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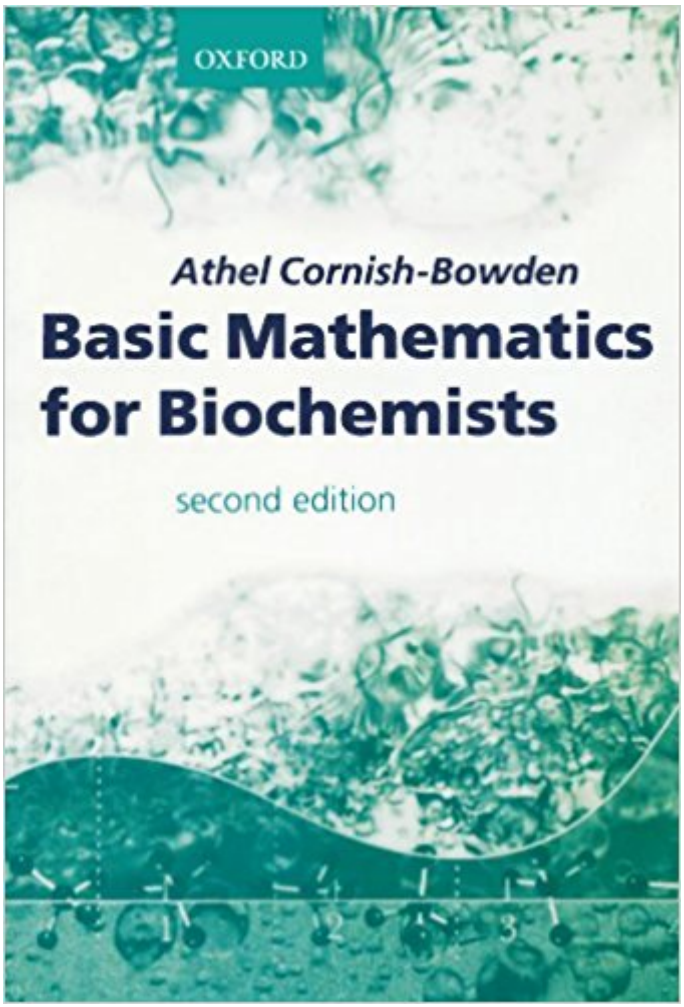
Basic Mathematics For Biochemists



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Synopsis

Mathematics is essential to the study and understanding of biochemistry yet most undergraduates do not have a grasp of maths. This book sets out all the mathematics needed for an undergraduate course in biochemistry, assuming a minimum of prior knowledge. Emphasis is placed on topics necessary for biochemists and all the examples are relevant to biochemistry. Each chapter contains illustrative boxes and worked examples and also a problem section (the answers are given in the back of the book). The book starts by covering the basic concepts of mathematics such as manipulating fractions, functions, and plotting graphs and then explains exponents and logarithms in depth. The next two chapters cover all the ordinary differentiation and integration required by the biochemist. Partial differentiation is explained in a later chapter. Chapter 6 is about solving equations (linear, simultaneous, quadratic, and higher-order) and the final chapter covers the basic ideas of statistics. Basic Mathematics for Biochemists will therefore be invaluable to all biochemistry undergraduates and will also be useful to more experienced biochemists needing to refresh their maths.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Athel Cornish-Bowden is at C.N.R.S.-L.C.B., Marseille.

It is a nice book brushing up on basic mathematics, which you could easily have forgotten during your studies

Biochemists don’t traditionally have a strong background (or any in some cases) in math. I think Cornish-Bowden’s book fills a niche for first and second year biochemists and I highly recommend it. For seniors the book is probably too low level, though seniors will find it a useful reference nonetheless.

I have a deep respect for Athel Cornish-Bowden and his textbook wirting skills. His enzyme kinetics texts are the best on the market. This book is also clearly, lucidly written. The problem is, the depth of coverage is simply inadequate for contemporary biochemists. True, some working biochemists don’t know even what is in this book, but future biochemists should be equipped with stronger math skills than presented here. Dr. Cornish-Bowden, if you are reading this, please do the future biochemists a favor and write a bigger, more detailed book on the subject. Do not forget more linear algebra and more statistics (preferably using R).

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