A Guided Tour of Mathematical Methods for the Physical Sciences, Second Edition, *Roel Snieder*, Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp: 507, ISBN 0521834929 (hc); Price: US$60

Reviewing this text was an enjoyable experience. As the name suggests, it gives the reader a tour of the mathematical methods used in physical sciences. But this tour is a very practical one, as it engages the reader in an active manner by describing the methods and then posing challenging problems.

Most of the mathematical methods needed to solve problems in physical sciences are introduced here. All the methods are given due attention according to their complexity and usefulness. The advanced concepts, such as Cartesian tensors, perturbation theory, asymptotic evaluation of integrals, and variational calculus, are discussed in a very easy-to-understand manner. The author relates the mathematical methods to appropriate physical problems, which makes the text highly engaging.

With plenty of problems and to-the-point approach, this book is an absolute essential for students of physics, chemistry, and other physical sciences as well as professionals working in related areas.

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Book Review Editor's Note: For a more detailed review of the first (2001) edition of this book, see the Book Reviews section of the March/April 2002 issue of *Physics in Canada*. The review is available on the Web at: http://www.cap.ca/BRMS/Reviews/Math-Sneider-Buckmaster.html