

INTRODUCTION TO LINEAR ALGEBRA

INTRODUCTION TO LINEAR ALGEBRA IS A FUNDAMENTAL MATHEMATICAL DISCIPLINE THAT UNDERPINS COUNTLESS AREAS IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, AND MORE. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS OF LINEAR ALGEBRA, FROM VECTORS AND MATRICES TO SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS, PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW FOR BEGINNERS AND THOSE LOOKING TO REFRESH THEIR KNOWLEDGE. READERS WILL DISCOVER THE HISTORY AND REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS OF LINEAR ALGEBRA, ITS KEY OPERATIONS, AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VECTOR SPACES AND TRANSFORMATIONS. WITH CLEAR EXPLANATIONS AND STRUCTURED SECTIONS, THIS GUIDE AIMS TO SIMPLIFY COMPLEX IDEAS WHILE DELIVERING SEO-FOCUSED CONTENT THAT ANSWERS COMMON QUESTIONS. WHETHER YOU ARE A STUDENT, PROFESSIONAL, OR LIFELONG LEARNER, THIS RESOURCE OFFERS A SOLID FOUNDATION TO UNDERSTAND LINEAR ALGEBRA'S PRINCIPLES AND ITS ROLE IN MODERN PROBLEM-SOLVING.

- WHAT IS LINEAR ALGEBRA?
- HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF LINEAR ALGEBRA
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- MATRICES: STRUCTURE AND APPLICATIONS
- SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS
- VECTOR SPACES AND SUBSPACES
- LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE
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- BENEFITS OF STUDYING LINEAR ALGEBRA
- KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

WHAT IS LINEAR ALGEBRA?

LINEAR ALGEBRA IS THE BRANCH OF MATHEMATICS FOCUSED ON THE STUDY OF VECTORS, VECTOR SPACES, LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS, AND MATRICES. IT PROVIDES TOOLS FOR MODELING AND SOLVING PROBLEMS INVOLVING MULTIDIMENSIONAL QUANTITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS. LINEAR ALGEBRA IS CRUCIAL FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW TO MANIPULATE DATA, SOLVE COMPLEX EQUATIONS, AND ANALYZE STRUCTURES IN VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC FIELDS. ITS PRINCIPLES ARE WIDELY USED IN PHYSICS, ENGINEERING, STATISTICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE, AND ECONOMICS, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MOST PRACTICAL AND VERSATILE AREAS OF MATHEMATICS.

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF LINEAR ALGEBRA

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LINEAR ALGEBRA CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE 19TH CENTURY, ALTHOUGH ITS ROOTS EXIST IN MUCH EARLIER MATHEMATICAL IDEAS. EARLY STUDIES FOCUSED ON SOLVING SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS, WHICH DATE BACK TO ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS SUCH AS THE BABYLONIANS AND CHINESE. IN THE 1800S, MATHEMATICIANS LIKE ARTHUR CAYLEY AND JAMES JOSEPH SYLVESTER FORMALIZED THE THEORY OF MATRICES AND LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS. OVER TIME, LINEAR ALGEBRA EVOLVED TO INCLUDE ABSTRACT VECTOR SPACES AND COMPLEX TRANSFORMATIONS, BECOMING A CORE MATHEMATICAL

DISCIPLINE. TODAY, IT IS INDISPENSABLE IN THEORETICAL RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS ACROSS DIVERSE FIELDS.

CORE CONCEPTS IN LINEAR ALGEBRA

LINEAR ALGEBRA REVOLVES AROUND SEVERAL FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING AND ANALYSIS. THESE INCLUDE VECTORS, MATRICES, SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS, VECTOR SPACES, AND LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS. UNDERSTANDING THESE CORE IDEAS ALLOWS STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS TO TACKLE A WIDE RANGE OF MATHEMATICAL AND REAL-WORLD CHALLENGES EFFECTIVELY. EACH CONCEPT IS INTERCONNECTED, FORMING A COHESIVE FRAMEWORK FOR STUDYING LINEAR RELATIONSHIPS AND OPERATIONS.

