#### WHAT CALCULUS IS

WHAT CALCULUS IS A BRANCH OF MATHEMATICS THAT FOCUSES ON THE STUDY OF CHANGE AND MOTION, PROVIDING THE TOOLS TO ANALYZE AND MODEL PHENOMENA IN VARIOUS FIELDS SUCH AS PHYSICS, ENGINEERING, ECONOMICS, AND BIOLOGY. THIS DISCIPLINE INVOLVES CONCEPTS SUCH AS LIMITS, DERIVATIVES, INTEGRALS, AND INFINITE SERIES, WHICH SERVE AS THE FOUNDATION FOR UNDERSTANDING DYNAMIC SYSTEMS. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WILL EXPLORE THE FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF CALCULUS, INCLUDING ITS HISTORY, KEY CONCEPTS, APPLICATIONS, AND TYPES. BY THE END, READERS WILL HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT CALCULUS IS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE MODERN WORLD.

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# HISTORY OF CALCULUS

THE HISTORY OF CALCULUS IS RICH AND SPANS SEVERAL CENTURIES, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VARIOUS MATHEMATICIANS ACROSS THE GLOBE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CALCULUS CAN BE TRACED BACK TO ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, BUT IT WAS DURING THE 17TH CENTURY THAT IT BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE AS A FORMAL DISCIPLINE. KEY FIGURES SUCH AS ISAAC NEWTON AND GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ ARE CREDITED WITH ITS INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT, LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES THAT STILL UNDERPIN CALCULUS TODAY.

Newton developed his version of calculus, which he called "the method of fluxions," focusing on motion and change. Meanwhile, Leibniz introduced a notation system that is still in use, including the integral sign (?) and the notation for derivatives (Dy/Dx). Despite their simultaneous discoveries, a bitter dispute over priority ensued between their followers, which shaped the field's early history.

OVER TIME, CALCULUS EVOLVED THROUGH THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MATHEMATICIANS LIKE AUGUSTIN-LOUIS CAUCHY AND KARL WEIERSTRASS, WHO FORMALIZED THE CONCEPTS OF LIMITS AND CONTINUITY. THESE DEVELOPMENTS MADE CALCULUS

### KEY CONCEPTS IN CALCULUS

To understand what calculus is, one must grasp its key concepts. These concepts form the backbone of calculus and are essential for analyzing functions and their behaviors. The three main concepts of calculus are limits, derivatives, and integrals.

#### LIMITS

LIMITS ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO CALCULUS, SERVING AS THE FOUNDATION FOR BOTH DERIVATIVES AND INTEGRALS. A LIMIT EXAMINES THE BEHAVIOR OF A FUNCTION AS ITS INPUT APPROACHES A CERTAIN VALUE. IN FORMAL TERMS, THE LIMIT OF A FUNCTION F(X) AS X APPROACHES A VALUE A' IS DENOTED AS F(X).

LIMITS HELP IN UNDERSTANDING CONTINUITY, ENABLING MATHEMATICIANS TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF FUNCTIONS AT POINTS WHERE THEY MIGHT NOT BE EXPLICITLY DEFINED. KEY PROPERTIES OF LIMITS INCLUDE:

- LIMITS CAN EXIST AT FINITE POINTS OR APPROACH INFINITY.
- LIMITS CAN BE ONE-SIDED (APPROACHING FROM THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT).
- LIMITS ARE USED TO DEFINE DERIVATIVES AND INTEGRALS.

#### DERIVATIVES

Derivatives represent the rate of change of a function with respect to its variable. In simpler terms, a derivative measures how a function's output value changes as its input value changes. The derivative of a function f(x) is denoted as f'(x) or df/dx.

DERIVATIVES HAVE NUMEROUS APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING:

- FINDING SLOPES OF TANGENT LINES TO CURVES.
- DETERMINING VELOCITY AND ACCELERATION IN PHYSICS.
- OPTIMIZING FUNCTIONS TO FIND MAXIMUM OR MINIMUM VALUES.

