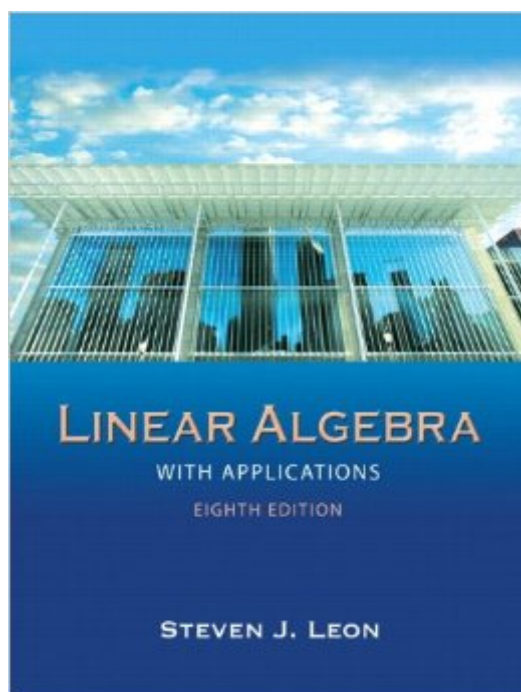


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Linear Algebra With Applications (8th Edition)



Synopsis

This book is for sophomore-level or junior/senior-level first courses in linear algebra and assumes calculus as a prerequisite. This thorough and accessible text, from one of the leading figures in the use of technology in linear algebra, gives students a challenging and broad understanding of the subject. The author infuses key concepts with their modern practical applications to offer students examples of how mathematics is used in the real world. Each chapter contains integrated worked examples and chapter tests. The book stresses the important roles geometry and visualization play in understanding linear algebra. Lay-flat type.

Book Information

Hardcover: 552 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 8 edition (September 5, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0136009298

ISBN-13: 978-0136009290

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.9 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds

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This review is for the 8th edition of the book. I have not read the previous editions, so my comments are not necessarily true for any of the past editions. I have seen publishers to damage good books by creating new editions to books that really needed no changes at all. The effort of the publishers to eliminate the used-book market has a negative effect on the quality of their own books. What I am trying to say is that one or more than one of the past editions may have been outstanding and that's why the book has survived in the market so long despite the negative reviews on the 8th edition. I gave the book 3 stars---slightly more than 2.5 stars---and I think this reflects its quality quite well. The book is certainly better than average. However, it cannot rank at the very top of the books on linear algebra. A well versed person in the subject will have absolutely no problem with the book. In fact, he/she may find various sections quite satisfying. Unfortunately, this experience may not be transferable to a student who learns the topic. In the following, I will try to document my evaluation

through some examples. The book has many applications of matrices and linear algebra from mathematics, physics and engineering. These applications will be seen by people who know the topic as a great feature of the book, not encountered in other standard books of the topic. They are valuable additions which will be praised by instructors and interdisciplinary researchers. But to the person who struggles to learn the topic, these applications break the continuity of the learning process and introduce an unnecessary distraction.

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