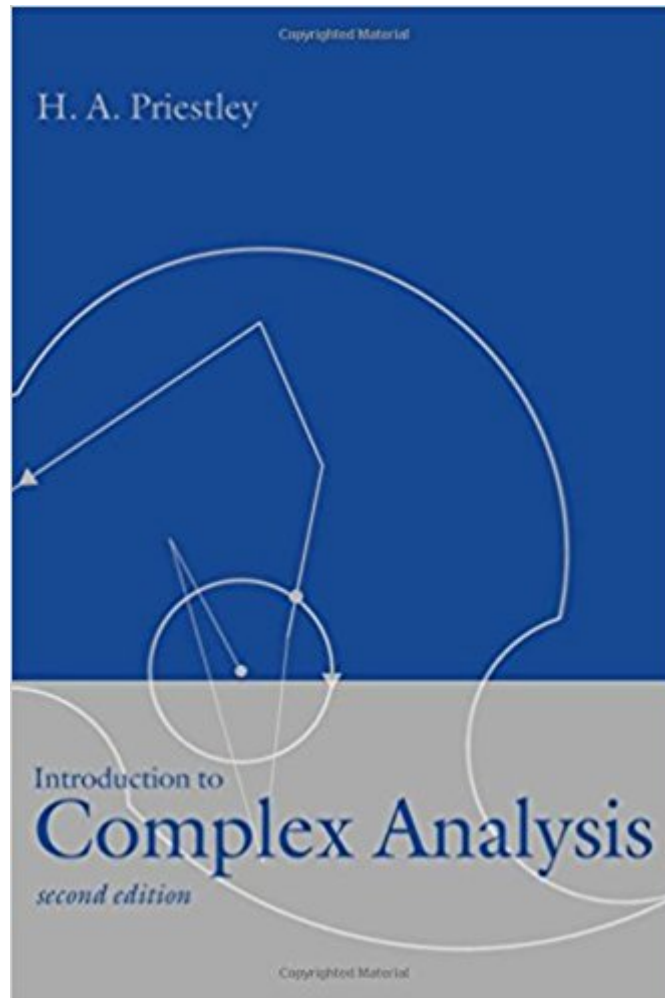




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Introduction To Complex Analysis



Synopsis

Complex analysis is a classic and central area of mathematics, which is studied and exploited in a range of important fields, from number theory to engineering. Introduction to Complex Analysis was first published in 1985, and for this much-awaited second edition the text has been considerably expanded, while retaining the style of the original. More detailed presentation is given of elementary topics, to reflect the knowledge base of current students. Exercise sets have been substantially revised and enlarged, with carefully graded exercises at the end of each chapter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Review from previous edition Priestley's book is an unqualified success."--THES
"The conciseness of the text is one of its many good features"--Chris Ridler-Rowe, Imperial College
"The conciseness of the text is one of its many good features"--Chris Ridler-Rowe, Imperial College

H. A. Priestley is a Reader in Mathematics, Mathematical Institute, Oxford, and Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics at St Anne's College.

This seems to be a complex analysis book for people who already know complex analysis. I took an introductory course in complex analysis that used this book. I would not recommend using this text to learn complex analysis. The text mostly consists of standard explanatory material and proofs. As other reviewers have indicated, examples are scarce (some chapters have none!), and no answers

to any (non-proof) exercises are given. And this is the second edition, which is claimed to have expanded on problems and examples (I suspect this claim to be a practical joke by Priestly). Overall, my experience with the second edition wasn't completely horrible, but the lack of answers to problems was a huge barrier to actually learning the material. In summary: if you are learning complex analysis, look for a text with better ratings. If you already know complex analysis and just need a refresher, this could be useful.

I learned complex analysis using the first edition of this book. I had never studied complex analysis before and I found the treatment rigorous but pleasurable. Complex analysis is one of the most beautiful areas of both pure and applied mathematics and learning it is essential for any serious student of mathematics. I can't think of a better place to start than Priestley. If you find this book hard then you probably need to spend more time learning basic analysis of the real line so you can follow the mathematical arguments.

The existing reviews refer to the 1st edition of this book, which I agree was a difficult read, though still accessible to undergraduates. The new book has been revised substantially to make it more readable, with a much more leisurely introduction and better partitioning of tougher material (which can be omitted by those such as physicists and engineers who require only a working knowledge of the subject). If anything I feel the result is too dumbed down; Priestley is loathe even to make use of such basic tools from real analysis as uniform convergence. Nevertheless, the second half of the book is more adventurous, making the totality a guide for an excellent undergrad class, such as the Oxford one on which the book was based. Beware: there is a large number of typos, which one must hope will be corrected in subsequent printings. Usually it will not be too challenging to circumnavigate these.

This is a great book for mathematically mature students. Exposition is not crystal clear, but very mellow, if you can follow. This is not the first book to read in complex analysis. Try Bak.

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