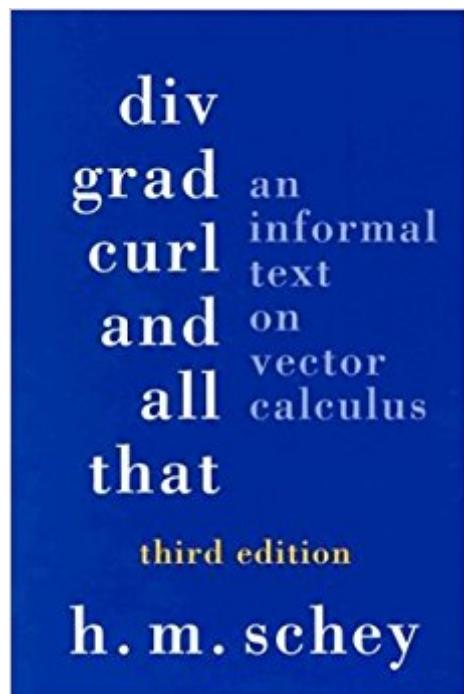


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DIV, Grad, Curl, And All That: An Informal Text On Vector Calculus



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

1997: by H. M. Schey- Informal text on vector calculus. Paperback cover is bright and shiny; crease along spine; binding is tight; text is clean; page edges are sharp; owner's name on inside.

I highly recommend to those who wish to self study or even teach themselves vector analysis for electrodynamics or fluid dynamics. There is very little that this book does not cover, for that, I suggest Moon and Spencer book on vectors. If you have never seen vectors before I suggest Concise Vector Analysis by Eliezer which is now a Dover reprint.

I first checked this book out of a library, and was so pleased I decided to buy it. I am enrolled in a graduate level fluid mechanics class after being out of school for a few years and I needed to brush up on my vector calculus. This book was great for that job. It explains the concepts of divergence, gradient, curl, directional derivatives, line integrals, surface integrals, Stoke's Theorem, and Divergence Theorem with good mathematical rigor and notation, yet also with the "words between the lines" that most math texts leave out. In other words, accompanying each equation you will find a sentence or even a paragraph describing what exactly took place between steps. Additionally, the

author makes a point to describe the concepts behind the jargon and equations. When you took vector calculus the first time (if you ever did), could you explain in words what a "curl" is, or a "divergence"? This book attempts to do so, and does so fairly well (as well as one could given that these concepts don't have the easiest translation into words). Furthermore, the author even has a sense of humor and made me laugh a few times. When was the last time you laughed out loud at a math book? Finally, this book also includes applications to physics such as electrostatics (the recurring thematic problem of the book is Gauss's Law), fluid dynamics, and work. Not only was it a great refresher, I wanted to own this clear and simple book as a reference.

This text provides a systematic introduction to vector calculus in a very readable, informal format. Key concepts like divergence, curl, gradient, line integrals, surface integrals, Divergence Theorem, and Stokes Theorem are introduced in the context of investigating solutions to electrostatics problems without requiring the reader to be especially familiar with physics. I particularly enjoyed the humor that is woven into the text. ("Thus, the anguish of remembering the form of curl \mathbf{F} in Cartesian coordinates can be replaced by the pain of remembering how to expand a three-by-three determinant.") I would highly recommend this concise book to students of physics, engineering, and mathematics. It is particularly suitable for self-instruction.

Interesting read but it goes a little fast through some of the more difficult concepts

This little book provides a very concise treatment of vector calculus with applications to various physical problems (e.g., E&M theory). The book is well written, very concise and provides lots of examples and problems. I would heartily endorse this book to anyone working with vector calculus. If you are diving into electrodynamics or fluid dynamics, etc., get this book.

Reads like the author is talking to you one-on-one - informative and approachable. Highly recommended as a vector calculus (and electrostatics) refresher.

I thought it would help me review material I had in class years ago. It did not. I don't know what this book is trying to cover?

A nice little book to help with vector calculus and physics

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