- VECTORS: REPRESENT QUANTITIES WITH DIRECTION AND MAGNITUDE.
- MATRICES: STRUCTURES THAT ORGANIZE NUMBERS FOR COMPUTATION.
- SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS: SETS OF EQUATIONS WITH MULTIPLE VARIABLES.
- VECTOR SPACES: COLLECTIONS OF VECTORS WITH SPECIFIC PROPERTIES.
- LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS: FUNCTIONS THAT MAP VECTORS FROM ONE SPACE TO ANOTHER.

VECTORS: DEFINITION AND OPERATIONS

DEFINITION OF A VECTOR

A VECTOR IS A MATHEMATICAL OBJECT THAT POSSESSES BOTH MAGNITUDE AND DIRECTION. VECTORS ARE COMMONLY REPRESENTED AS ORDERED LISTS OR ARRAYS OF NUMBERS, INDICATING THEIR COMPONENTS ALONG DIFFERENT AXES. IN LINEAR ALGEBRA, VECTORS CAN EXIST IN TWO OR MORE DIMENSIONS, AND THEY PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN MODELING PHYSICAL PHENOMENA, DATA POINTS, AND MORE.

VECTOR OPERATIONS

KEY OPERATIONS INVOLVING VECTORS INCLUDE ADDITION, SCALAR MULTIPLICATION, AND DOT PRODUCT. THESE OPERATIONS ALLOW FOR THE MANIPULATION AND COMBINATION OF VECTORS IN MEANINGFUL WAYS.

- ADDITION: COMBINING TWO VECTORS COMPONENT-WISE.
- SCALAR MULTIPLICATION: MULTIPLYING A VECTOR BY A NUMBER, SCALING ITS MAGNITUDE.
- DOT PRODUCT: PRODUCING A SCALAR VALUE FROM TWO VECTORS, INDICATING THEIR DIRECTIONAL SIMILARITY.
- CROSS PRODUCT (IN 3D): GENERATING A VECTOR PERPENDICULAR TO TWO GIVEN VECTORS.

MATRICES: STRUCTURE AND APPLICATIONS

WHAT IS A MATRIX?

A MATRIX IS A RECTANGULAR ARRAY OF NUMBERS ARRANGED IN ROWS AND COLUMNS. MATRICES ARE USED TO ORGANIZE DATA, SOLVE EQUATIONS, AND REPRESENT LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS. THEY CAN HAVE VARIOUS SIZES, SUCH AS 2×2 , 3×3 , OR LARGER, DEPENDING ON THE APPLICATION.

MATRIX OPERATIONS

MATRICES SUPPORT SEVERAL OPERATIONS VITAL FOR COMPUTATION IN LINEAR ALGEBRA. THESE INCLUDE ADDITION, MULTIPLICATION, TRANSPOSITION, AND INVERSION.

- ADDITION: SUMMING MATRICES OF THE SAME SIZE ELEMENT-WISE.
- MULTIPLICATION: COMBINING TWO MATRICES OR A MATRIX WITH A VECTOR TO PRODUCE NEW DATA.
- TRANSPOSE: FLIPPING A MATRIX OVER ITS DIAGONAL, CHANGING ROWS TO COLUMNS.
- INVERSE: FINDING A MATRIX THAT REVERSES THE EFFECT OF ANOTHER, IF IT EXISTS.

APPLICATIONS OF MATRICES

MATRICES ARE WIDELY USED IN COMPUTER GRAPHICS, ENGINEERING SIMULATIONS, STATISTICS, AND MACHINE LEARNING. THEY HELP REPRESENT AND MANIPULATE LARGE DATASETS, TRANSFORM GEOMETRIC OBJECTS, AND SOLVE COMPLEX SYSTEMS EFFICIENTLY.

SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS

DEFINITION AND SIGNIFICANCE

A SYSTEM OF LINEAR EQUATIONS CONSISTS OF MULTIPLE EQUATIONS INVOLVING THE SAME SET OF VARIABLES. THE GOAL IS TO FIND VALUES FOR THE VARIABLES THAT SATISFY ALL EQUATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY. SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS ARE PIVOTAL IN SCIENTIFIC MODELING, ENGINEERING DESIGN, AND DATA ANALYSIS.

