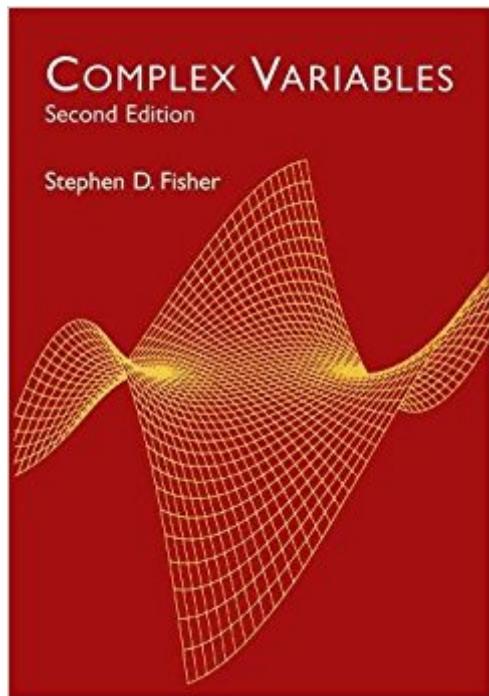


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Complex Variables: Second Edition (Dover Books On Mathematics)



Synopsis

The most important topics in the theory and application of complex variables receive a thorough, coherent treatment in this introductory text. Intended for undergraduates or graduate students in science, mathematics, and engineering, this volume features hundreds of solved examples, exercises, and applications designed to foster a complete understanding of complex variables as well as an appreciation of their mathematical beauty and elegance. Prerequisites are minimal; a three-semester course in calculus will suffice to prepare students for discussions of these topics: the complex plane, basic properties of analytic functions (including a rewritten and reorganized discussion of Cauchy's Theorem), analytic functions as mappings, analytic and harmonic functions in applications, and transform methods. Useful appendixes include tables of conformal mappings and Laplace transforms, as well as solutions to odd-numbered exercises. Students and teachers alike will find this volume, with its well-organized text and clear, concise proofs, an outstanding introduction to the intricacies of complex variables.

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Customer Reviews

The most important topics in the theory and application of complex variables receive a thorough, coherent treatment in this introductory text. Intended for undergraduates or graduate students in science, mathematics, and engineering, this volume features hundreds of solved examples, exercises, and applications designed to foster a complete understanding of complex variables as

well as an appreciation of their mathematical beauty and elegance. Prerequisites are minimal; a three-semester course in calculus will suffice to prepare students for discussions of these topics: the complex plane, basic properties of analytic functions (including a rewritten and reorganized discussion of Cauchy's Theorem), analytic functions as mappings, analytic and harmonic functions in applications, and transform methods. Useful appendixes include tables of conformal mappings and Laplace transforms, as well as solutions to odd-numbered exercises. Students and teachers alike will find this volume, with its well-organized text and clear, concise proofs, an outstanding introduction to the intricacies of complex variables. Unabridged Dover (1999) republication of the work published by Wadsworth & Brooks, Pacific Grove, California, 1990.

Let me start by saying the only reason I purchased this book was for my course in Intro to Complex Analysis. Although the price of the book is excellent and there is a lot of valuable information discussed in the book, it is completely useless for understanding the underlying concepts and proofs. Most proofs are, as they say, "left to the reader" and the ones that are included have large jumps in logical steps, expecting the reader to follow from his own intuition I suppose. The proofs make use of lemmas and corollaries that have not themselves been proven by the author which leaves the reader with huge holes in their comprehension of the subject. If you're looking for a book that provides a example with which to model each of the exercise questions from, an exercise in triviality, then this is your book. If you want to understand the underlying concepts in detail, look somewhere else. However, if you're buying this book for a class, the price is unbeatable.

I took a differential equations course in which a week or two of complex analysis was tacked on at the end, and we used the first two chapters of this book. Aside from the simplest topics, I found the text nearly impossible to learn anything from. The problems were good, but I had to pore over lecture and online notes to figure out how to begin to approach them, because the text and the examples therein were just not getting it done for me. And I'm ordinarily a strong math student - I'm not comfortable in classes geared towards math majors, but I'm at a school with an excellent mathematics department and have never struggled at all while taking the typical chemistry-major math courses. Reading the other reviews here, I have to say I'm surprised at the positivity. It may be that my difficulties were less the fault of the book and more the fault of me and/or the material and/or the course I was taking. But hey, I'll still chip in a data point on the negative side of the ledger. It can't hurt.

Just bought this book and Schaum's Outline of Complex Variables, 2ed (Schaum's Outline Series) for an undergraduate level complex variables class. Without the Schaum's, I'd have been lost in this class. The definitions it gives are all fine, and its statements of theorems work well. However, the examples are severely lacking and quite confusing. They skip massive steps, and don't explain their process. I've been using the Schaum's for all my homework in this book and it's saved my butt. I gave this 3 stars because it does what it needs to with definitions and statements of propositions and theorems that are vital to any complex analysis class, but it barely does that. If you buy this book I'd strongly recommend the Schaum's outline.

Great book for introductory Complex Variables course

This book might be useful for an ancient physicist, who is looking for a nice reference text for the basic equations for conformal mapping or gamma transforms. For a first course on the subject, however, the textbook is woefully inadequate, focusing needlessly on intensive (and poorly-explicated) derivations of concepts like Cauchy's Theorem, while simultaneously failing to adequately explain or characterize integral transforms, arguably a more important subject for most users of this book. Problems are tricky and generally uninstructive.

This is a very strange book - more like a reference book than a textbook that you can use to learn complex analysis for the first time. The problem with the book is that it offers very little in the way of explanation or motivation for any of the concepts it introduces. It mostly follows the format of: 1) definition, 2) motivation-less symbol pushing proof, 3) several computational examples. Not enlightening. If you're interested in the applications, this book will motivate none of the concepts, so you'll wonder why complex analysis matters at all. For example, there is a section about the Fourier transform - an extremely useful concept; however what the Fourier transform can be used for is relegated to a scanty paragraph at the very beginning of the chapter, and it even fails to mention how it can be used to decompose signals into its component frequencies!! If you're interested in the mathematics behind it, you'll probably be frustrated for the same reason - no motivation anywhere in the book. It's worth mentioning that almost everyone in my class did not like this book, even the instructor thought it was a terrible book! I think the positive reviews here may be from professors who already know the meaning behind the material, so the fact that this is just a reference book that does not really explain the significance of anything is lost on them.

This book does a very poor job of explaining both proofs and examples. Many steps are skipped or neglected leaving the reader confused until, after much thought, the step is understood (and it is many times a non-obvious step in logic). I would not recommend this book.

Book was in topnotch condition. Love the bright red hardcover

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