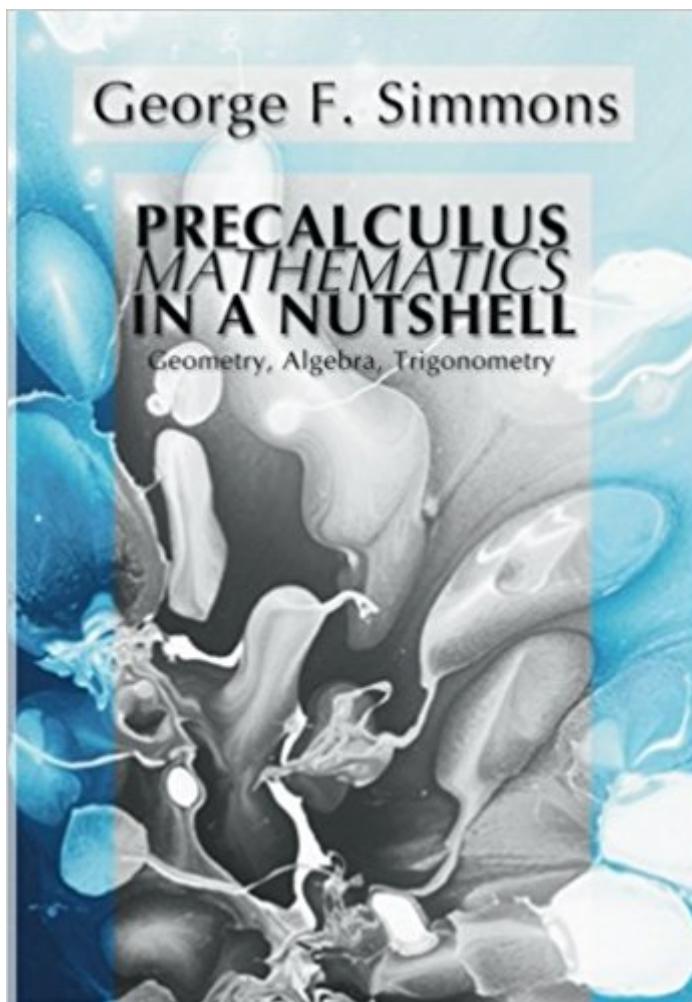


The book was found

Precalculus Mathematics In A Nutshell: Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry:



Synopsis

"Geometry is a very beautiful subject whose qualities of elegance, order, and certainty have exerted a powerful attraction on the human mind for many centuries . . . Algebra's importance lies in the student's future . . . as essential preparation for the serious study of science, engineering, economics, or for more advanced types of mathematics . . . The primary importance of trigonometry is not in its applications to surveying and navigation, or in making computations about triangles, but rather in the mathematical description of vibrations, rotations, and periodic phenomena of all kinds, including light, sound, alternating currents, and the orbits of the planets around the sun" In this brief, clearly written book, the essentials of geometry, algebra, and trigonometry are pulled together into three complementary and convenient small packages, providing an excellent preview and review for anyone who wishes to prepare to master calculus with a minimum of misunderstanding and wasted time and effort. Students and other readers will find here all they need to pull them through.

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Customer Reviews

I am a guy who learned to love mathematics in college, but believe it or not, I was kind of a clown in high school. It is in this way that my pre-calculus background sucked. I got really good grades in my calculus and differential equations classes on college, but the sad thing is that I had to learn pre-calculus in a brute force approach: when trying to understand some topic, if that topic required an important pre-calculus concept (e.g., something as simple as factorization during some techniques for integration) I had to learn that concept on-the-fly. You can imagine then how horribly dispersed were my ideas of pre-calculus. In an effort to correct this I bought Precalculus in a

Nutshell, and the results were spectacular. In just a week I was able to finish the book and work on 95% of the problems (there are many!). Simmons goes a long way in removing any useless additional information from his book while keeping the explanations fresh. I've seen huge pre-calculus textbooks that seriously don't teach as much and as well as Simmons does: they are verbose, dry and dull. In less than 120 pages this book covers Geometry, Algebra and Trigonometry. These three parts are independent of each other, so you can read them in any order you want. Even if Simmons aims for brevity, he always gives good examples (and solutions) to the topic being covered. Also, on each topic, he gives proofs for most formulas and concepts. And his proofs are so intuitive (but correct!) that when one understands one has to smile of the satisfaction. Of course, Simmons does not prove obvious things. For example, he himself argues that proving that one point is always in the middle of three points that lay in a line segment is painful to discuss, and says "...

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