THE PROCESS OF FINDING A DERIVATIVE IS CALLED DIFFERENTIATION, WHICH INVOLVES APPLYING SEVERAL RULES SUCH AS THE PRODUCT RULE, QUOTIENT RULE, AND CHAIN RULE.

#### INTEGRALS

Integrals, on the other hand, are concerned with the accumulation of quantities, such as area under a curve. The integral of a function f(x) over an interval [a, b] is denoted as [a, b] [a, b]

THERE ARE TWO MAIN TYPES OF INTEGRALS:

- DEFINITE INTEGRALS: CALCULATE THE EXACT AREA UNDER A CURVE BETWEEN TWO POINTS.
- INDEFINITE INTEGRALS: REPRESENT A FAMILY OF FUNCTIONS AND INCLUDE A CONSTANT OF INTEGRATION.

INTEGRALS HAVE VAST APPLICATIONS, SUCH AS CALCULATING AREAS, VOLUMES, AND SOLVING DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS.

### Types of Calculus

CALCULUS CAN BE CATEGORIZED INTO DIFFERENT TYPES, EACH ADDRESSING SPECIFIC MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS. THE MAJOR TYPES OF CALCULUS INCLUDE DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS, INTEGRAL CALCULUS, AND MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS.

#### DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS

DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS FOCUSES ON THE CONCEPT OF THE DERIVATIVE AND THE ANALYSIS OF RATES OF CHANGE. IT IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH UNDERSTANDING HOW FUNCTIONS BEHAVE LOCALLY AND HOW SMALL CHANGES IN INPUT AFFECT THE OUTPUT. APPLICATIONS OF DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS INCLUDE OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS, MOTION ANALYSIS, AND CURVE SKETCHING.

#### INTEGRAL CALCULUS

INTEGRAL CALCULUS, AS MENTIONED EARLIER, DEALS WITH THE ACCUMULATION OF QUANTITIES AND THE CONCEPT OF INTEGRATION. IT IS USED TO CALCULATE AREAS, VOLUMES, AND TOTAL QUANTITIES WHEN DEALING WITH CONTINUOUS FUNCTIONS. INTEGRAL CALCULUS IS ESSENTIAL IN FIELDS SUCH AS PHYSICS, ENGINEERING, AND STATISTICS.

### MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS

MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS EXTENDS THE CONCEPTS OF SINGLE-VARIABLE CALCULUS TO FUNCTIONS OF MULTIPLE VARIABLES. IT EXPLORES PARTIAL DERIVATIVES, MULTIPLE INTEGRALS, AND VECTOR CALCULUS. APPLICATIONS OF MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS ARE PREVALENT IN PHYSICS (E.G., ELECTROMAGNETISM), ECONOMICS, AND OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS INVOLVING MULTIPLE VARIABLES.

## APPLICATIONS OF CALCULUS

CALCULUS HAS A WIDE RANGE OF APPLICATIONS ACROSS VARIOUS FIELDS, MAKING IT AN ESSENTIAL AREA OF STUDY. SOME NOTABLE APPLICATIONS INCLUDE:

- PHYSICS: CALCULUS IS USED TO MODEL MOTION, ELECTRICITY, HEAT, LIGHT, AND WAVES.
- **Engineering:** Engineers utilize calculus for designing structures, analyzing systems, and optimizing performance.
- **ECONOMICS:** CALCULUS HELPS IN MODELING AND ANALYZING ECONOMIC TRENDS, OPTIMIZING RESOURCE ALLOCATION, AND UNDERSTANDING MARGINAL COSTS.
- BIOLOGY: IN BIOLOGY, CALCULUS IS USED TO MODEL POPULATION DYNAMICS, RATES OF GROWTH, AND THE SPREAD OF DISEASES.
- COMPUTER SCIENCE: ALGORITHMS OFTEN INVOLVE CALCULUS CONCEPTS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS SUCH AS MACHINE LEARNING AND DATA ANALYSIS.

