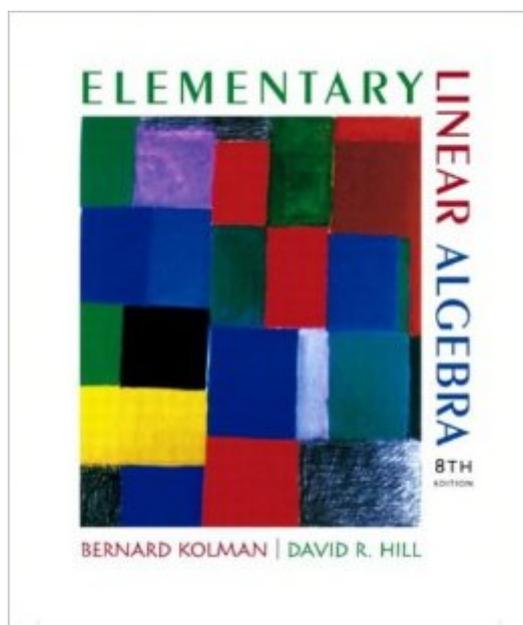


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Elementary Linear Algebra (8th Edition)



Synopsis

This book presents the basic ideas of linear algebra in a manner that users will find understandable. It offers a fine balance between abstraction/theory and computational skills, and gives readers an excellent opportunity to learn how to handle abstract concepts. Included in this comprehensive and easy-to-follow manual are these topics: linear equations and matrices; solving linear systems; real vector spaces; inner product spaces; linear transformations and matrices; determinants; eigenvalues and eigenvectors; differential equations; and MATLAB for linear algebra. Because this book gives real applications for linear algebraic basic ideas and computational techniques, it is useful as a reference work for mathematicians and those in field of computer science.

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Customer Reviews

This book's mediocrity is typical of undergrad linear algebra texts: it dives into computation and matrices before it gives much theoretical grounding for anything, and it never presents anything interesting. The result is that linear algebra seems both hard and boring. Linear algebra is such a vast subject that has so many creative applications both in the real world and in various branches of abstract mathematics. Instead of including such applications, this book sticks to a very narrow set of concrete examples (concrete in the sense of problems involving matrices). Proofs and mathematical rigor are present but are not emphasized. If you're teaching people who are to become mathematicians, this book is a poor choice because it is so computationally oriented. But for people who are not going on in mathematics, the lack of any sort of motivation for the material or even

mention of real-world applications will be painful. To make it even worse, this book does little to prepare the reader for working with the algorithms of numerical linear algebra that come up in doing linear regression, smooth optimization, or other practical settings. In the real world, people generally use computers to do linear algebra, and when they work by hand, they do in a clean, abstract setting, in order to obtain proofs of theoretical results. This book emphasizes doing computations by hand, but it explores neither the elegant abstract approach of abstract linear algebra nor the practical algorithmic approach of numerical linear algebra. I learned linear algebra from this book and hated the subject until I learned from professors and other books what a wonderful subject it is.

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