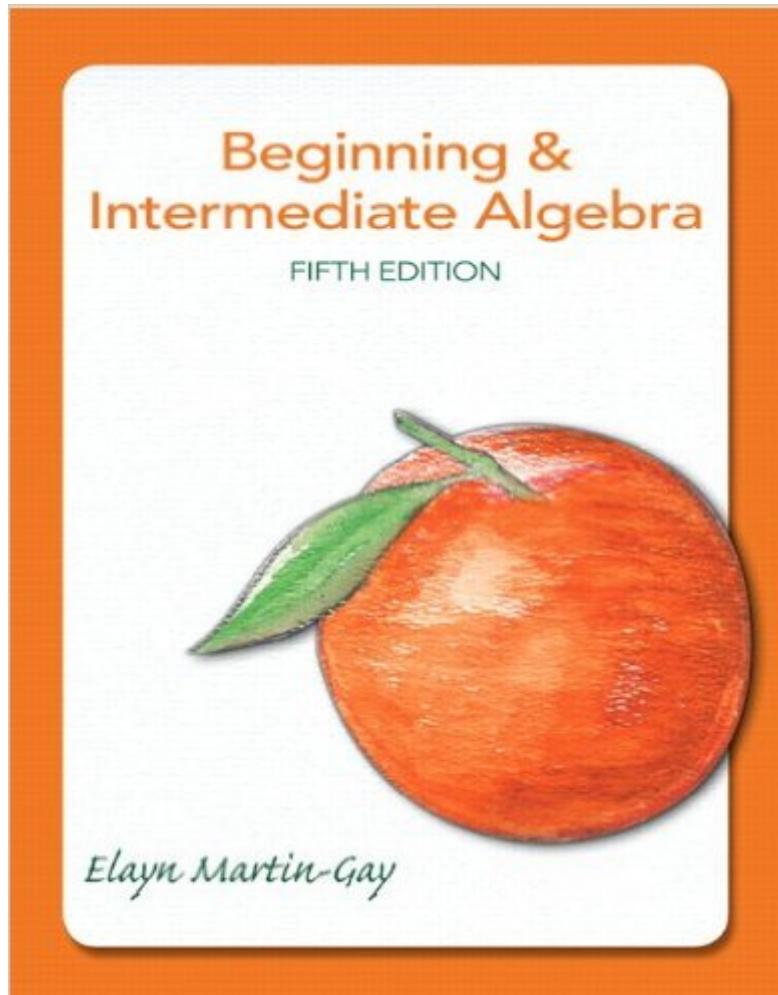


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Beginning & Intermediate Algebra (5th Edition)



Synopsis

NOTE: This is a standalone book. Elayn Martin-Gay's developmental math textbooks and video resources are motivated by her firm belief that every student can succeed. Martin-Gay's focus on the student shapes her clear, accessible writing, inspires her constant pedagogical innovations, and contributes to the popularity and effectiveness of her video resources (available separately). This revision of Martin-Gay's algebra series continues her focus on students and what they need to be successful.

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This review applies only to the intermediate algebra section of this text. The core elements of intermediate algebra are matrices, linear and nonlinear inequalities, rational exponents, complex numbers, the quadratic formula, exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, sequences and series, and the binomial theorem. With respect to these matters, the intermediate algebra level is one that focuses on methods and techniques, and not conceptual understanding. This mathematics is some of the most important and useful mathematics a student can encounter. Therefore, it is important to have a textbook that presents good techniques. I feel that this book by Prof. Martin-Gay is such a text. Objectives are highlighted for each section, and the examples presented are well worth studying in class or by the individual student. A dedicated and motivated student can derive a great deal of benefit from this text. As an example, let us consider Sec. 11.6 in

the text concerning graphing quadratic functions. This section has three stated objectives. The first is to write a quadratic function in a standard form so that the vertex of the associated parabola can be identified, as well as the axis of symmetry. In this standard form, intercepts can also be identified. Three examples are supplied. The first is of an "upturned" parabola with two x-intercepts. The graph accompanying the example is very clear and well-made. A fairly good method for placing the function in standard form is carefully worked out, with comments to help the student. Similarly, good methods for finding the x- and y-intercepts are developed. In the text accompanying the example, the vertex and axis of symmetry of the parabola are pointed out from the illustrated methods.

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