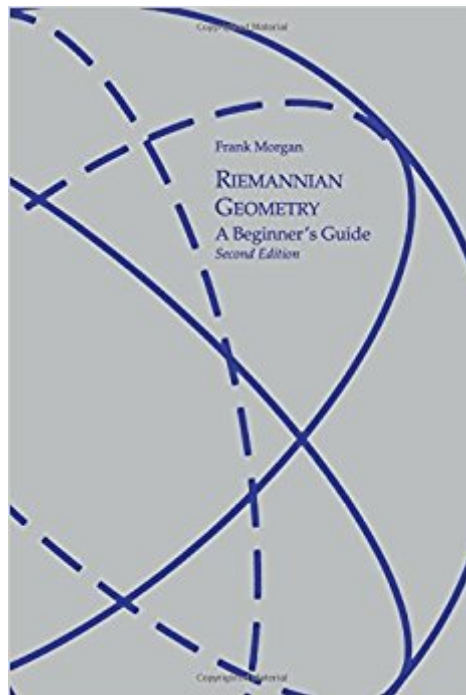


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Riemannian Geometry: A Beginners Guide, Second Edition



Synopsis

This classic text serves as a tool for self-study; it is also used as a basic text for undergraduate courses in differential geometry. The author's ability to extract the essential elements of the theory in a lucid and concise fashion allows the student easy access to the material and enables the instructor to add emphasis and cover special topics. The extraordinary wealth of examples within the exercises and the new material, ranging from isoperimetric problems to comments on Einstein's original paper on relativity theory, enhance this new edition.

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Customer Reviews

— an intuitive approach to Riemannian geometry based on surfaces in n-dimensional Euclidean spaces. — This revision of the second edition includes many interesting exercises and solutions to selected exercises. — The book is warmly recommended to specialists in mathematics, physicists and especially to PhD students interested in this topic. — Jan Kurek, Zentralblatt MATH 1234

Frank Morgan is the Atwell Professor of Mathematics at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Above me. I had to lower my expectations to elementary linear algebra.

This is a fantastic little book that serves as a great introduction to the subject of curvature.

The details in the derivations of the formulas Morgan presents are sparse. Also, he doesn't tell you why the quantities you calculate are useful or important. But this might come later, I haven't finished the book. So if you want an introduction to some concepts and formulas to compute quantities, this is a good book. I'm walking away knowing how to do some stuff, but not with a real understanding of the material.

This book is useless for learning Riemannian geometry. Pedagogically it's a sick joke. I'm giving it two stars because glancing at this book gives one a keener appreciation of the careful exposition by authors like Lee, Bar, do Carmo, Kohn, Boothby, and others.

I wish I had read these reviews before my purchase. I was disappointed in this book. It is certainly no beginners guide. I found the author's chapter on Relativity to be un-inspiring. This book is clearly intended as a review of the material for persons already familiar with the mathematics of it. He even admits as much in his introduction. Successful geometers who wish to have a bird's eye view of the complex material or wish to gain knowledge of future study areas within diff. geometry are recommended to this book.

Initially I wanted to use this book as the main textbook in a differential geometry course I were going to teach. It is relatively new, compare to do Carmo's, and it looks friendly, short, with some interesting material (hyperbolic spaces, relativity ...). But I were dissapointed after a few weeks. The arguments in this books are too shaky. I came to think that for a course in differential geometry of curves and surfaces, one of the main beauties, perhaps the primary one, is in providing solid, rigorous arguments for intuitive ideas. For this purpose do Carmo's book is still a better choice. This book could be used for motivational reading.

Well I am only on page 10 and am considering quitting this book. I have a BSEE with quite a lot of mathematics history, but I know nothing about Riemann geometry. I got bogged down right from the beginning with this book. It's not that the material - so far - is that demanding, but the explanations are terse at best and some formulas seem to pop onto the page from hyperspace. Some variables are undefined, unfamiliar nomenclature is used without explanation and there is no exposition to show from where some rather complicated formula appear. Too much is assumed by the author for

a book that claims to be a "beginners guide". You can waste a lot of time trying to guess what is on the authors mind. I get the impression that by adding another 10 pages or so of elucidating math and text this might be a nice little survey of the subject matter, but as is I can't recommend it.

As other reviewers have written, this book is too terse to serve as a standalone introduction to Riemannian geometry. It lacks some definitions and explanations of basic concepts, and often tries to do too much too fast. The author has an intuitive approach that I enjoy a lot, but the analogies and figures aren't enough to fill the technical gaps in the exposition. With more details, this could've been a fantastic introductory book.

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