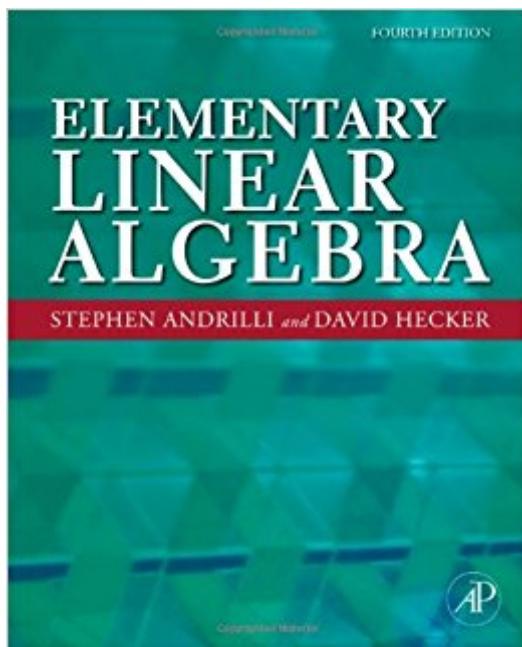


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Elementary Linear Algebra, Fourth Edition



Synopsis

Elementary Linear Algebra develops and explains in careful detail the computational techniques and fundamental theoretical results central to a first course in linear algebra. This highly acclaimed text focuses on developing the abstract thinking essential for further mathematical study. The authors give early, intensive attention to the skills necessary to make students comfortable with mathematical proofs. The text builds a gradual and smooth transition from computational results to general theory of abstract vector spaces. It also provides flexible coverage of practical applications, exploring a comprehensive range of topics. Ancillary list: * Maple Algorithmic testing- Maple TA- www.maplesoft.comIncludes a wide variety of applications, technology tips and exercises, organized in chart format for easy referenceMore than 310 numbered examples in the text at least one for each new concept or applicationExercise sets ordered by increasing difficulty, many with multiple parts for a total of more than 2135 questionsProvides an early introduction to eigenvalues/eigenvectorsA Student solutions manual, containing fully worked out solutions and instructors manual available

Book Information

Hardcover: 768 pages

Publisher: Academic Press; 4 edition (January 11, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0123747511

ISBN-13: 978-0123747518

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 8 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #91,674 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Algebra > Linear #253 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Algebra > Elementary #463 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Mathematics > Algebra & Trigonometry

Customer Reviews

"...they succeed at building an algorithmic feel for the subject, with many summaries of how to do things like diagonalizing a matrix in six easy steps or testing a set of vectors for linear independence in three steps...allows the reader to choose more practice when desired, without it being necessary to complete every exercise." --MAA Reviews

Dr. Andrilli has a Ph.D. degree in mathematics from Rutgers University, and is an Associate Professor in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department at La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA, having previously taught at Mount St. Maryâ™s University in Emmitsburg, MD. He has taught linear algebra to sophomore/junior mathematics, mathematics-education, chemistry, geology, and other science majors for over thirty years. Dr. Andrilliâ™s other mathematical interests include history of mathematics, college geometry, group theory, and mathematics-education, for which he served as a supervisor of undergraduate and graduate student-teachers for almost two decades. He has pioneered an Honors Course at La Salle based on Douglas Hofstadterâ™s âœGodel, Escher, Bach,” into which he weaves the Alice books by Lewis Carroll. Dr. Andrilli lives in the suburbs of Philadelphia with his wife Ene. He enjoys travel, classical music, classic movies, classic literature, science-fiction, and mysteries. His favorite author is J. R. R. Tolkien. Dr. Hecker has a Ph.D. degree in mathematics from Rutgers University, and is a Professor in the Mathematics Department at Saint Josephâ™s University in Philadelphia, PA. He has taught linear algebra to sophomore/junior mathematics and science majors for over three decades. Dr. Hecker has previously served two terms as Chair of his department, and his other mathematical interests include real and complex analysis, and linear algebra. He lives on five acres in the farmlands of New Jersey with his wife Lyn, and is very devoted to his four children. Dr. Hecker enjoys photography, camping and hiking, beekeeping, geocaching, science-fiction, humorous jokes and riddles, and rock and country music. His favorite rock group is the Moody Blues.