METHODS OF SOLVING SYSTEMS

SEVERAL METHODS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SOLVING SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS, EACH WITH DISTINCT ADVANTAGES DEPENDING ON THE SIZE AND PROPERTIES OF THE SYSTEM.

- SUBSTITUTION METHOD
- ELIMINATION METHOD

- MATRIX METHOD (USING INVERSE OR ROW REDUCTION TECHNIQUES)
- GRAPHICAL METHOD (FOR SMALL SYSTEMS)

VECTOR SPACES AND SUBSPACES

UNDERSTANDING VECTOR SPACES

A VECTOR SPACE IS A COLLECTION OF VECTORS THAT CAN BE ADDED TOGETHER AND MULTIPLIED BY SCALARS, SATISFYING SPECIFIC RULES. VECTOR SPACES PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING HIGHER-DIMENSIONAL SYSTEMS AND GENERALIZING MATHEMATICAL OPERATIONS.

SUBSPACES AND THEIR PROPERTIES

SUBSPACES ARE SUBSETS OF VECTOR SPACES THAT THEMSELVES FORM VECTOR SPACES. THEY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ANALYZING SOLUTION SETS, TRANSFORMATIONS, AND RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN LARGER SPACES.

- CLOSURE UNDER ADDITION AND SCALAR MULTIPLICATION
- CONTAIN THE ZERO VECTOR
- ENABLE DECOMPOSITION OF COMPLEX SPACES INTO SIMPLER COMPONENTS

LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

DEFINITION OF LINEAR TRANSFORMATION

A LINEAR TRANSFORMATION IS A FUNCTION THAT MAPS VECTORS FROM ONE VECTOR SPACE TO ANOTHER, PRESERVING THE OPERATIONS OF VECTOR ADDITION AND SCALAR MULTIPLICATION. LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS ARE REPRESENTED BY MATRICES AND ARE CENTRAL TO MANY PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

EXAMPLES AND APPLICATIONS

LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS ARE USED IN GRAPHICS RENDERING, SIGNAL PROCESSING, AND SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING. COMMON EXAMPLES INCLUDE ROTATION, SCALING, AND PROJECTION IN GEOMETRIC SPACES.

APPLICATIONS OF LINEAR ALGEBRA

REAL-WORLD USES

LINEAR ALGEBRA IS APPLIED IN NUMEROUS REAL-WORLD SCENARIOS, DRIVING INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY ACROSS INDUSTRIES. ITS ABILITY TO MODEL COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS AND PROCESS LARGE DATASETS MAKES IT INDISPENSABLE IN MODERN PROBLEM-SOLVING.

- MACHINE LEARNING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- COMPUTER GRAPHICS AND ANIMATION
- ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS SIMULATIONS
- ECONOMIC MODELING AND FORECASTING
- NETWORK ANALYSIS AND OPTIMIZATION

BENEFITS OF STUDYING LINEAR ALGEBRA

MASTERING LINEAR ALGEBRA EQUIPS INDIVIDUALS WITH PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS, ANALYTICAL THINKING, AND A SOLID MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATION. IT OPENS DOORS TO ADVANCED STUDY IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY-RELATED FIELDS, AND ENHANCES CAREER PROSPECTS IN DATA SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, FINANCE, AND RESEARCH.

KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

UNDERSTANDING LINEAR ALGEBRA REQUIRES FAMILIARITY WITH ITS KEY TERMS. BELOW ARE SOME ESSENTIAL DEFINITIONS TO GUIDE YOUR LEARNING.

- VECTOR: AN OBJECT WITH MAGNITUDE AND DIRECTION.
- MATRIX: A RECTANGULAR ARRAY OF NUMBERS.
- LINEAR EQUATION: AN EQUATION REPRESENTING A STRAIGHT LINE IN MULTIDIMENSIONAL SPACE.
- VECTOR SPACE: A SET OF VECTORS CLOSED UNDER ADDITION AND SCALAR MULTIPLICATION.
- LINEAR TRANSFORMATION: A FUNCTION MAPPING VECTORS IN A LINEAR MANNER.
- SUBSPACE: A VECTOR SPACE CONTAINED WITHIN ANOTHER VECTOR SPACE.
- SCALAR: A SINGLE NUMBER USED TO MULTIPLY VECTORS OR MATRICES.

