



Intermediate Algebra: Connecting Concepts through Applications (Available Titles CengageNOW)

By Mark Clark, Cynthia Anfinson

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INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA: CONNECTING CONCEPTS THROUGH APPLICATIONS shows students how to apply traditional mathematical skills in real-world contexts. The emphasis on skill building and applications engages students as they master concepts, problem solving, and communication skills. It modifies the rule of four, integrating algebraic techniques, graphing, the use of data in tables, and writing sentences to communicate solutions to application problems. The authors have developed several key ideas to make concepts real and vivid for students. First, the authors integrate applications, drawing on real-world data to show students why they need to know and how to apply math. The applications help students develop the skills needed to explain the meaning of answers in the context of the application. Second, they emphasize strong algebra skills. These skills support the applications and enhance student comprehension. Third, the authors use an eyeball best-fit approach to modeling. Doing models by hand helps students focus on the characteristics of each function type. Fourth, the text underscores the importance of graphs and graphing. Students learn graphing by hand, while the graphing calculator is used to display real-life data problems. In short, INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA: CONNECTING CONCEPTS THROUGH APPLICATIONS takes an application-driven approach to algebra, using appropriate calculator technology as students master algebraic concepts and skills.

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Review

"The quality of the worked examples is first rate. I was pleased to see how that the writers show what a graph done by hand should look like.... Above all, many of the applications were used as motivating factors to develop the math, such as the slope." Robert Diaz, Instructor, Fullerton College

"The main strength of the book is the great balance of concepts, skills, and applications" Lenora G. Sheppard, Instructor, Atlantic Cape Community College

"The main strengths of this textbook lie with the authors' concept for a strong integration of applied math into the core of the material presentation in each section of the book. The margin notes are highly applicable and well placed, and the story problems and Concept Investigations encourage students to go beyond the operations to really understanding the functions and applications of those functions." Katherine Adams, Instructor, Eastern Michigan University

"The Concept Investigations should captivate the students' attention. Most students at this level often ask, 'When will I ever use this?' The Concept Investigations would be effective in addressing this." Mary Legner, Instructor, Riverside City College

About the Author

Mark Clark graduated from California State University, Long Beach, with a Bachelor's and Master's in Mathematics. He is a full-time Associate Professor at Palomar College and has taught there for the past 13 years. He is committed to teaching his students through applications and using technology to help them both understand the mathematics in context and communicate their results clearly. Intermediate algebra is one of his favorite courses to teach, and he continues to teach several sections of this course each year. He has collaborated with his colleague Cynthia Anfinson to write a new intermediate and beginning algebra text published by Cengage Learning--Brooks/Cole. It is an applications-first approach to algebra; applications and concepts drive the material, supported by traditional skills and techniques.

Cynthia (Cindy) Anfinson graduated from UCSD's Revelle College in 1985, summa cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She went to graduate school at Cornell University under the Army Science and Technology Graduate Fellowship. She graduated from Cornell in 1989 with a Master of Science Degree in Applied Mathematics. She is currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Palomar College and has been teaching there since 1995. Cindy Anfinson was a finalist in Palomar College's 2002 Distinguished Faculty Award.

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