

with 110. Applications of Calculus (proposed new title), Spring 1997

Text: Alexander J. Hahn, Learning Basic Calculus: From Archimedes to Newton to its Role in Science, to appear in Springer-Verlag, to appear Summer 1997.

Topics (selected from Chapters 9-12) :

Review of essentials from differential calculus (critical points, increasing and decreasing functions, maxima and minima, anti-derivatives). Basics about vectors, forces, and tensions (all in the plane). The pulley problem from L'Hospital's calculus text (solved by the methods of calculus and again by the method of balancing forces). The Suspension Bridge as a problem of statics.

Review of the exponential and logarithm function. Elementary nuclear physics, the experiments of Rutherford, and the mathematics of radio-activity. Mathematical analysis of the rubidium-strontium clock, the potassium argon clock, the carbon-14 clock, and the variety of information that they provide. Essential microbiology and the growth of microbes; E. coli and the logistics model.

Review of interest, compound interest, income streams, inflation. Demand and supply functions, elasticity. Analysis of the OPEC experience. Graphs of functions. Cubic polynomials and the method of least squares. Analyzing the electric utility industry of New England. Price, revenue, profit, and the profit analysis for a refinery. Consumer surplus.