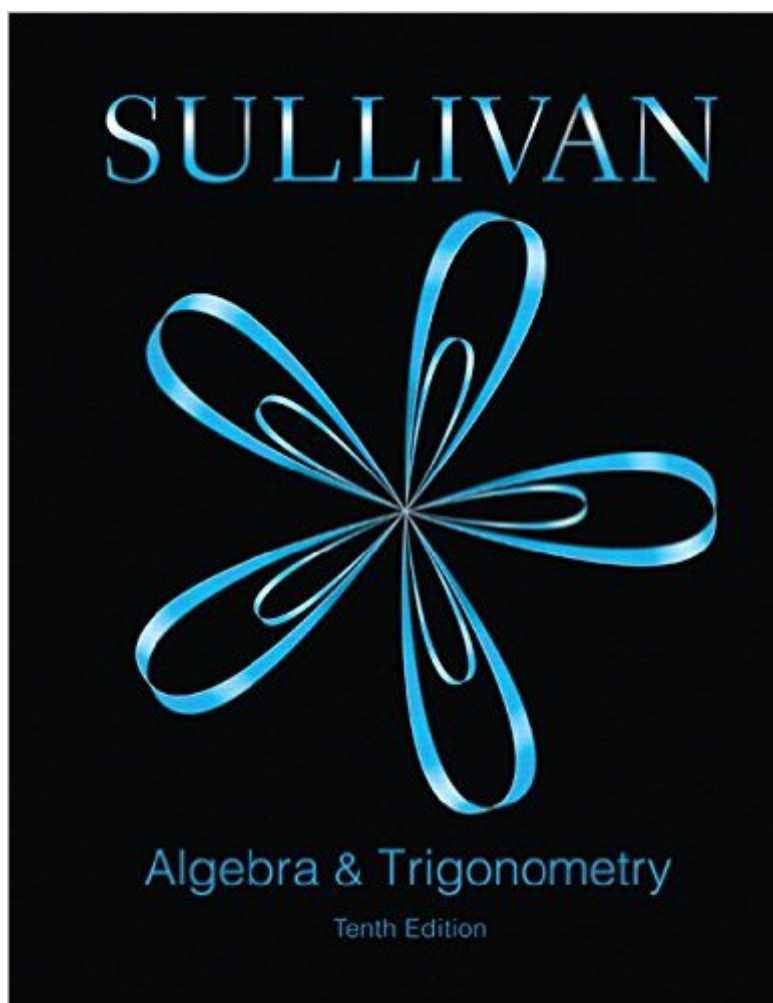## The book was found

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Customer Reviews

With the sixth edition of this textbook, Sullivan has made significant strides since the fifth edition of the College Algebra portion. The interval notations used to indicate the regions where the value of a function is increasing or decreasing is so much more clear and concise. In contrast to the former use of frequently displaying number lines with pluses and minuses underneath, in which the readings of them were perhaps more of an exercise for the eyes than for the mind, Sullivan revised this mess using parentheses and brackets to indicate test intervals.As a teacher, I say that this is not the most user-friendly book for an instructor who teaches one hour college algebra classes three times a week. Oftentimes, for me to quickly get the fundamentals across, I have to paraphrase what Sullivan lays out in many of the sections. The language is often too theoretical for several of my students (Many are in non-technical majors but have to complete college algebra as a last mathematics course requirement), and I have to put the symbolic logic sequences into terms that can cross over to applied mathematics. This is not meant to be a criticism, however.Perhaps the main weaknesses lie in the shortcomings of applied problems, particularly in the sections concerning maxima and minima, and especially in the inequality segments. On a very positive note, however, I will grant that the sixth chapter, which involves logarithms and exponents is quite fascinating. For instance, you have applied problems involving the amount of interest that can be gained after so many years if, say, [money amount]is deposited into an account and accumulates interest at 6% compounded quarterly. Physics problems are also well presented.

The book itself: This textbook is extremely popular for the breadth and depth of algebra and trig that it covers. This is no dummies book; it's a book written like everyone is a math major, and that's one of the reasons math professors love it. However, its hard core math-for-mathematicians focus makes it a tough textbook experience for some students to wrap their heads around the material. If you 're a math novice, mathphobic, haven't taken math in a long time, or if you didn't take (and pass) AP algebra, trig or even calculus in high school, then you will struggle with any class that uses this textbook. Sullivan does not simplify things. He expects you to know what you're doing, and you'd better be able to run with him or learn to to run, else you'll get left behind with this textbook. If you're sketchy with math and have no choice about using this book, then expect to spend time with a tutor. A lot of time. If you're wanting a more user-friendly experience with math this advanced, definitely look for a professor/college that uses the Blitzer Precalculus textbook. If you're wanting to fly with math, then Sullivan is your book.A la carte vs hardcover: Some people don't like a la carte texts. Of course, hardcovers are more durable and thus have more resale value, but some of us have other considerations to make with a textbook. I'm disabled, so I need to keep my load as light

as possible, so the a la carte textbooks definitely make my life easier. Even if I weren't disabled, I'd love the option of being able to bring only what I need with me, rather than an entire textbook. That's especially important in the case of this Sullivan textbook. It has over 1000 pages and the paper is slightly glossy, which adds to the weight.

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