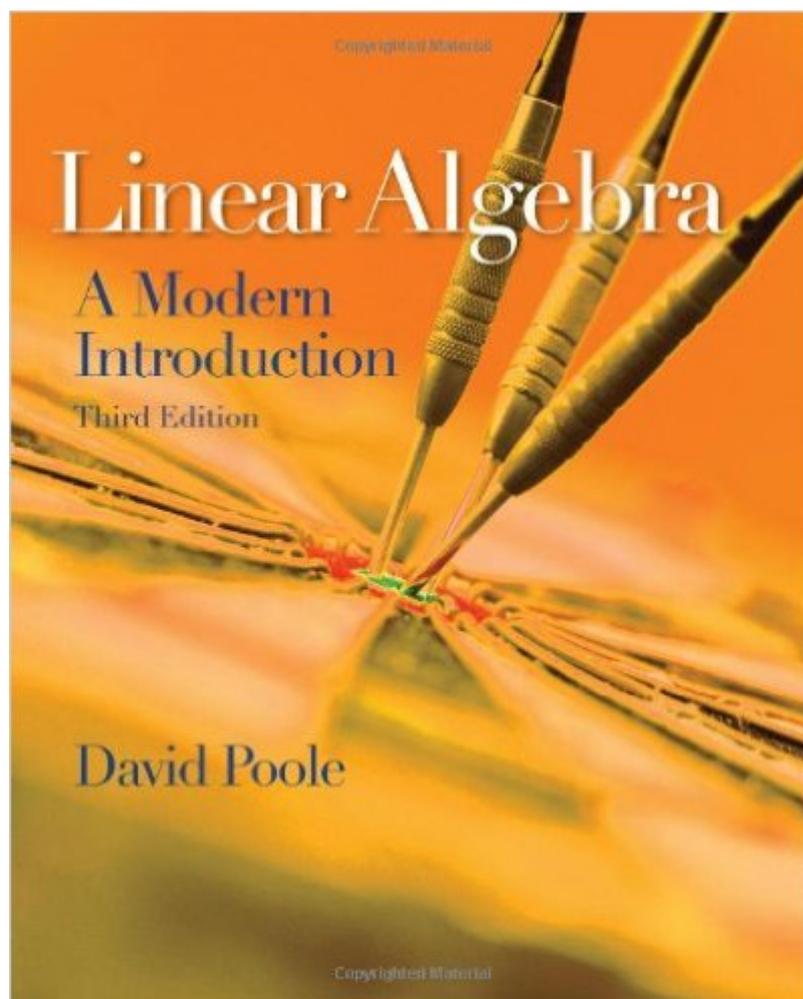


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# Linear Algebra: A Modern Introduction (Available 2011 Titles Enhanced Web Assign)



## Synopsis

David Poole's innovative book prepares students to make the transition from the computational aspects of the course to the theoretical by emphasizing vectors and geometric intuition from the start. Designed for a one- or two-semester introductory course and written in simple, "mathematical English" the book presents interesting examples before abstraction. This immediately follows up theoretical discussion with further examples and a variety of applications drawn from a number of disciplines, which reinforces the practical utility of the math, and helps students from a variety of backgrounds and learning styles stay connected to the concepts they are learning. Poole's approach helps students succeed in this course by learning vectors and vector geometry first in order to visualize and understand the meaning of the calculations that they will encounter and develop mathematical maturity for thinking abstractly.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent linear algebra textbook. Even if you just wanted to learn more about the subject, I can't imagine a better introduction. I've taken many math courses and saw this book when I was tutoring a first year student. My reaction was "I wish this had been the text when I took linear algebra." I am familiar with Lay, Anton, Strang, Nicholson, and Kolman but Poole beats them all in my opinion. Here's why: clear writing, lots of excellent examples, very good exercises, interesting examples, and extras (like independent study projects and real-world applications) that other books

don't have. At first I thought this book was pretty low-level. But after careful reflection, I realize this is not the case: it is easy to read but not a watered-down version of the subject: it's kind of sneaky that way. All in all I give it thumbs way up.

I am a control systems engineer and deal with the design of physical systems, both linear as well as non-linear. I constantly use this text to refresh material related to linear systems and find it an indispensable resource. Here's why. The text is very clearly written and the exercises are excellent. Dr Poole does not obfuscate core issues with lengthy proofs. Which is not to say proofs are not presented - they are, but in a very accessible (read "geometric") form. I would strongly urge serious students of the subject to work through the problem sets - they will bring a deeper level of understanding. Highly recommended to students as well as professionals. Update: Jul-2009 I would also recommend checking out Prof Gilbert Strang's MIT OCW lecture on Linear Algebra. Also get Strang's book of the same name - work through the video lectures and the book problems and you will end up with a first class background in the subject.

As a computer science graduate student without the proper math background, I've been cramming mathematical concepts into my brain for the last few years. And this book, every time, has provided the most lucid, digestible and yet usefully rigorous explanation I have found for whatever concept I'm learning. The four-page explanation of Markov chains, pp. 217-220, e.g., seems very hard to top. The thing is, in CS especially perhaps, you learn to use math as a tool when you have that "ah-hah" moment of intuition. When you get the idea of what \*the point\* of the particular mathematical tool is. Then you can apply it and use it to think about other problems you might want to solve. Math as a way of thinking. Which is where the clarity of writing and explanation in this book comes through for you. Which is not to say the problems aren't excellent as well, because they are, and you have plenty of opportunity to practice the manipulations associated with a given concept as well. I can't recommend this book enough.

I'm a junior majoring in computer science and I had to take a linear algebra course to satisfy my degree requirements. I put off taking the course until this semester since I had heard bad things about the course. Like one of the other reviewers, I learned that the prof changed texts and would be using Poole's Linear Algebra instead of the previous semester's book (which I won't name!) Poole's book is absolutely fantastic. He starts slowly and gives a good concrete foundation before introducing the more abstract concepts - I really liked this approach. There are examples and

applications galore, including lots of stuff on codes. (Even though my prof didn't cover all of these applications, I read them all - this book has changed my opinion of the usefulness of linear algebra.) I really recommend this book. If you want to learn linear algebra and have it explained in a clear way, this is the book for you. If you know a prof who is using a different book, get her/him to check this one out. Your fellow students will thank you!

I'm going to make this simple: This book saved me! We've been studying linear algebra past semester, and the book the teacher assigned to us really wasn't explaining things well enough. I got this book one week before the final exam, and I can surely say that it is the only reason why I passed this class! The book is very well written, and the author always seems to be ahead of your head, in knowing what parts might get you confused or what questions you might have in mind. It seems like every time I stumbled on something, the next sentence exactly explained what I was wondering about. Buy this book, you will not regret it!

Besides copious amounts of unnecessary jargon and run-on sentences, the listed solutions (both in the appendix and separate [\$\$\$] solutions manual) for problems in this book are frequently incorrect. **BIG INCONVENIENCE AND WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE**; given that few problems in linear algebra are quickly processed by hand. If you use this text, expect to spend an hour on one problem attempting to find errors in your approach when in fact there are none, and the listed solution was just wrong. Instructors and students agree that the frequency of incorrect answers is the biggest problem with this text. Thou art warned.

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