

CD REVIEW
“Advanced Engineering Mathematics with Maple”
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ISBN 1-894511-86-7

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If your university teaches engineers maths at 2nd year undergraduate and upwards, and uses Maple in teaching, you really should look at this CD, published by maplesoft A list of its contents can be viewed at

<http://www.maplesoft.com/>

by selecting ‘products’ and then selecting ‘eBooks’.

Several years ago, I reviewed, in this *Gazette* a *book* and CD-ROM by the same author, and with essentially the same title. (See this *Gazette* vol28(3), pages 160-162.) The earlier book and CD was published by Addison-Wesley.

There are obvious problems with large books as paper and printing is expensive. In my earlier review, there was a plea to consider just publishing via CD. The present title does precisely this. For material which depends on a software package, an additional advantage is that the CD can be kept up-to-date with the releases of the software. The present CD is for maple 10.01. It runs trouble-free. I’m impressed by the consistent style. I didn’t discover any hyperlinks which didn’t work, so the attention to detail is to be commended. I liked the fact that hyperlinks to the “Table of Contents” and to the “Index” were always available at the bottom of the “page/screen”. I wonder if it might be worthwhile to make more use of hyperlinking? (i) Perhaps the index should send one to where the word or phrase occurs rather than merely to the section in which it occurs. (ii) More use of hyperlinking when referring back to relevant earlier parts might be useful.

For universities using Maple in their teaching of engineering mathematics this CD is thoroughly worthwhile. (UWA engineers use Matlab, not Maple, so UWA will not be adopting the CD as a ‘text’.)

I’ve already had a visitor (Francis Benyah) from a university where Maple is used in teaching saying that “The CD looks good but I don’t teach engineers: why isn’t the same material available in different eBooks, e.g. one on multivariable calculus, one on ordinary differential equations, etc.?” The material in it is worth using for classes other than engineers. The eBook genre will grow: see the maplesoft web site for more titles.