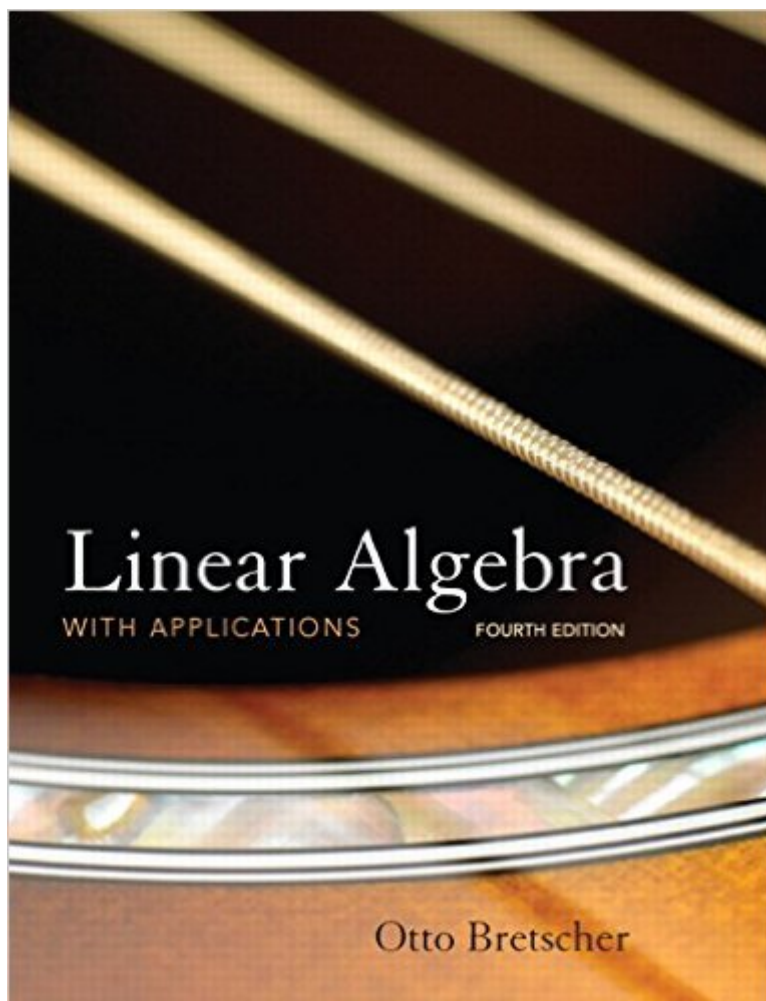


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Linear Algebra With Applications, 4th Edition



Synopsis

KEY BENEFIT: This trusted reference offers an intellectually honest, thought-provoking, sound introduction to linear algebra. Enables readers to grasp the subject with a challenging, yet visually accessible approach that does not sacrifice mathematical integrity. Adds over 400 new exercises to the problem sets, ranging in difficulty from elementary to more challenging. Adds new historical problems taken from ancient Chinese, Indian, Arabic, and early European sources. Strengthens geometric and conceptual emphasis. A comprehensive, thorough reference for anyone who needs to brush up on their knowledge of linear algebra.

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Customer Reviews

This was perhaps the most poorly written textbook I've ever encountered. Theorems weren't defined completely or clearly. There were problems whose solution methods could in no way be extrapolated from the text alone; I had to use several other books. I recommend not buying this book unless it's required for a class. I'm sure there are many better references or self-teaching books out there.

I've never had such a hard time in a math class. I realized quickly that linear algebra is completely different from the mechanical things I've been learning. This subject is very different and very abstract. I knew I really had to STUDY and not just read this book. Considering all of this, when I picked this book up, I was apprehensive from the start. Whenever I see a thin book assigned for a subject that's entirely unfamiliar to students, I know it's going to be a very concise book without

many examples and detailed explanations. The few people who have given this book rave reviews sound like instructors. If you are an instructor reading this review, please keep one thing in mind: textbooks are written for students, not you. What difference does it make if you think it's great but your students can't understand the most basic concepts, which was happening in my class? Yes, this book will make you think--think for hours on such basic concepts as what's the difference between a rotation and reflection. One more example of a linear transformation would've made all the difference in the world. The very first exercises will often leave most students saying, huh? Thinking is great but if you have to search the web and buy other books to get more information, that book is worthless. I'm a computer science major and there are books I really think are well-written but I would never recommend them to someone who's never touched the subject. I believe if most of the students don't like it, there's something wrong with the book (many of my classmates complained about this book as well). If you are a math major or someone with a PhD, of course, a concise and clean explanation is great. But for students who've never had it, it's a nightmare. It's a situation I see too often: the textbooks that are assigned usually get the worst reviews yet they keep getting assigned again and again. This is especially true in science and math courses.

This is the first semester my college has used this book and it will most likely be its last. Everyday, my professor says how unhappy he is with this book because they present information in an odd sequence. For instance, we learned about subspaces before knowing what an actual space is. This makes the book very confusing and hard to follow. Just a warning: almost every example (not problem) in this book is done in symbols which is sometimes hard to follow. Overall, I would not buy this book

This linear algebra book is not worth the money. It does not give relevant examples and expects the student to create spontaneous connections that are not self-evident. The notation is unclear and the wording makes you very confused. Bottom line: find another linear algebra book.

This book is terrible. The reading sections are so short as to be terse, and they ill-prepare readers for the section problems. In my opinion, Bretscher does not effectively explain the concepts of linear algebra. Furthermore, I rely on answers to odd problems to check my work. Often, they are invaluable guides. In this book, however, the answers in the back are worthless due to their brevity. Moreover, (odd) answers for concept questions or proofs are omitted entirely. Take my advice,

spend your [money] on something else!

I'm not in any way math averse, and this textbook was a factor in making Linear Algebra my least favorite class this semester. Let me summarize all of the problems I have with it in three simple words: it's too thin. Explain more. Please. This stuff is mostly new to me. Be redundant so I can skim and skip; don't be brief so that I flounder and fail. When I confronted my professor about the textbook, he said they were all like that, and that there was no "easy" way to teach linear algebra. That might be true. But I'm certain there's a "hard" way to teach it, and I'm also sure that this book gets pretty close to that. Two stars since I was able to rent it at a decent price.

It gives you frustration when you hope to get homework done in one hour with this book. You would read page after page without getting the quick answers you are looking for. It gives you fulfillment when you relax and read this book from beginning. This book explains concepts in depth and stimulates thoughts. It provides adequate examples and background information before revealing main ideas, so you can actually figure out the main ideas on your own. Then, read the printed theorem on the next page --- the exact thing you've been thinking! It feels so natural to DEVELOP linear algebra! BTW, this book also explained the connection among topics pretty well. In sum, great textbook to understand math; not a good source to find quick answers. I recommend spending 3-5 hours per week on this book to learn linear algebra in one semester. Use google when you are in a hurry!

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