



## 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](http://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 Done Wrong



License:



*Linear Algebra Done Wrong* by Sergei Treil is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Textbook Authors:

Sergei Treil

Reviewed by:

Catalina Yang

Institution:

Oxnard College

Title/Position:

Professor

Format

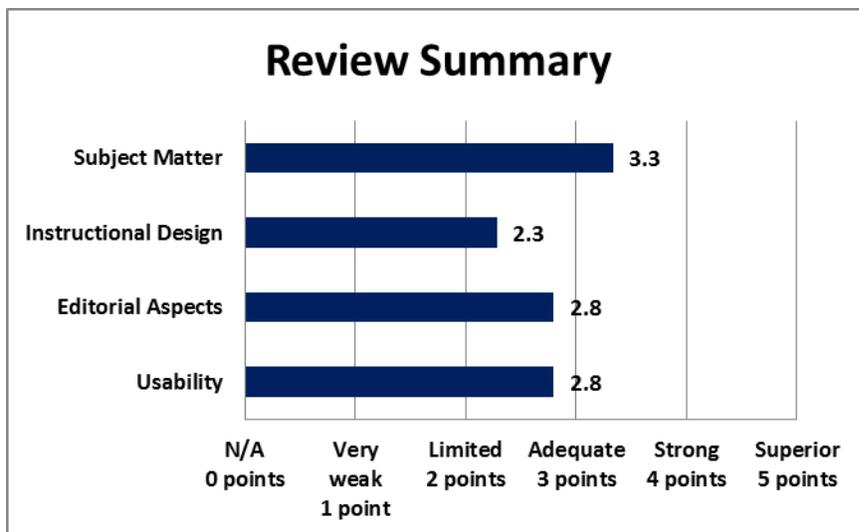
Reviewed:

[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: 20 out of 30

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

- The textbook is well written, the language used has a friendly/welcoming tone.
- A test bank would be a welcomed resource for instructors, but not a required addition to this textbook.

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: 16 out of 35

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

- This textbook does not contain test banks or group work, though there are plenty of exercises that an instructor could possibly utilize into group work. I cannot comment about whether this textbook is searchable, since I was only able to review the pdf form.

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: 14 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook:

- There are no graphics or animation to this textbook, though there are plenty of hyperlinks for page, chapter, theorem, remarks, and other relevant numbers.

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					X	

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

- I do not believe this textbook is compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs. This textbook is purely a textbook that is meant for a lecture course with few to no technology aids other than a graphing calculator.
- There is no user interface that informs the user of how to interact with and navigate the textbook. It is clearly stated that this textbook is in a pdf format. Whereas if it is being used on a computer/laptop, then the hyperlinks can be accessed.

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	
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?				X		

Total Points: 7 out of 10

### Overall Comments

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

- I believe that I would notify my colleagues that though this is a textbook written for honors linear algebra, the language that is used is very non-threatening. The ease of reading is remarkable though challenging for a student that is not going to be a math major. I don't believe any student picking up this textbook would find the language or tone difficult, maybe just the topic.

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

- I would like the textbook to include graphic/visuals. I understand this textbook is written for honors linear algebra. I just believe that it can be adapted for a regular non-honors course in linear algebra, maybe just not so proof heavy.

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](#).