

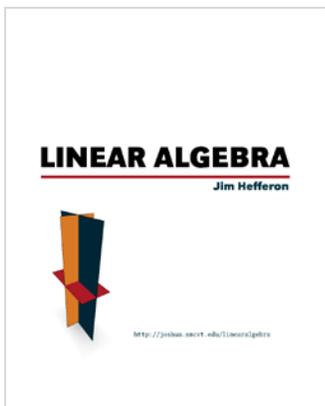


Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

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



License:

Linear Algebra by Jim Hefferon is licensed under a [GNU Free Documentation License \(GFDL\)](http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gfdl.html)

Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Textbook Authors:

Jim Hefferon

Reviewed by:

Catalina Yang

Institution:

Oxnard College

Title/Position:

Professor

Format

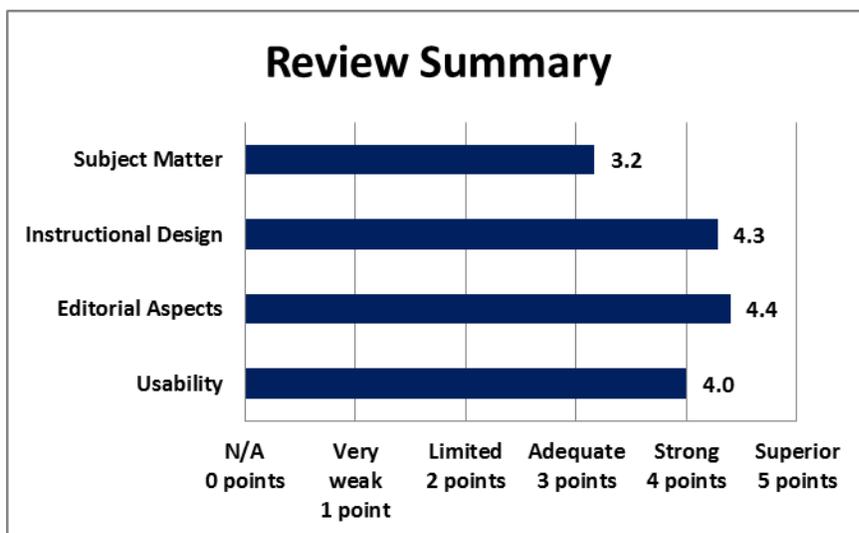
Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

May 2016



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: 19 out of 30

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

- There is a student solution manual/answers to the exercises, along with a lab manual which can be helpful to instructors who are using this textbook for a lecture/lab type course.
- For a limited fee (approx \$20 Amazon) otherwise, the textbook is downloadable in a pdf format (very useful for students with limited textbook expenses).
- Test bank would be helpful but not necessary.

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: 30 out of 35

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

- The design of the textbook is user friendly. There is very little language or notations that are difficult to follow.
- The general layout of the textbook flows very well for a conceptual method of teaching. Graphs within the examples makes the subject of linear algebra much more visual and reinforces concepts.

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:

- Quick note is that there are references to examples within a section, but those examples are not on a previous page, they are located a few pages after the reference.
- For example: "Thus the parallelogram above...A three-space box is show in Example 4." The example 4 that this statement is referring is 2 pages after this referring statement. It would seem best if the three-space box graph was set ahead of the statement as a figure instead of after the statement. Students may or may not catch on that the graph in question is in a later example and not a previous example.

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: 20 out of 25

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

- There is limited use of technology in this textbook; lack of reference of technology.
- Depending on what form of adobe a student may have access to, there are limited aspects of which a student can mark up the textbook.
- The printing of the pdf file is very easy and can be used as standard, non-electronic, textbook, which would allow students to mark up the textbook. This aspect limits the use of any form of electronics (tablet pc, laptops, and smartphones).

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 book is a well thought out linear algebra textbook that covers all the components of a C-ID course in linear algebra. It seems to be written in a manner that allows students to transition from lower level courses toward an upper level course with little to no hesitation. The price of the textbook is unbeatable from a students' standpoint; either print as needed or just download and read/use of an electronic device, knowing that there are limits to that aspect.

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

- Minor formatting/references within the textbook can be better placed, though if they were not complete, students would not in any way suffer for the lack of formatting/reference locations.

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.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



This [review](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#).