WITH ITS EXTENSIVE APPLICATIONS, CALCULUS PROVIDES INVALUABLE TOOLS FOR PROFESSIONALS AND RESEARCHERS IN NUMEROUS DISCIPLINES, SHOWCASING ITS IMPORTANCE IN BOTH THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL CONTEXTS.

### CONCLUSION

Understanding what calculus is opens the door to a deeper appreciation of mathematics and its applications in the real world. From its historical development to its critical concepts such as limits, derivatives, and integrals, calculus serves as a foundational tool for analyzing change and modeling complex systems. Its types, including differential, integral, and multivariable calculus, cater to various analytical needs across multiple disciplines. Ultimately, calculus is not just a subject studied in academia; it is a vital component of science, engineering, economics, and more, illustrating the interconnectedness of knowledge and its practical applications.

# Q: WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF CALCULUS?

A: The main purpose of calculus is to study and analyze change in mathematical functions, allowing us to understand rates of change (derivatives) and the accumulation of quantities (integrals).

# Q: WHO INVENTED CALCULUS?

A: CALCULUS WAS INDEPENDENTLY DEVELOPED BY ISAAC NEWTON AND GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ IN THE LATE 17TH CENTURY, LEADING TO SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.

# Q: WHAT ARE THE TWO MAIN BRANCHES OF CALCULUS?

A: THE TWO MAIN BRANCHES OF CALCULUS ARE DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS, WHICH FOCUSES ON DERIVATIVES AND RATES OF CHANGE, AND INTEGRAL CALCULUS, WHICH DEALS WITH THE ACCUMULATION OF QUANTITIES AND AREAS UNDER CURVES.

# Q: How is calculus used in real life?

A: CALCULUS IS USED IN VARIOUS REAL-LIFE APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING PHYSICS FOR MOTION ANALYSIS, ENGINEERING FOR DESIGN OPTIMIZATION, ECONOMICS FOR MODELING TRENDS, AND BIOLOGY FOR UNDERSTANDING POPULATION DYNAMICS.

## Q: WHAT IS A DERIVATIVE IN CALCULUS?

A: A DERIVATIVE IS A MEASURE OF HOW A FUNCTION CHANGES AS ITS INPUT CHANGES, REPRESENTING THE SLOPE OF THE TANGENT LINE TO THE CURVE OF THE FUNCTION AT A GIVEN POINT.

## Q: WHAT IS AN INTEGRAL IN CALCULUS?

A: An integral is a mathematical concept that represents the accumulation of quantities, such as area under a curve, and is the inverse operation of differentiation.

### Q: WHY IS CALCULUS IMPORTANT IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING?

A: CALCULUS IS IMPORTANT IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BECAUSE IT PROVIDES THE MATHEMATICAL FRAMEWORK FOR MODELING DYNAMIC SYSTEMS, OPTIMIZING PROCESSES, AND SOLVING COMPLEX PROBLEMS ACROSS VARIOUS FIELDS.

## Q: CAN CALCULUS BE APPLIED IN STATISTICS?

A: YES, CALCULUS IS APPLIED IN STATISTICS FOR DERIVING VARIOUS PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS, CALCULATING EXPECTED VALUES, AND ANALYZING CONTINUOUS DATA.

### Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE INTEGRALS?

A: A DEFINITE INTEGRAL CALCULATES THE EXACT AREA UNDER A CURVE BETWEEN TWO SPECIFIED LIMITS, WHILE AN INDEFINITE INTEGRAL REPRESENTS A FAMILY OF FUNCTIONS AND INCLUDES A CONSTANT OF INTEGRATION WITHOUT SPECIFIED LIMITS.

### Q: How does one typically learn calculus?

A: CALCULUS IS TYPICALLY LEARNED THROUGH STRUCTURED COURSES THAT INCLUDE THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS, SUPPLEMENTED BY EXERCISES AND PROBLEM-SOLVING TO REINFORCE CONCEPTS.