The textbook lays out the subject in an articulate manner and the examples force applications to what is learned. It forces you to go above and beyond the basic understanding of the course, which is why many people on here are discrediting it.

The text that this solutions manual is for already has short answers to some of the exercises in the back of the text. This solutions manual contains more complete answers to those same exercises, period. These detailed answers ARE quite helpful in understanding those procedures. One of the weaknesses of the original text is that it has some exercises that request the student to perform procedures not specifically explained in the chapter (or previous chapters). Unfortunately, none of those exercises are covered in this manual. If step by step explanations to just some of the exercises are what you are looking for, this manual delivers, and delivers well. If you think all the answers to your course homework lie within, you'll probably be disappointed.

The semester started on January 18th 2011, so in writing this review I am half way into the course. The book has been a resource because it simple. The authors are straightforward in regard to presenting theorems and examples. With abstract ideas like proofs or how vectors move on a plane I am appreciative to how straightforward the text is. For a course like linear algebra I think it is important to have a text where you can read the text and actually follow along. I wouldn't go so far as saying you can teach yourself with this text, but I can see the potential.

I must say I have been pleasantly surprised with this book. I find it very readable. It has been very easy for me to teach myself what I need to know right out of the text. There aren't many math books I've found that can make that claim. I haven't needed to consult any other books to understand the material. The only real improvement I could wish for from this book would be a solutions manual. The book follows a very logical progression. Each topic builds on previously covered material. It's clear to me now why UT chose this book for its math major classes. The emphasis in this book is teaching you to think abstractly and work out difficult proofs, which you're going to need for more advanced math classes. The book has a lot of proof exercises (but there are a lot of computational exercises as well.) In all, I'd say this book does a great job doing what it was designed to do, which is to train future mathematicians. This naturally implies, however, as a previous reviewer stated, that it's going to be short on applications. So if you're going to be taking a class using this book, it would be a good idea to learn a little about the applications of linear algebra before you start, if you need that knowledge to keep yourself motivated. Then prepare to learn linear algebra from a very fine book.

This book is notoriously horrendous at the University of Texas. The homework problems don't reflect what is covered in the text, and the problems are not well designed in that they require much busy work to achieve a simple answer. When learning the elementary principles of a subject, I think it's best to avoid pages of senseless arithmetic to practice the newly learned material. Thumbs down.

The exercises are totally different from the examples. The book is poorly constructed and you just can't learn things from it. And it doesn't explain things well. It is a horrible textbook.

Why did I choose this rating? I choose this rating because the shipment came in a time that pleased

me. I cannot judge the book yet because I have not used it yet because I am waiting for the summer to go through this book and do the exercises. I live in an area of the U.S that is not strongly theoretical and I love mathematics so this is a problem. I can take all the classes I want but there is a strong feeling of a lack of rigor that I crave. To put this into context, I have three colleges in my area 2 universities and 1 jr college. All of which only allow applied linear algebra courses(the community college seldomly offers the course because hardly anybody needs it). To have a book that allows me to dive into a more theoretical background is very appealing to me. I've looked at the texts from book universities and they only have content of the first four chapters of this book.What did I like or dislike?I like the organization of the book and its chapters. The first four are generally chapters on computation. Apparently four is where it begins to dive into theory. From four till seven it becomes more theoretical and covers what a standard more mathematically accustomed university may have. Chapter 8 and 9 are more theoretical than the last but they typically aren't covered within a standard linear algebra course, I like this :). I found this book by searching Texas A&M's (college station) math department website and seeing what book their courses use. I know they are not in the top 15 ranked universities but compared to the universities in my area I feel they more ethos on this topic. I had my professor check this book and he told me this would be a good book to learn linear algebra in. He understands my frustration with the academic community in my area of Texas.I can't really say anything I dislike about it yet but I will when I finish going through the chapters.Who would I recommend this product to?Anyone who is in an area of the country that is not academically strong in theoretical aspects of mathematics and would like to learn more theory than application.As paranoid as this may sound, it is important for students who desire graduate school in these areas of the world to take a strong grip on their education and analysis what they are taking in. Even if this book doesn't turn out as great as it seems, one must still be able to analysis whether or not he/she is getting a sufficient education for their desires.

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