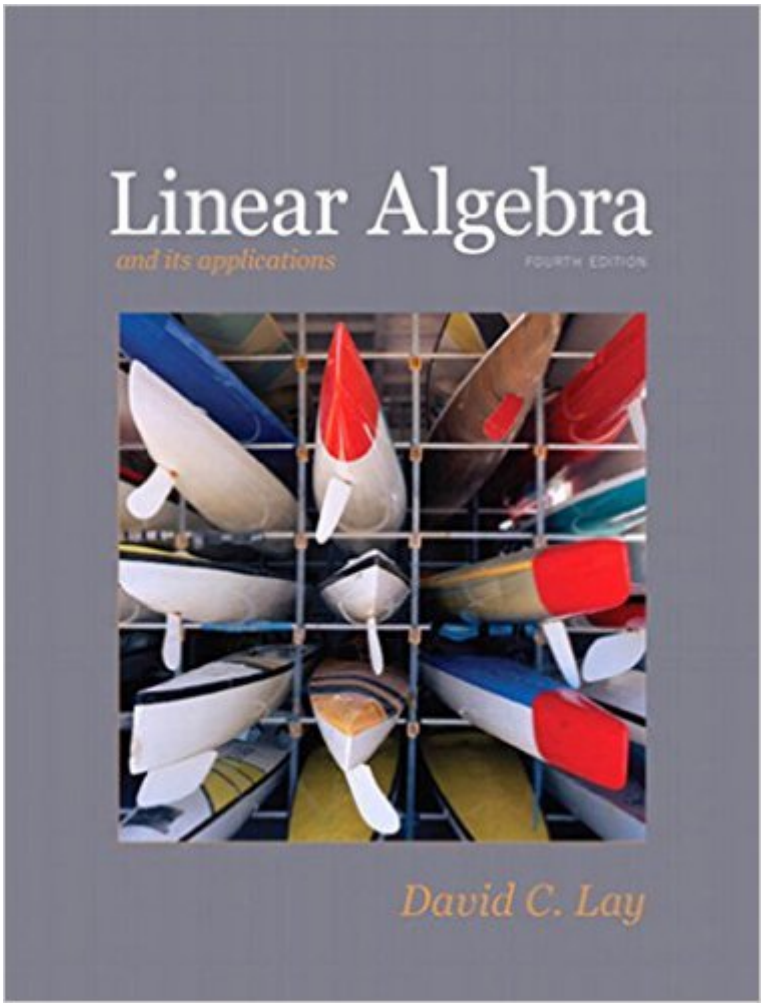
Linear Algebra And Its Applications



Synopsis

Linear algebra is relatively easy for students during the early stages of the course, when the material is presented in a familiar, concrete setting. But when abstract concepts are introduced, students often hit a brick wall. Instructors seem to agree that certain concepts (such as linear independence, spanning, subspace, vector space, and linear transformations), are not easily understood, and require time to assimilate. Since they are fundamental to the study of linear algebra, students' understanding of these concepts is vital to their mastery of the subject. David Lay introduces these concepts early in a familiar, concrete Rn setting, develops them gradually, and returns to them again and again throughout the text so that when discussed in the abstract, these concepts are more accessible. Â Note: This is the standalone book, if you want the book/access card order the ISBN below. Â 0321399145 / 9780321399144 Linear Algebra plus MyMathLab Getting Started Kit for Linear Algebra and Its Applications Package consists of:Â Â Â 0321385179 / 9780321385178 Linear Algebra and Its Applications 0321431308 / 9780321431301 MyMathLab/MyStatLab -- Glue-in Access Card 0321654064 / 9780321654069 MyMathLab Inside Star Sticker Â

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Customer Reviews

As someone who works in an engineering R&D environment and is called upon to use linear algebra to solve practical "real world"problems, I wanted to put this book in perspective for those who may be unsure of the true value of this book given the large variance in the reviews.1. This book presents an applied treatment of the subject appropriate for a first course. The goal of thebook is to provide the reader with an intuitive understanding of the material. Geometrical and visual argumentsare used throughout. Coordinates, matrices, and numerical computations are emphasized. Formal proofs are not provided for most results.2. This book is geared toward those doing scientific computations involved in solving real world problems. Linear algebrais the workhorse of modern applied mathematics. This book covers the critical factorization LU, QR, SVD, as well as the 4 Fundamental Subspacesand least squares. Any book that skimps on these topics is out of touch with reality and in my opinion doing a disservice to those who are paying big bucksfor a technical education. Those who are ever planningto get a job in engineering or the mathematical sciences will at some time be expected to solve (or understand howsoftware like MATLAB solves) least squares problems, systemsof linear equations, eigenvalue problems, linear ODE’s, optimization problems. This book is the first step towardgaining an understanding of these issues. This book is practical in the sense that real world problemsrequire numerical solution described in terms ofa basis-dependentfinite-dimensional representation of the problem.3.

Being a University of Maryland student and a math major, I’ve actually had this author as my professor. He’s a great professor and a distinguised scholar-teacher at the University and really knows how to convey the material well.But I think the professor is a better instructor than the book. This isn’t an insult to the book, because he’s an excellent professor.I’ve seen reviews for this book that were pretty unfavorable. Some of them were just reviews, some unjust. People need to realize that this book is just an introduction to Linear Algebra, it is a book for lower level undergraduate mathematics. This course is equivalent to a freshman calculus course; it is mainly to teach you to do calculations and apply them. Some of the reviews treat this book as if it were for some upper level class like Abstract Linear Algebra (which is a much tougher course and requires a deeper book).But for what it is, the book is clear in most cases. But like people mentioned, the Invertible Matrix Theorem is scattered about the book but never summarized. There are a few tough exercises, but 98% of all exercises in the book can be completed via the examples given in each chapter...just like

a freshman calculus text. I don’t think the book is a hard read, it’s pretty easy in fact, but it won’t really help you out much to prepare for proof-oriented classes like Number Theory or Advanced Calculus. This book will benefit engineers more than it will mathematicians. The true/false questions themselves are not too helpful in my opinion. The answers to these are vague and refer you to the study guide (which in turn are not direct answers, but more like indirect answers and probably a cheap way to plug in his study guide).

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