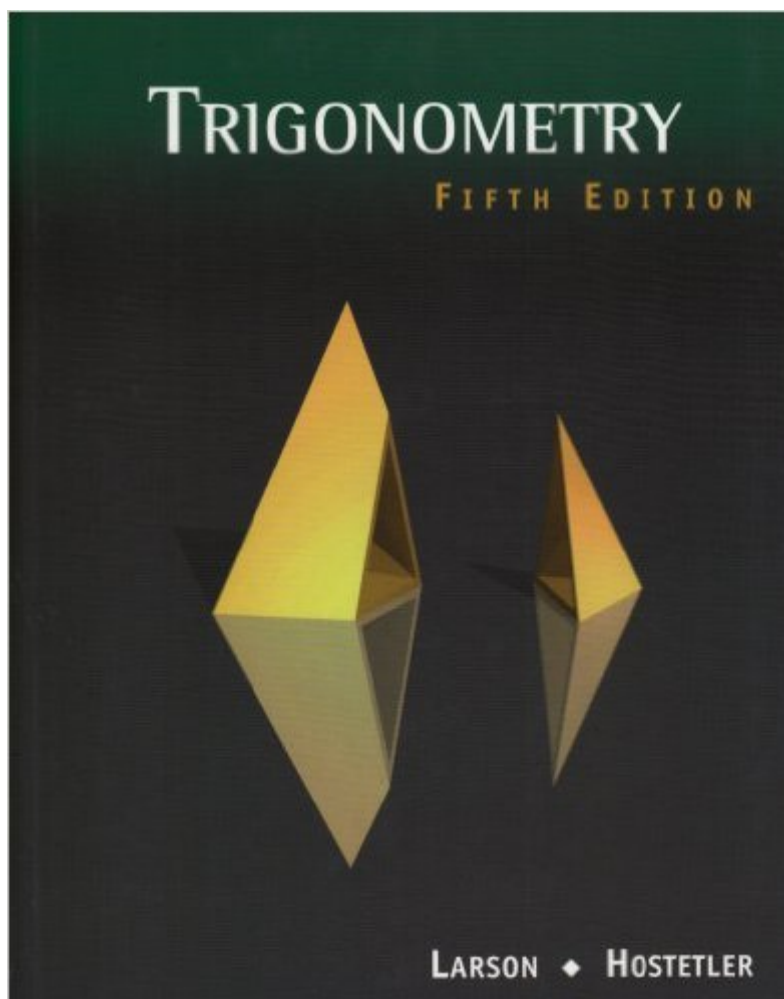


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Trigonometry, 5th Edition



Synopsis

As the best-seller in its field, Trigonometry, 5/e, offers both instructors and students a more solid, comprehensive, and flexible program than ever before. Designed for the one- or two-term precalculus course, the text introduces trigonometry first with a unit circle approach and then with the right triangle. For a complete listing of features, see Larson/Hostetler, College Algebra, 5/e.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My school uses Larson books all the way from elementary algebra, up through Calculus. This Trigonometry book isn't bad, but it does lack well structured explanations in many areas. There are a lot of topics that show an example of one type of problem, but they don't really show how to manipulate the same concept into a different scenario. Some of the trig identities like double angle formulas, sum-to-product, and product-to-sum formulas are barely explained. They give one basic example of how to use the formula, and they don't elaborate on how to use it in a more complicated problem. One very strong point that this book has, along with the other Larson books, is a very wide variety of practice exercises. The end of chapter sections begin with simpler exercises, and progress up through the different concepts in a given section very logically. Each section of practice exercises has a good variety of word problems, many of which will apply all of the concepts you've learned in a given section, as well as forcing you to recall material from previous sections. I also really like the "proofs in mathematics" sections at the end of each chapter, because they go more in depth about why a certain formula works. This book includes proofs of most of the common trig

identities, which is very useful. I'm the type of person that understands an idea better when I can actually see WHY something works, and WHY we're doing it that way, rather than just having to rote memorize a certain formula. Seeing these proofs helps a lot with that. I also bought the accompanying student solutions manual. I'm writing a separate review for that, but I'll touch on it briefly here as well. The student solutions manual is incredibly hit or miss.

So here's my story. I did the Honors Mathematics sequence in high school. I had 102% as my final overall grade in Honors Algebra 2; I got the highest grades in all of my math classes from elementary school to AP Calculus AB (I had major 'senioritis' and quit the class before the B/C part, because of the large amounts of homework). I didn't take a single math class for FOUR years. None. I decided to go back to school, and I scored so high on the math section of my placement test that I placed into Calculus with Analytic Geometry 1. Now, four years without math is a long time.

Remembering algebra essentials is one thing, but remembering trigonometry is a different story. Even though I have a teachers edition of a college algebra book, this book was comprehensive enough to tone the most essential parts of algebra required for calculus, and it is very well written. Some math books do nothing but explain math with math. This book provides the rigor one would expect from a math book, while explaining things well enough that careful reading and working through examples is adequate enough to cover the more complicated sections. I wouldn't say the book is "concise" like the "Complete Idiot's Guide" books, but compared to a full Algebra with Trigonometry book, it is pretty short. It will prepare one for calculus without a doubt. There's explanations on how to do things with and without a calculator, hundreds of problems per chapter, and plenty of Algebra work that goes along with trigonometry. The chapter "P" also covers a lot of things a College Algebra book should, such as functions, inverse functions, graphs, graph transformations, and linear equations. There is also a nice formula sheet in the front and the back of the book to refer to.

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