

Book Review

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A Variational Approach to Structural Analysis

David V. Wallerstein, Wiley, New York, 2001, 405 pp., \$125.00

This textbook is excellent for use in a course or courses dealing with variational methods in solid mechanics. I would recommend it to anyone who might offer such a course, or to anyone engaged in structural analysis. The author is an experienced analyst, designer, and teacher bringing together his long experience in both industry and academia.

The text examines variational principles dealing primarily with beams, but this is excellent because by using the beam, the simplest structural member that can be used, the author can concentrate on the major

approaches, give and treat more examples per page, and deal with nuances of the methods, while not cluttering up the mathematics with more general structures such as plates and shells.

The text provides ample problems at the end of each of the six chapters. If one were to find fault (and one should to earn his reviewer's spurs), one could note that there are no answers to some of the problems at the ends of the chapters to aid the reader/student.

Jack R. Vinson
University of Delaware