns are more permanent than theirs, it is because they are made with ideas. This part of the book contains a wide variety of these patterns, arranged in an order roughly corresponding to the order of the ideas in most calculus courses. Some of the sections even have a few problems. Professor Simmons tells us in the Preface of Calculus Gems: I hold the naÃ-ve but logically impeccable view that there are only two kinds of students in our colleges and universities, those who are attracted to mathematics; and those who are not yet attracted, but might be. My intended audience embraces both types. The overall aim of the book is to answer the question, What is mathematics for? and with its inevitable answer, To delight the mind and help us understand the world.



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Calculus Gems (Spectrum) By George F. Simmons Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #1430190 in Books

• Brand: Brand: Mathematical Association of America

Published on: 2007-01-12Released on: 2007-01-12Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 8.98" h x .98" w x 5.98" l, 1.40 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 376 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

This is a wonderful interdisciplinary source that makes connections among mathematics, humanities, social science, science, and philosophy. Appropriate for upper-division or graduate students or as as resource for secondary or or higher education mathematics or science teachers. --Jeanne Ramirez Mather, The Mathematics Teacher

About the Author

George Simmons has the usual academic degrees (CalTech, Chicago, Yale), and taught at several colleges and universities before joining the faculty of Colorado College in 1962, where he is (was) Professor of Mathematics. He is also the author of Introduction to Topology and Modern Analysis (McGraw-Hill, 1963), Differential Equations with Applications and Historical Notes (McGraw-Hill, 1972, 2nd edition 1991), Precalculus Mathematics Mathematics in a Nutshell (Janson Publications, 1981); Wipf & Stock, Eugene, Orego at present), Calculus with Analytic Geometry (McGraw-Hill, 1985, 2nd edition 1996), and with Steven Kranta) Differential Equations: Theory, Technique, Practice (McGraw-Hill 2006). When not working or talking or eating or drinking or cooking, Professor Simmons is likely to be traveling (Western and Southern Europe, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Russia, China, Southeast Asia), playing pocket billiards (pool), or reading (literature, history, biography and autobiography, science, and enough thrillers to achieve enjoyment without guilt).

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