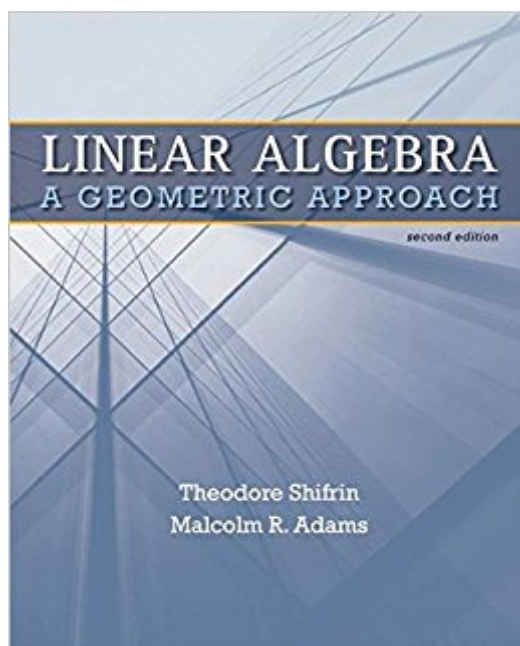


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Linear Algebra: A Geometric Approach



Synopsis

Linear Algebra: A Geometric Approach, Second Edition, presents the standard computational aspects of linear algebra and includes a variety of intriguing interesting applications that would be interesting to motivate science and engineering students, as well as help mathematics students make the transition to more abstract advanced courses. The text guides students on how to think about mathematical concepts and write rigorous mathematical arguments.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

MALCOLM ADAMS, University of Georgia, USA. THEODORE SHIFRIN, University of Georgia, USA.

I don't know where to start with this book. I found it insulting and frustrating that the authors frequently write "the astute student will know how to do this so we leave it to them", I am reading a textbook because I want to learn how to do something and need a worked example at least once to see what is going on. In general there were a lot of things that were done with no explanation and the underpinnings of concepts were glossed over. Most of the answers in the textbook were worthless in terms of using them to understand the problem, and certainly not what the authors tout to be proper mathematical solutions. Maybe my standards are too high, but I believe a textbook should be a resource and helpful to the reader without a teacher. As mathematics major I would never touch this book again and bought a different one to help me learn the material for my course.

Let me first say that I attend Duke, enjoy math, get good grades in math, and am willing to put in the hours to understand something. But I think that it is very telling that those who teach linear algebra and those who learn linear algebra have very different attitudes towards this book. The parts where the book explains something with diagrams, explains a proof, or puts forth a definition are generally quite good. The concepts are exactly what I want to learn. I would ask that the book be a little more directed towards beginners and not assume that repetition of concepts is unnecessary, but I have no major complaints about that part. The huge, glaring, fatal weakness of this book is that there are nowhere near enough examples and practice problems. I took notes on each section, worked through each example multiple times, and make a sincere effort to do every single one of the exercises (don't tell me I haven't put in enough effort, because I've been nearly ignoring my other classes to spend hours every day trying to puzzle out this book). I consider myself a math and science person, and I am doing everything I can. But the simple fact is that I need more examples. More explanations of problems. More ways to practice what I'm trying to learn. I'm fine with a challenging text, but there's a difference between challenging and simply frustrating. I don't want the text to become any easier, I just want a way to improve my understanding of it, and I don't think the current amount of exercises and examples are anywhere near adequate. To be perfectly clear, DO NOT purchase this book for self-study unless you already are quite familiar with linear algebra. If you know and love linear algebra pretty well already, I can see how this book might be useful.

Examples are not clear, they refuse to explain things in the homework solutions, and they just continually make massive assumptions about what is obvious to the reader. If you are trying to learn linear algebra from an application based perspective, DO NOT choose this book. It's basically just proofs.

This book is written at a very high level. It does not have enough practice exercises to reinforce (or check for) understanding.

Very good condition and helpful.

You will love to attend lectures after getting this book. Because it teaches in a way of confusion, while I can see the author knows the material very well, I would assume this is not written for students. (what for? ask the author.) Since the book is so unclear and off the point, it does offer examples. Examples that doesn't relate to the practice problems at all. I have no other problem with

my calculus book and I'm not a lazy student. I only use this book as a practice problem source. (Otherwise I'll be confusing myself truthfully, it always make the material harder, while my professor can make it easier) A good lecture and a helpful professor, that's all I'm counting on. Do not get this book, do yourself a favor! I'll be reselling it to right after I'm done with LA I&II. I don't sell books for the most of the time (I consider them as a fortune), but not this one.

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