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what calculus is: What is Calculus About? Walter Warwick Sawyer, 1961 In this book, the author tells what calculus is about in simple nontechnical language, understandable to any interested reader.--Back cover.

what calculus is: Calculus I Jerrold Marsden, A. Weinstein, 1985-01-22 The goal of this text is to help students learn to use calculus intelligently for solving a wide variety of mathematical and physical problems. This book is an outgrowth of our teaching of calculus at Berkeley, and the present edition incorporates many improvements based on our use of the first edition. We list below some of the key features of the book. Examples and Exercises The exercise sets have been carefully constructed to be of maximum use to the students. With few exceptions we adhere to the following policies. • The section exercises are graded into three consecutive groups: (a) The first exercises are routine, modelled almost exactly on the exam ples; these are intended to give students confidence. (b) Next come exercises that are still based directly on the examples and text but which may have variations of wording or which combine different ideas; these are intended to train students to think for themselves. (c) The last exercises in each set are difficult. These are marked with a star (\*) and some will challenge even the best students. Difficult does not necessarily mean theoretical; often a starred problem is an interesting application that requires insight into what calculus is really about.

• The exercises come in groups of two and often four similar ones.

what calculus is: Calculus II Jerrold Marsden, Alan Weinstein, 2012-12-06 The second of a three-volume work, this is the result of the authors'experience teaching calculus at Berkeley. The book covers techniques and applications of integration, infinite series, and differential equations, the whole time motivating the study of calculus using its applications. The authors include numerous solved problems, as well as extensive exercises at the end of each section. In addition, a separate student guide has been prepared.

what calculus is: A Concise Introduction To Calculus Hsiang Wu-yi, 1995-09-28 The student of calculus is entitled to ask what calculus is and what it can be used for. This short book provides an answer. The author starts by demonstrating that calculus provides a mathematical tool for the quantitative analysis of a wide range of dynamical phenomena and systems with variable quantities. He then looks at the origins and intuitive sources of calculus, its fundamental methodology, and its general framework and basic structure, before examining a few typical applications. The author's style is direct and pedagogical. The new student should find that the book provides a clear and strong grounding in this important technique.

what calculus is: Calculus in Context James Callahan, David Cox, Kenneth Hoffman, 1994 Designing the curriculum We believe that calculus can be for students what it was for Euler and the Bernoullis: a language and a tool for exploring the whole fabric of science. We also believe that much of the mathematical depth and vitality of calculus lies in connections to other sciences. The mathematical questions that arise are compelling in part because the answers matter to other disciplines. We began our work with a clean slate, not by asking what parts of the traditional course to include or discard. Our starting points are thus our summary of what calculus is really about. Our curricular goals are what we aim to convey about the subject in the course. Our functional goals describe the attitudes and behaviors we hope our students will adopt in using calculus to approach scientific and mathematical questions. Starting Points Calculus is fundamentally a way of dealing with functional relationships that occur in scientific and mathematical contexts. The techniques of calculus must be subordinate to an overall view of the questions that give rise to these relationships. Technology radically enlarges the range of questions we can explore and the ways we can answer them. Computers and graphing calculators are much more than tools for teaching the traditional calculus. The concept of a dynamical system is central to science. Therefore, differential equations belong at the center of calculus, and technology makes this possible at the introductory level. The process of successive approximation is a key tool of calculus, even when the outcome of the process--the limit--cannot be explicitly given in closed form. Curricular Goals Develop calculus in the context of scientific and mathematical questions. Treat systems of differential equations as fundamental objects of study. Construct and analyze mathematical models. Use the method of successive approximations to define and solve problems. Develop geometric visualization with hand-drawn and computer graphics. Give numerical methods a more central role. Functional Goals Encourage collaborative work. Enable students to use calculus as a language and a tool. Make

