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A Comprehensive Introduction To Differential Geometry, Vol. 1, 3rd Edition



Synopsis

Book by Michael Spivak, Spivak, Michael

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Customer Reviews

This book is the first volume of the 3rd edition in a five volume series on differential geometry. The emphasis on this first volume is the study of differential forms and de Rham Cohomology Theory. Spivak also considers two 'bonus' topics: integral manifolds & foliations and Lie groups. You'll need some prerequisites to get started. For the differential topology material (including Sard's Theorem and Whitney's $2n+1$ Embedding Theorem), I recommend Hirsch's Differential Topology. For results on determinants and symmetric groups, I use Hungerford's Algebra, now in its 12th printing. For the general topology material (Hausdorff spaces, Urysohn metrization, etc.), I recommend Munkres' Topology (2nd Edition). Spivak begins this volume with a review of topological manifolds in Chapter 1. The author provides the basic definitions and gives lots of examples of surfaces and other manifolds. The discussion of manifolds and surfaces continues in the Chapter 1 Exercises. (The author routinely used the exercise set to continue the thread of discussion.) Quick mention of the surface classification theorem is made, although for the proof of this, you'll need to look in Hirsch or Munkres. The reader gets to have fun gluing topological handles onto and cutting disks out of the 2-sphere.

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