Q: WHAT IS LINEAR ALGEBRA AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

A: LINEAR ALGEBRA IS THE STUDY OF VECTORS, MATRICES, AND LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS. IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT PROVIDES ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR MODELING AND SOLVING PROBLEMS IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, DATA ANALYSIS, AND MANY OTHER FIELDS.

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VECTOR AND A MATRIX?

A: A VECTOR IS A ONE-DIMENSIONAL ARRAY REPRESENTING MAGNITUDE AND DIRECTION, WHILE A MATRIX IS A TWO-DIMENSIONAL ARRAY USED TO ORGANIZE DATA AND PERFORM COMPLEX COMPUTATIONS.

Q: HOW ARE LINEAR EQUATIONS SOLVED USING LINEAR ALGEBRA?

A: LINEAR EQUATIONS CAN BE SOLVED USING SUBSTITUTION, ELIMINATION, AND MATRIX METHODS SUCH AS ROW REDUCTION OR MATRIX INVERSION, ALLOWING FOR EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS TO SYSTEMS WITH MULTIPLE VARIABLES.

Q: WHAT ARE VECTOR SPACES AND SUBSPACES?

A: VECTOR SPACES ARE SETS OF VECTORS THAT FOLLOW SPECIFIC RULES FOR ADDITION AND SCALAR MULTIPLICATION. SUBSPACES ARE SUBSETS OF VECTOR SPACES THAT ALSO SATISFY THESE RULES, ENABLING FURTHER ANALYSIS AND SIMPLIFICATION.

Q: WHAT ARE REAL-LIFE APPLICATIONS OF LINEAR ALGEBRA?

A: LINEAR ALGEBRA IS USED IN MACHINE LEARNING, COMPUTER GRAPHICS, ENGINEERING SIMULATIONS, ECONOMIC MODELING, AND NETWORK ANALYSIS, AMONG OTHER AREAS.

Q: WHAT IS A LINEAR TRANSFORMATION?

A: A LINEAR TRANSFORMATION IS A FUNCTION THAT MAPS VECTORS FROM ONE SPACE TO ANOTHER, MAINTAINING THE STRUCTURE OF VECTOR ADDITION AND SCALAR MULTIPLICATION, OFTEN REPRESENTED BY MATRICES.

Q: WHY IS MATRIX MULTIPLICATION IMPORTANT?

A: MATRIX MULTIPLICATION ENABLES THE COMBINATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF DATA, SUPPORTS SOLVING SYSTEMS OF EQUATIONS, AND IS VITAL IN COMPUTER GRAPHICS AND SCIENTIFIC COMPUTATIONS.

Q: HOW DOES LINEAR ALGEBRA RELATE TO MACHINE LEARNING?

A: LINEAR ALGEBRA PROVIDES THE MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATION FOR ALGORITHMS IN MACHINE LEARNING, ENABLING EFFICIENT DATA PROCESSING, MODELING, AND OPTIMIZATION.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME KEY TERMS IN LINEAR ALGEBRA?

A: KEY TERMS INCLUDE VECTOR, MATRIX, SCALAR, LINEAR EQUATION, VECTOR SPACE, SUBSPACE, AND LINEAR TRANSFORMATION.

Q: IS LINEAR ALGEBRA DIFFICULT TO LEARN?

A: LINEAR ALGEBRA CAN BE CHALLENGING BUT IS MANAGEABLE WITH A STRUCTURED APPROACH AND PRACTICE. UNDERSTANDING THE CORE CONCEPTS AND OPERATIONS MAKES IT ACCESSIBLE FOR MOST LEARNERS.

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Introduction to Linear Algebra: A Beginner's Guide

Linear algebra might sound intimidating, conjuring up images of complex equations and abstract concepts. But the truth is, this powerful mathematical field underpins much of the modern world, from computer graphics and machine learning to quantum physics and economics. This comprehensive introduction to linear algebra will demystify the subject, providing a foundational understanding accessible to beginners. We'll explore core concepts in a clear, concise manner, equipping you with the knowledge to confidently tackle more advanced topics.

What is Linear Algebra?

