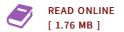# Of False Discontinuity: With Illustrations from Fourier s Theorem and the Calculus of Variations (Paperback)

By M M U Wilkinson

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.From the PREFACE. In this Essay I attempt to show that those problems, appertaining to the Calculus of Variations, to which the discussion of certain questions of maxima and minima naturally leads, admit, if of any, of an infinite number of solutions, and that of these solutions an infinite number are falsely discontinuous. Mathematicians seem to me to use the word discontinuity inappropriately, when they define it so that an unbroken curve coinciding throughout one portion of finite length with a circle, and throughout another portion of finite length with a straight line, is called discontinuous. Such curves cannot with correctness be called discontinuous, because, however fortuitous and apparently irregular an unbroken line be, there corresponds to it a law such that a material point constrained by it shall construct the line. In this essay I define, and endeavour to employ as I define, the terms true discontinuity, and false discontinuity. I hope by the use of these words to adhere as closely as my views will permit to the definition of discontinuity as given by previous writers. In the second chapter...

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Reviews

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