students comfortable tackling large, messy, ill-defined problems. Foster an experimental attitude towards mathematics. Help students appreciate the value of approximate solutions. Teach students that understanding grows out of working on problems. Impact of Technology Differential equations can now be solved numerically, so they can take their rightful place in the introductory calculus course. The ability to handle data and perform many computations makes exploring messy, real-world problems possible. Since we can now deal with credible models, the role of modelling becomes much more central to the subject. The text illustrates how we have pursued the curricular goals. Each goal is addressed within the first chapter which begins with questions about describing and analyzing the spread of a contagious disease. A model is built: a model which is actually a system of coupled non-linear differential equations. We then begin a numerical exploration on those equations, and the door is opened to a solution by successive approximations. Our implementation of the functional goals is also evident. The text has many more words than the traditional calculus book--it is a book to be read. The exercises make unusual demands on students. Most are not just variants of examples that have been worked in the text. In fact, the text has rather few template" examples. Shifts in Emphasis It will also become apparent to you that the text reflects substantial shifts in emphasis in comparison to the traditional course. Here are some of the most striking: How the emphasis shifts: increase: concepts, geometry, graphs, brute force, numerical solutions decrease: techniques, algebra, formulas, elegance, closed-form solutions Since we all value elegance, let us explain what we mean by brute force. Euler's method is a good example. It is a general method of wide applicability. Of course when we use it to solve a differential equation like y'(t) = t, we are using a sledgehammer to crack a peanut. But at least the sledgehammer works. Moreover, it works with coconuts (like y' = y(1 - y/10)), and it will even knock down a house (like y' $=\cos 2(t)$ ). Students also see the elegant special methods that can be invoked to solve y'=t and y'=ty(1 - y/10) (separation of variables and partial fractions are discussed in chapter 11), but they understand that they are fortunate indeed when a real problem will succumb to such methods.

what calculus is: Basic Guide to Oral Health Education and Promotion Alison Chapman, Simon H. Felton, 2021-01-06 The thoroughly revised third edition of a Basic Guide to Oral Health Education and Promotion is an essential guide to help dental nurses prepare for a qualification in Oral Health Education and thereafter practice as an Oral Health Educator. It will help readers confidently educate patients about diseases and conditions that affect the oral cavity, and support their prevention, treatment, and management. Designed with an accessible layout to enhance learning, this course companion is divided into six sections covering: the structure and functions of the oral cavity; diseases and conditions; disease prevention; effective communication; treating specific patient groups, and oral health promotion and society. Invaluable to all members of the dental team and other health professionals involved in educating and promoting oral health, this key text: Offers a guide for dental nurses taking a post-registration Certificate in Oral Health Education Is fully updated to reflect changes in the industry, science, and course syllabus Incorporates information on the new classification of periodontal and peri-implant diseases Contains new information on topics including dementia, denture advice, and burning mouth syndrome Includes an expanded section on promotion

what calculus is: Mathematics: Its Historical Aspects, Wonders And Beyond Arthur D Kramer, Alfred S Posamentier, 2022-06-29 Whenever the topic of mathematics is mentioned, people tend to indicate their weakness in the subject as a result of not having enjoyed its instruction during their school experience. Many students unfortunately do not have very positive experiences when learning mathematics, which can result from teachers who have a tendency 'to teach to the test'. This is truly unfortunate for several reasons. First, basic algebra and geometry, which are taken by almost all students, are not difficult subjects, and all students should be able to master them with the proper motivational instruction. Second, we live in a technical age, and being comfortable with basic mathematics can certainly help you deal with life's daily challenges. Other, less tangible reasons, are the pleasure one can experience from understanding the many intricacies of mathematics and its relation to the real world, experiencing the satisfaction of solving a

