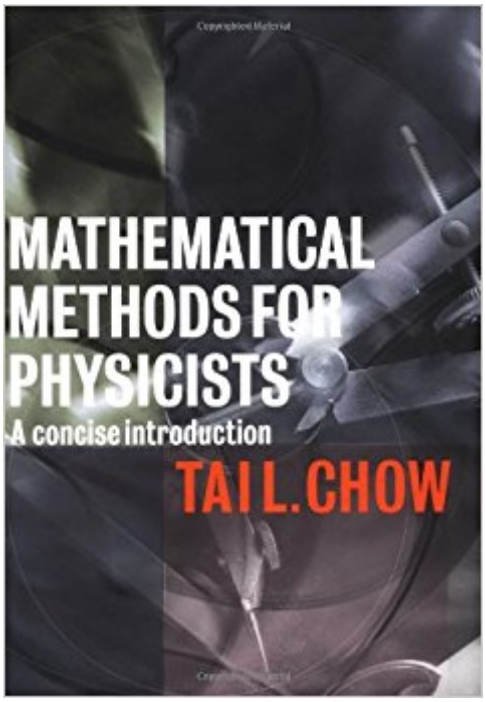
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Mathematical Methods For Physicists: A Concise Introduction



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Synopsis

This text is designed for an intermediate-level, two-semester undergraduate course in mathematical physics. It provides an accessible account of most of the current, important mathematical tools required in physics. The book bridges the gap between an introductory physics course and more advanced courses in classical mechanics, electricity and magnetism, quantum mechanics, and thermal and statistical physics. It contains a large number of worked examples to illustrate the mathematical techniques developed and to show their relevance to physics. The highly organized coverage allows instructors to teach the basics in one semester. The book could also be used in courses in engineering, astronomy, and mathematics.

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Customer Reviews

This text is designed for an intermediate-level, two-semester undergraduate course in mathematical physics. It provides an accessible account of most of the current, important mathematical tools required in physics these days. The book bridges the gap between an introductory physics course and more advanced courses in classical mechanics, electricity and magnetism, quantum mechanics, and thermal and statistical physics. The text contains a large number of worked example to illustrate the mathematical techniques developed and to show their relevance to physics.

Tai L. Chow is Professor of Physics at California State University, Stanislaus. He has written a successful text on Mathematical Methods with Cambridge University Press: Chow, Mathematical

Methods for Physicists: A Concise Introduction (Cambridge, ISBN 0521655447, 555 pp., Hardcover, $58.00 [Hardcover: $120.00], 7/2000) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

After completing the first six chapters of professor Chow's book, I feel he has been treated a little too harshly by earlier reviewers. It is true that there are many typos, but finding typos can build confidence especially if they are not too egregious. When I studied undergraduate math, many years ago, most of the techniques we needed were taught in the science classes themselves. Few books covered in a single place the mathematics needed for science and engineering. Most of the ones that did were at the graduate student level making then rather obscure for the neophyte scientist. From what I have read and browsing through the rest of the book it appears that Dr. Chow covers a good selection of modern mathematic at a level an undergraduate student can comprehend. I agree with the other reviewers that a thorough editing is needed for the next edition. However, this book is a good introduction to the graduate level books, which must eventually be read and understood by most scientists.

This book mixes the brevity of Schaum's Outlines with the incomprehensibility of The Tao of Pooh. The author copies, sometimes, directly from either Schaum's or Arfkin. There is nothing noteworthy in this book and your money is better spent buying the original books, i.e. Schaum's. I am supprised that Cambridge University Press would publish this and not fear the litigation from more respectable authors who Chow copied this from. If you wrote a Schaum's or any Math Methods book please check for plagairism, it is there. If you are a Prof. thinking of assigning this book, Don't. And if you are a student who is required to buy this book, use the original Schaum's Outlines!

This is not the one I would recommend. This book amuses you with lots of typos, such as ``head conduction'', instead of ``heat conduction'' and some weird mathematical notations, like 1 over vector r, in TeX notation, \frac{\vec}. (Some say it is better than Chow's _Classical Mechanics_. That book had three ``vertical'' dots over a varaible.) Not just that. I just finished solving an exercise set for a chapter on complex variables and some problems are identical to Murray R. Spiegel's _Complex Variables_. Not a word was different.

As a student in a math for physicist course who tried to learn the material for the first time, this book was totally worthless. Not only are the errors rampant but the text makes leaps between problem solving and solution, with no explanation. This book needs an editor (because it obviously didn't

have one this time) and an intellectual properties rights attorney.

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