Linear algebra is the branch of mathematics concerning vector spaces and linear mappings between such spaces. Think of it as the study of lines, planes, and higher-dimensional analogues, and the transformations that act upon them. While it may seem abstract initially, its applications are incredibly concrete and relevant to numerous fields. At its heart, linear algebra deals with solving systems of linear equations, a task with widespread practical implications.

Fundamental Concepts: Vectors and Matrices

Understanding vectors and matrices is crucial to grasping linear algebra.

Vectors: The Building Blocks

Vectors are directed line segments, characterized by both magnitude (length) and direction. They are often represented as ordered lists of numbers (e.g., $[1, 2, 3]$) and can be visualized as arrows in space. In linear algebra, vectors represent points or directions in a vector space. Operations on vectors include addition (combining vectors head-to-tail) and scalar multiplication (stretching or shrinking a vector).

Matrices: Organized Data

Matrices are rectangular arrays of numbers, arranged in rows and columns. They serve as a powerful tool for organizing and manipulating data. Matrices are fundamental to representing linear

transformations – ways to map one vector space to another. Common matrix operations include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and finding the inverse (if it exists).

Linear Transformations: Changing Shapes

Linear transformations are functions that map vectors from one vector space to another, while preserving the operations of vector addition and scalar multiplication. These transformations can represent rotations, scaling, shearing, and other geometric manipulations. Matrices provide a compact and efficient way to represent these transformations. Understanding how matrices act on vectors is key to solving many problems in linear algebra.

Systems of Linear Equations: Finding Solutions

One of the most practical applications of linear algebra is solving systems of linear equations. These systems consist of multiple equations with multiple variables. Linear algebra provides powerful methods, such as Gaussian elimination and matrix inversion, to efficiently find solutions to these systems or determine if a solution exists.

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors: Understanding Transformations

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors are crucial concepts in understanding the behavior of linear transformations. Eigenvectors are special vectors that, when a linear transformation is applied, only change in scale (i.e., they are multiplied by a scalar). This scalar is the eigenvalue. Eigenvalues and eigenvectors provide insights into the fundamental properties of the transformation and are used in many applications, including principal component analysis (PCA) in machine learning.

Applications of Linear Algebra

The applications of linear algebra are vast and diverse. Some notable examples include:

Computer Graphics: Used extensively for 3D modeling, animation, and rendering. Transformations like rotations and scaling are represented using matrices.

Machine Learning: Forms the basis of many machine learning algorithms, including regression, classification, and dimensionality reduction.

Data Science: Used for data analysis, manipulation, and visualization, including techniques like principal component analysis (PCA) and singular value decomposition (SVD).

Physics and Engineering: Essential for solving problems in mechanics, electromagnetism, and quantum mechanics.

Economics: Used in econometrics for modeling economic systems and analyzing data.

Conclusion

This introduction to linear algebra has provided a foundational overview of core concepts, from vectors and matrices to linear transformations and systems of equations. While this is just a starting point, understanding these fundamentals will open doors to a world of powerful applications and more advanced concepts. Continued exploration of linear algebra will undoubtedly enhance your understanding of various fields and empower you to tackle complex problems effectively.

FAQs

1. What math background do I need to start learning linear algebra? A solid understanding of basic algebra and some familiarity with functions is beneficial, but not strictly required. Many introductory resources start with the fundamentals.
2. Are there any online resources for learning linear algebra? Yes! Numerous online courses, tutorials, and textbooks are available, catering to various learning styles and levels. Khan Academy, MIT OpenCourseware, and 3Blue1Brown's YouTube channel are excellent starting points.
3. What software is commonly used for linear algebra computations? MATLAB, Python (with libraries like NumPy and SciPy), and R are popular choices for numerical linear algebra.
4. How is linear algebra related to machine learning? Linear algebra is fundamental to machine learning. Many algorithms rely on matrix operations, vector spaces, and linear transformations for tasks like data representation, model training, and prediction.
5. Is linear algebra difficult to learn? The perceived difficulty depends on individual learning styles and background. While some concepts may require effort, breaking down the material into smaller, manageable parts and utilizing various learning resources can greatly improve understanding and make the learning process more enjoyable.

