

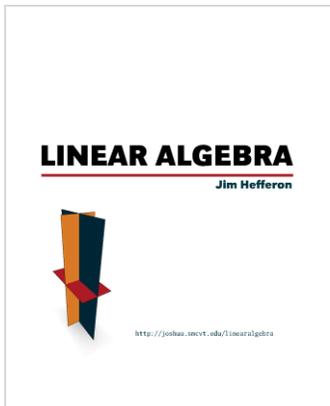


Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Linear Algebra



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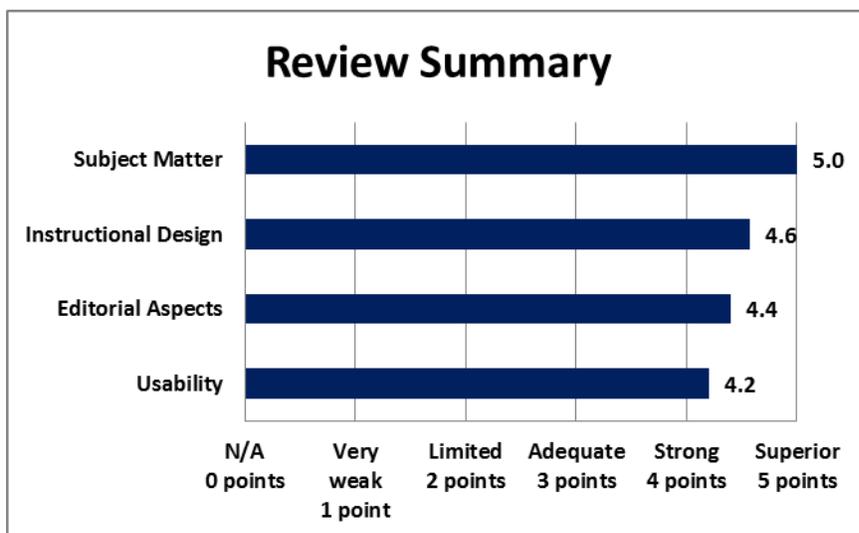
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

December 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [MATH 250](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?						X
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?						X
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X

Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?						X
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)						X

Total Points: 30 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The “Exploration” section is a wonderful sample of an active learning activity for students to use as a motivation for developing the idea of determinants.
- Although, I don’t think there is one best way to start a linear algebra course, I usually begin with vectors and linear transformations. This book starts with solving systems of equations via matrices and row operations. If the order of the text is important to the instructor, this should be a consideration.
- There is a student solutions manual.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?					X	
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)					X	
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?						X
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?					X	
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?						X
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)						X
Is the textbook searchable?						X

Total Points: 32 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- This book is a great choice for instructors who use a conceptual framework for the course. There is an appropriate balance of proofs for the level of course (not too many, not too difficult). The exercises are varied and thoughtful. There is good balance between concepts, applications and computations. In general, there are many application problems and several applications that are well developed throughout the text.
- The simple images allow students to have good visual references for those aspects of the course that can be visualized.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?						X
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?						X
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)					X	
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)						X
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)				X		

Total Points: 22 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook:

- The author used highlighted text to indicate definitions and theorems. There were printed checkmarks next to exercises that are of particular help to the students.
- I think students will find the layout of the textbook sophisticated. As the pages all look similar, students may have trouble navigating the pdf file to find specific material.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?						X
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)						X
Can the textbook be printed easily?						X
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?				X		
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?				X		

Total Points: 21 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook:

- I could use the standard tools for notes and highlighting provided by Adobe Acrobat when using the pdf, but students may be using pdf readers without these capabilities (i.e. on their smartphones).
- This book seems to assume most calculations would be done by hand. As such, there were no specific references to use of technology and many courses use calculators or online software for computation.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?					X	
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
					X	

Total Points: 8 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- This is a very well balanced textbook. It's sophisticated but a good transition for students to upper level math texts. The applications are superior.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- I wouldn't not choose it for this reason, but I would want the book to have Sage references so that my students could use technology for the computations.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to the [textbook site in MERLOT](#) (Please [register](#) in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



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