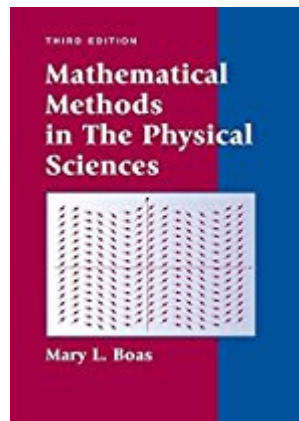


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Review "Bottom line: a good choice for a first methods course for physics majors. Serious students will want to follow this with specialized math courses in some of these topics." (MAA Reviews, 13 November 2015)

About the Author Mary L. Boas is currently professor emeritus in the physics department at DePaul University.

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to focus on the mathematics. A similar problem exists for the converse in math textbooks (particularly calculus textbooks) which try to include the details of a physical problem to set up mathematical equations. Boas' book is a happy medium, and a far cry from the horrible textbook that plagued everyone in my undergraduate course. The class actually petitioned the instructor to change the textbook from the one assigned to this one. It's a little on the easy side, but it certainly doesn't lack in the detail or rigor one would expect from a math textbook, nor does it ignore physical applications and explanations like one might expect from a math textbook. Given the price at which I purchased it, I am very happy. That said, the quality of the manufacturing is poor for the (new, unused) version I received. Leaflets of pages were actually loose and fell out of the book as I thumbed through it.. There was a hole in the middle of one of the pages - I don't even know how that happens. The entire thing feels "held together" rather than constructed. This isn't an issue for me, and as such I didn't take a star off, but ymmv. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Mile wide inch deep By deskswirl THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY OF IT This book is a collection of formulas and tricks with varying depth of explanation. I did not use it during a lecture course but purchased it as a reference as it had high reviews. I had had it for several years now and had had to reference it several times. It strikes me as being very compacted i.e. I had to read a few pages several times to have a topic make sense (yes I know how to read technical works but this is exceptionally so). It is as if the author had a long list of topic she need to fit in a limited amount of pages and decided to play word tetris. HOW IT STANDS UP AGAINST SIMILAR TEXTS On some topics it is superior to volume 1 of the classic by Margenau & Murphy but certainly not comprehensively superior. Compared to the book by Mathews and Walker (which I did use for a lecture course) it is better written but without the finesse present in that peculiar text. In terms of the well known text by Arfken I do prefer it if nothing else then it is better organized. Compared with Morse and Feshbach it is a like a paperclip is to a ships anchor (who would make this comparison anyways?). Let us face the facts this is one of the few UNDERGRADUATE texts written on math methods and such is in a category of its own. As such in its own right it is well conceived. RECOMMENDATIONS IN PLACE OF THIS BOOK Obtain copies of Schaum's Outline Series by Murray Spiegel in particular the ones titled: Theory and Problems of Complex Variables with an introduction to Conformal Mapping and its applications Theory and Problems of Vector Analysis and an Introduction to Tensor Analysis Fourier Analysis with Applications to Boundary Value Problems Theory and Problems of Laplace Transforms Theory and Problems of Probability and Statistics Also look for the now dated (but very useful book) by Byerly (1893) entitled "An Elementary Treatise on Fourier's Series: and Spherical, Cylindrical, and Ellipsoidal Harmonics, with Applications to Problems in Mathematical Physics" it is out of copyright now (2015) so is obtainable on the internet for free. Add to this a Dover copy Farlow's Partial Differential Equations for Scientists and Engineers and you will have a much better replacement for this texts. If you can work through these and understand the material you won't need to bother with Boas's book. See all 148 customer reviews...

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