

Review of: "Essential Calculus, a Revolutionary Approach to Teaching Calculus"

Anna Salvadori¹

1 University of Perugia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper aims to solve the well-known problem of fitting a first course of Physics at University with Calculus. Usually the two courses are taught simultaneously, while Physics requires knowledge of Mathematical Analysis from the very beginning. In this context the topic can be taken seriously into consideration, but the author states (in the title and several times throughout the article) that he presents a revolutionary proposal to approach Calculus. I absolutely do not agree.

Since Galileo, Mathematics has played the role of basic language for Science (and therefore Technology) and Newton certainly provided rich and excellent material. Thus Calculus is a fundamental basic course for every Scientific studies and cannot be reduced to instrumental techniques alone. It must be faced up with all the time necessary to present the not easy key topics (limit, derivative, integral), their operational technique and the fundamental potential in modeling reality. Only in this way students will acquire knowledge and skills essential for their studies. I find that the Calculus Reform Project, critically quoted by the author, is instead an excellent proposal to achieve this goal. I personally got a lot of inspiration for my teaching Calculus to Engineers.

Qeios ID: 1DRAWM · https://doi.org/10.32388/1DRAWM