mathematical problem, and discovering the intrinsic beauty and historical development of many mathematical expressions and relationships. These are some of the experiences that this book is designed to deliver to the reader. The book offers 101 mathematical gems, some of which may require a modicum of high school mathematics and others, just a desire to carefully apply oneself to the ideas. Many folks have spent years encountering mathematical terms, symbols, relationships and other esoteric expressions. Their origins and their meanings may never have been revealed, such as the symbols +, -, =,  $\pi$ .  $\infty$ ,  $\sqrt{\ }$ , and many others. This book provides a delightful insight into the origin of mathematical symbols and popular theorems such as the Pythagorean Theorem and the Fibonacci Sequence, common mathematical mistakes and curiosities, intriguing number relationships, and some of the different mathematical procedures in various countries. The book uses a historical and cultural approach to the topics, which enhances the subject matter and greatly adds to its appeal. The mathematical material can, therefore, be more fully appreciated and understood by anyone who has a curiosity and interest in mathematics, especially if in their past experience they were expected to simply accept ideas and concepts without a clear understanding of their origins and meaning. It is hoped that this will cast a new and positive picture of mathematics and provide a more favorable impression of this most important subject and be a different experience than what many may have previously encountered. It is also our wish that some of the fascination and beauty of mathematics shines through in these presentations.

what calculus is: Calculus For Dummies Mark Ryan, 2014-06-23 Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition (9781118791295) is now being published as Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition (9781119293491). While this version features an older Dummies cover and design, the content is the same as the new release and should not be considered a different product. Slav the calculus monster with this user-friendly guide Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition makes calculus manageable—even if you're one of the many students who sweat at the thought of it. By breaking down differentiation and integration into digestible concepts, this guide helps you build a stronger foundation with a solid understanding of the big ideas at work. This user-friendly math book leads you step-by-step through each concept, operation, and solution, explaining the how and why in plain English instead of math-speak. Through relevant instruction and practical examples, you'll soon learn that real-life calculus isn't nearly the monster it's made out to be. Calculus is a required course for many college majors, and for students without a strong math foundation, it can be a real barrier to graduation. Breaking that barrier down means recognizing calculus for what it is—simply a tool for studying the ways in which variables interact. It's the logical extension of the algebra, geometry, and trigonometry you've already taken, and Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition proves that if you can master those classes, you can tackle calculus and win. Includes foundations in algebra, trigonometry, and pre-calculus concepts Explores sequences, series, and graphing common functions Instructs you how to approximate area with integration Features things to remember, things to forget, and things you can't get away with Stop fearing calculus, and learn to embrace the challenge. With this comprehensive study guide, you'll gain the skills and confidence that make all the difference. Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition provides a roadmap for success, and the backup you need to get there.

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the use of scientific notation for expressing very large and very small numbers. Simple functional relationships between geological variables are then covered (for example, straight lines, polynomials, logarithms) followed by chapters on algebraic manipulations. The mid-part of the book is devoted to trigonometry (including an introduction to vectors) and statistics. The last two chapters give an introduction to differential and integral calculus. The book is prepared with a large number of worked examples and problems for the students to attempt themselves. Answers to all the questions are given at the end of the book.

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what calculus is: Calculus Essentials For Dummies Mark Ryan, 2010-04-27 Many colleges and universities require students to take at least one math course, and Calculus I is often the chosen option. Calculus Essentials For Dummies provides explanations of key concepts for students who may have taken calculus in high school and want to review the most important concepts as they gear up for a faster-paced college course. Free of review and ramp-up material, Calculus Essentials For Dummies sticks to the point with content focused on key topics only. It provides discrete explanations of critical concepts taught in a typical two-semester high school calculus class or a college level Calculus I course, from limits and differentiation to integration and infinite series. This guide is also a perfect reference for parents who need to review critical calculus concepts as they help high school students with homework assignments, as well as for adult learners headed back into the classroom who just need a refresher of the core concepts. The Essentials For Dummies Series Dummies is proud to present our new series, The Essentials For Dummies. Now students who are prepping for exams, preparing to study new material, or who just need a refresher can have a concise, easy-to-understand review guide that covers an entire course by concentrating solely on the most important concepts. From algebra and chemistry to grammar and Spanish, our expert authors focus on the skills students most need to succeed in a subject.

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concepts.) Unfortunately, a gulf exists between science and the humanities, and our text, About Mathematics, seeks to bridge that gap, to serve humanities students just as humanities texts are offered to inform science students. In doing so, unlike most math texts, we avoid the usual focus on detailed techniques to expose instead some of the important concepts and values of mathematics.

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