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# Single Variable Calculus: Concepts And Contexts



## Synopsis

Stewart's *CALCULUS: CONCEPTS AND CONTEXTS, FOURTH EDITION* offers a streamlined approach to teaching calculus, focusing on major concepts and supporting those with precise definitions, patient explanations, and carefully graded problems. *CALCULUS: CONCEPTS AND CONTEXTS* is highly regarded because this text offers a balance of theory and conceptual work to satisfy more progressive programs as well as those who are more comfortable teaching in a more traditional fashion. Each title is just one component in a comprehensive calculus course program that carefully integrates and coordinates print, media, and technology products for successful teaching and learning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The late James Stewart received his M.S. from Stanford University and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. He did research at the University of London and was influenced by the famous mathematician George Polya at Stanford University. Stewart was most recently Professor of Mathematics at McMaster University, and his research field was harmonic analysis. Stewart was the author of a bestselling calculus textbook series published by Cengage, including *CALCULUS*, *CALCULUS: EARLY TRANSCENDENTALS*, and *CALCULUS: CONCEPTS AND CONTEXTS*, as well as a series of precalculus texts.

The title shown with this listing is in error. The correct title is that visible on the book's picture,

"Single Variable Calculus with Vector Functions". The title does not include "for AP\* Calculus" as shown in the item listing. That's appropriate, as this book is not specifically focused on AP Calculus. In fact, it contains considerable material that is not needed or relevant for the AP exam, e.g., proofs of theorems such as Fermat's Theorem on page 282, etc. If you're seeking a text targeted to AP Calculus, it's probably best to look elsewhere. Other than that caution, this is the typical Stewart Calculus text starting with a gentle introduction to functions and models. The primary difference between this edition and, for example, Stewart's Single Variable Calculus, 5th edition, 2004 is the addition of about 20 pages on vectors and curvilinear motion. Thus, if your goal is to use Stewart for self-study, you can save yourself some expense by purchasing an earlier edition and get essentially the same material, without the minor additions mentioned above. Stewart's calculus texts tend to get mixed reviews, some folks rate them highly and others find them awful. We all learn slightly differently. For engineering and science based problems, some may wish Stewart included dimensional analysis in his problem solving steps. For example, in the section on related rates, Chapter 3, he drops the dimensions involved, such as  $\text{cm}^3$  and  $\text{cm}^2$  and uses only numbers during problem solving. This makes the problems easier to write, but the lack of dimensions in solution steps means that dimensional analysis cannot be used to confirm that results are in the correct dimensions, i.e. as an additional check that there was not a mistake in the problem solution process. Most likely, your impression of this text will depend a good deal on your prior mathematics background and current needs. For many with strong pre-calculus skills or those with prior exposure to Calculus somewhere in their background, this text may be quite attractive. Others may find that they need more worked examples, or alternative explanations. For those needing or wanting additional examples, either of two relatively inexpensive paperbacks may do the job: An AP oriented work, David Kahn's "Cracking the AP Calculus AB & BC Exams, 2009 Edition" while not comprehensive, can be highly recommended. Its explanations are concise and its solutions are fully worked out and well-explained. Another excellent source of solved examples is, "The Humongous Book of Calculus Problems" by Michael Kelly. Alternatively, the 500 page plus, "Student Solutions Manual" by Anderson, Cole, and Drucker (ISBN 0-534-39333-0) for the 5th edition of Stewart's 'Calculus Early Transcendentals Single Variable', appears to coincide nicely with the odd number problems in this text - except of the sections on vectors and curvilinear motion - and it provides fully worked solutions. In conclusion, this is not an AP Calculus oriented text, but a standard single variable text with some relatively minor additions covering vectors and curvilinear motion. If this is your class text, you may want to consider supplementing it with one of the books mentioned above. As of the date of this review, there is not a "Look inside this book" option available. Thus, the

chapter titles from the table of contents may prove helpful: 1. Functions and Models 2. Limits and Derivatives 3. Differentiation Rules 4. Applications of Differentiation 5. Integrals 6. Applications of Integration 7. Techniques of Integration 8. Further Applications of Integration 9. Differential Equations 10. Curves in Parametric, Vector, and Polar Coordinates 11. Infinite Sequences and Series Appendixes Index

Review of renting: Renting Volume 1 was cheaper than the full book, and I didn't have to carry around extra weight. If you're only taking Calculus 1, check the syllabus since you may only get up to Chapters 5 or 6, which means this first volume is perfect. Renting was a breeze. Got the book on time and in good condition. Mailed it back in the same packaging it came with. No muss or fuss and I got an email saying my book had been received. Review of the text: I got this book because it was required for my class (as I had to do the homework sets), but I'm not a fan of these Stewart books - I've used Stewart for Trigonometry (2 editions) and Calc 1. The explanations are convoluted and examples focus a lot on proofs and not enough on examples of problems you'll encounter in the homework sections. I had to check out some other textbooks and watch youtube videos to get better explanations. I suggest going to Slater where most of the problems in the book have been solved with explanations by other users.

I think that this was a nicely written textbook with good explanations, practice problems, and examples. I got an A in my Calculus II class, and I think that this book contributed to my high grade! I think that the treatment of Taylor and Maclaurin series, as well as series in general was nicely done and helpful. I mention that in particular because my professor focused on that the most. I'm very pleased overall! The condition of the book was also excellent, and mine was a rental. usually never disappoints me and this lived up to my expectations!

This book is not very useful. The examples are unclear and tend to skip lots of steps. I would not recommend this to anyone taking calculus for the first time.

I would like to preface with the fact that I'm reviewing this as a student with strong math skills -- this book mainly serves as a door stopper in my apartment unless I have to retrieve some assigned homework problems: this is all with due reason. Considering how widely assigned this text is, I can't seem to understand why that's so. I have a hard time generating enough moisture to cry due to how horrifically dry the writing and instructions are. I'm not expecting some poetic masterpiece since this

is a mathematics textbook, but the diction is extremely technical and wordy. I enjoy Calculus and briefly reading a chapter as simple as limits was a tedious chore -- even my professor agrees that this book is mediocre at best. Does it get the job done and teach you introductory calculus? Well, of course. Does it execute and display the material in an engaging, easily digestible manner? Absolutely not. This textbook only covers Calculus I and II: Bless the maker on you poor souls that have to purchase/rent the Multi-variable Calculus III version of this doozy here. Godspeed on any other students having to chisel through their basics with Stewart's Calculus Series.

really good size for motorcycle guys like me. :)

This was a required text for a class I took. I have definitely had to use worse textbooks in the past, though, so it could have been worse.

Not quite matching with the description given.

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