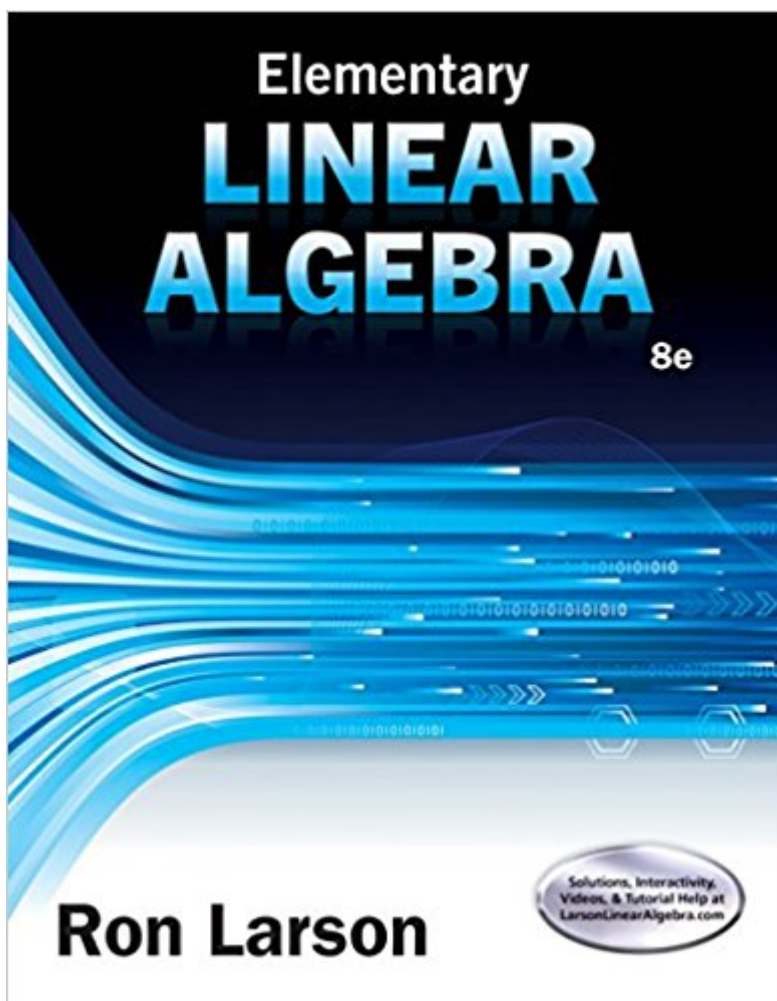




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Elementary Linear Algebra



Synopsis

ELEMENTARY LINEAR ALGEBRA's clear, careful, and concise presentation of material helps you fully understand how mathematics works. The author balances theory with examples, applications, and geometric intuition for a complete, step-by-step learning system. To engage you in the material, a new design highlights the relevance of the mathematics and makes the book easier to read. Data and applications reflect current statistics and examples, demonstrating the link between theory and practice. The companion website LarsonLinearAlgebra.com offers free access to multiple study tools and resources. CalcChat.com offers free step-by-step solutions to the odd-numbered exercises in the text.

Book Information

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Dr. Ron Larson is a professor of mathematics at The Pennsylvania State University, where he has taught since 1970. He received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Colorado and is considered the pioneer of using multimedia to enhance the learning of mathematics, having authored over 30 software titles since 1990. Dr. Larson conducts numerous seminars and in-service workshops for math educators around the country about using computer technology as an instructional tool and motivational aid. He is the recipient of the 2014 William Holmes McGuffey Longevity Award for CALCULUS: EARLY TRANSCENDENTAL FUNCTIONS, the 2013 Text and Academic Authors Association Award for CALCULUS, the 2012 William Holmes McGuffey Longevity Award for CALCULUS: AN APPLIED APPROACH, and the 1996 Text and Academic Authors Association TEXTY Award for INTERACTIVE CALCULUS (a complete text on CD-ROM that was the first mainstream college textbook to be offered on the Internet). Dr. Larson authors numerous textbooks including the bestselling Calculus series published by Cengage.

I thought Linear Algebra was a fairly easy class, I believe this book also had something to do with that. Simple clean, and lots of examples. I can't stress enough how awesome the website is, for most of the early chapters, they have step by step instructions on how to solve most odd number

problems. I never used the rep help, but I thought that extra resource was truly helpful.

I really like the layout and presentation of subject matter in this textbook. If you want to self-teach, I can't think of a better companion text. Everything is clearly laid out in detail. It is oriented towards college sophomore and juniors who are also students of engineering or computer science.

Knowledge of calculus is not required, although there are a couple of examples that use calculus that are clearly labeled and can be omitted without loss of continuity. There are theorems and proofs included, but this is very much an applied example-driven book. There is an abundance of diagrams and figures illustrating every point and example. There is currently a sixth edition, but if you can convince your instructor, go for this edition. I've seen the sixth edition and it offers no better a presentation than this one. Has matrix algebra somehow changed in the last five years? I don't think so. The following is the table of contents:

1. Systems of Linear Equations
2. Matrices
- 3.

4. Determinants
5. Vector Spaces
6. Inner Product Spaces
7. Linear Transformations
8. Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors
9. Complex Vector Spaces

The book has something extra special - every chapter has a section that shows how the material just presented figures into the solution of an actual problem.

The following is the list of applications for each chapter:

1. Applications of Systems of Linear Equations
 - a. Polynomial Curve Fitting
 - b. Network Analysis
2. Applications of Matrix Operations
 - a. Stochastic Matrices
 - b. Cryptography
 - c. Leontief Input-Output Models
 - d. Least Squares Regression Analysis
3. Applications of Determinants
 - a. The adjoint of a matrix
 - b. Cramer's Rule
 - c. Area, Volume, and Equations of lines and planes
4. Applications of Vector spaces
 - a. Linear Differential Equations
 - b. Conic sections and rotation
5. Applications of inner product spaces
 - a. The cross product of two vectors in space
 - b. Least squares approximations
 - c. Fourier approximations
6. Applications of Linear Transformations
 - a. Geometry of linear transformations in the plane
 - b. Computer graphics
7. Applications of eigenvectors and eigenvalues
 - a. Population growth
 - b. Systems of differential equations
 - c. Quadratic equations

Each of the first seven chapters also has two projects each which range from the very simple to the involved.

As far as college textbooks go, this one is fairly easy to understand. The explanations are there. The main drawback is that the author uses the same example several times to illustrate different aspects of linear algebra. For instance, Example 1 will have a matrix, and then the same matrix will be used in Example 2 and Example 3. That isn't great if you had a hard time understanding Example 1! Additionally, the author leaves out key proofs and states "The proof of Corollary 4 is left for you to solve in Problem 45", etc. If this was a proof writing class, maybe that would be acceptable.

I bought to teach myself and this book is extremely helpful

This book has a lot of good information. I am not a math pro so I had a hard time following it. The writer of the book made a lot of assumptions about his readers while writing this book. Later on in the book you will get lost as he skips whole steps assuming you know the steps he skipped. I purchased this book for school. I do not recommend this book if your child has weak math skills as they will end up lost.

I ordered this book for my class which I am currently taken. My professor stated that "this was one of the best linear algebra books out there." I am on my second day of the course so I do not know for myself how good it is. The book was in rougher shape than I expected.

One of the easier math books to follow. Every category is explained well and gives good examples on how to complete the proofs. Be sure to read the chapters thoroughly or else this subject can get mighty confusing.

Fantastic textbook. With discipline: a student could teach themselves Linear Algebra from this book if required. Ron Larson is my new favorite textbook author.

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