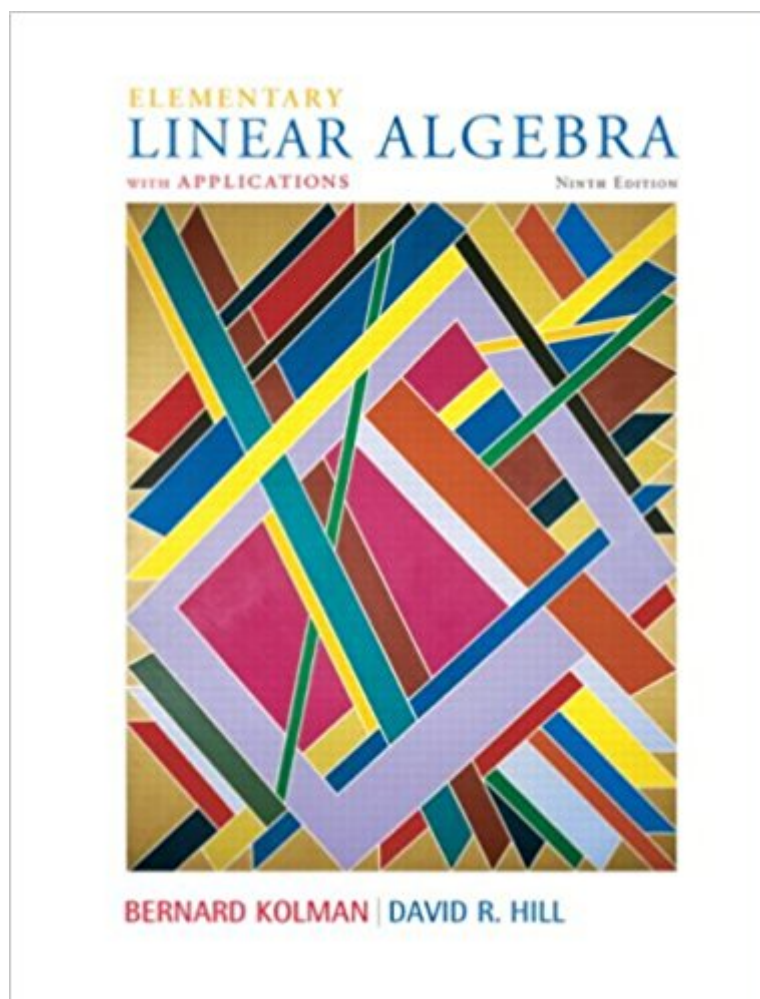


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Elementary Linear Algebra With Applications (9th Edition)



Synopsis

This book presents the basic ideas of linear algebra in a manner that users will find understandable. It offers a fine balance between abstraction/theory and computational skills, and gives readers an excellent opportunity to learn how to handle abstract concepts. Included in this comprehensive and easy-to-follow manual are these topics: linear equations and matrices; solving linear systems; real vector spaces; inner product spaces; linear transformations and matrices; determinants; eigenvalues and eigenvectors; differential equations; and MATLAB for linear algebra. Because this book gives real applications for linear algebraic basic ideas and computational techniques, it is useful as a reference work for mathematicians and those in field of computer science.

Book Information

Hardcover: 720 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 9 edition (May 13, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0132296543

ISBN-13: 978-0132296540

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1.1 x 10.1 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 2.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (33 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I was forced to use this book for my linear algebra course at UW-Madison. When I saw the poor reviews for it, I figured it would be wise to check out some other texts to supplement this and I am so glad that I did. If you are using this book to learn Linear Algebra, you have my sincere condolences because it is terribly written and the examples are in no way useful. I found Schaum's Beginning Linear Algebra and Anton's book on Linear Algebra (from which I believe Kolman and Hill poorly copied) infinitely more helpful. If you MUST use this book, get it from inter-library loan, don't let anyone make a single penny more on it. Other useful sources of information on Linear Algebra include: Gilbert Strang's Linear Algebra book and his lectures [...]

.... who is given this as a course textbook. It's touted as an applications book so it's going to get inflicted on non-math majors. Now I'm not saying that proofs are not important, but please give me the intuition and some good examples first. A favourite trick is to give a question which is unclearly drafted and then allow the poor sucker who has to answer it to wade through lemma after proof after corollary trying to find either an explanation or rarer still a relevant example. Makes the subject far harder than it needs to be and is an impediment to learning. AWFUL simply AWFUL.

The only reason course organizers should ever use this textbook, is if they wish to sardonically punish any student who doesn't come to their lectures. It might be possible that the author is a good mathematician, but he is definitely a terrible teacher. This entire textbook feels like a draft. It is exceptionally disorganized and unintuitive. Most of the writing is congregated into large paragraphs which makes it a headache to read. It lacks many of the clear examples found in other texts. Some of the examples aren't even examples (example X: " the solution for this example is question 29"). This text is also in some dire need of editing, by the publisher. In addition to this Kolman has a natural gift in making the most simple ideas seem that much more confusing. I could give many examples, but if you are reading this, it is likely that you have not yet taken this course, so it will be meaningless to you. However, if you are reading through this textbook and you have no idea what is going on, it is not you, it's this book. If you are having trouble, borrow Elementary Linear Algebra, by Anton & Rorres, from your school library. Or listen to Khan Academy (though he doesn't cover every topic in detail).

If you are a professor and you use this textbook, it should be evident that you don't know how to teach. This book is terrible to the point that I actually just threw it out the window during the middle of class, went to bookstore and bought a different linear algebra book knowing that ANY book would be better than this one. If it was up to me, any professor who recommends this text should be fired, on the spot without severance. Half the examples make absolutely no sense, and are so poorly written that the tutors I have asked for help with the material have literally responded "I either don't know linear algebra or this book doesn't make sense." Most of the examples aren't clear enough to follow as the authors feel that taking shortcuts (the most clear sign that someone is terrible at teaching) won't hinder someone who has never seen linear algebra. Kolman & Hill are crooks plain and simple and probably should be put in jail for writing something so terrible. Do not pay any money for this book. Steal it if you HAVE to, but then again, it's not even worth the paper it is printed on.

As others here have said, this is a terrible textbook. It is, without question, the absolute worst textbook I have ever used. The writing is wretched; the explanations, when they even exist, are completely indecipherable. There are multiple sections where the text proclaims "Example" and then dictates an example question. And then it stops. No discussion, no solution, nothing. I read the reviews here before I purchased this book and then bought it anyway because it was the required text for my class. Don't make the same mistake -- this book is a paperweight and nothing more, get homework problems from your friends and buy a real textbook. I cannot imagine who thought it was a good idea to publish this book, much less 9 editions of it. Utter rubbish.

What the hell you guys did in the book!!! The exercises in the international edition is different from the US edition. More terrible problem is that the answers in the appendix are ANSWERS OF US edition!!!! Are you just want to get some money from internationals WITHOUT MAKING GOOD BOOKS?

This is probably the worst textbook I have ever had to buy. This book is written so badly, it's like the author purposely wants to make the subject difficult to understand. The entire book is just a wall of text, making it painful to read. The examples given often skip entire steps and just ask you to verify that what they have is correct. Then if you don't understand how they got the numbers they did, you have to flip back through the book and pray to god you can actually find a relevant example that doesn't skip too many steps. If you have to use this book for a class, the good news is, everybody will be just as confused as you are and since most math courses are graded on a curve, there is nothing to worry about, right? ...Definitely look into online resources if you want to understand the material.

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