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introduction to linear algebra: Introduction To Linear Algebra Mark J. DeBonis, 2022-02-23 Introduction to Linear Algebra: Computation, Application, and Theory is designed for students who have never been exposed to the topics in a linear algebra course. The text is filled with interesting and diverse application sections but is also a theoretical text which aims to train students to do succinct computation in a knowledgeable way. After completing the course with this text, the student will not only know the best and shortest way to do linear algebraic computations but will also know why such computations are both effective and successful. Features: Includes cutting edge applications in machine learning and data analytics Suitable as a primary text for undergraduates studying linear algebra Requires very little in the way of pre-requisites

introduction to linear algebra: Linear Algebra As An Introduction To Abstract Mathematics Bruno Nachtergaele, Anne Schilling, Isaiah Lankham, 2015-11-30 This is an introductory textbook designed for undergraduate mathematics majors with an emphasis on abstraction and in particular, the concept of proofs in the setting of linear algebra. Typically such a student would have taken calculus, though the only prerequisite is suitable mathematical grounding. The purpose of this book is to bridge the gap between the more conceptual and computational oriented undergraduate classes to the more abstract oriented classes. The book begins with systems of linear equations and complex numbers, then relates these to the abstract notion of linear maps on finite-dimensional vector spaces, and covers diagonalization, eigenspaces, determinants, and the Spectral Theorem. Each chapter concludes with both proof-writing and computational exercises.

introduction to linear algebra: Linear Algebra Jim Hefferon, 2015 This text covers a standard first course : Gauss's method, vector spaces, linear maps and matrices, determinants, and eigenvalues and eigenvectors. In addition, each chapter ends with some topics such as brief applications. What sets it apart is careful motivation, many examples, and extensive exercise sets. Together these help each student master the material of this course, and also help an instructor develop that student's level of mathematical maturity. This book has been available online for many years and is widely used, both in classrooms and for self-study. It is supported by worked answers for all exercises, beamer slides for classroom use, and a lab manual of computer work--Page 4 of cover.

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introduction to linear algebra: *Linear Algebra Done Right* Sheldon Axler, 1997-07-18 This text for a second course in linear algebra, aimed at math majors and graduates, adopts a novel approach by banishing determinants to the end of the book and focusing on understanding the structure of linear operators on vector spaces. The author has taken unusual care to motivate concepts and to simplify proofs. For example, the book presents - without having defined determinants - a clean proof that every linear operator on a finite-dimensional complex vector space has an eigenvalue. The book starts by discussing vector spaces, linear independence, span, basics, and dimension. Students are introduced to inner-product spaces in the first half of the book and shortly thereafter to the finite-dimensional spectral theorem. A variety of interesting exercises in each chapter helps students understand and manipulate the objects of linear algebra. This second edition features new chapters on diagonal matrices, on linear functionals and adjoints, and on the spectral theorem; some sections, such as those on self-adjoint and normal operators, have been entirely rewritten; and hundreds of minor improvements have been made throughout the text.

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introduction to linear algebra: *Introduction to Linear Algebra* Gordon Mills, 2017-07-12 This is the first book on linear algebra written specifically for social scientists. It deals only with those aspects of the subject applicable in the social sciences and provides a thorough understanding of linear algebra for those who wish to use it as a tool in the design, execution, and interpretation of research. Linear mathematical models play an important role in all of the social sciences. This book provides a step-by-step introduction to those parts of linear algebra which are useful in such model building. It illustrates some of the applications of linear analysis and helps the reader learn how to convert his formulation of a social science problem into algebraic terms. The author covers matrix algebra, computational methods, linear models involving discrete variables, and clear, complete explanations of necessary mathematical concepts. Prior knowledge of calculus is not required since no use is made of calculus or of complex numbers. A novel feature of the mathematical content of the book is the treatment of models expressed in terms of variables which must be whole numbers (integers). The book is distinguished by a step-by-step exposition that allows the reader to grasp quickly and fully the principles of linear algebra. All of the examples used to illustrate the text are drawn from the social sciences, enabling the reader to relate the subject to concrete problems in his field. Exercises are included as a necessary part of the text to develop points not covered in the text and to provide practice in the algebraic formulation of applied problems. An appendix gives solutions (or hints) for selected exercises.

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