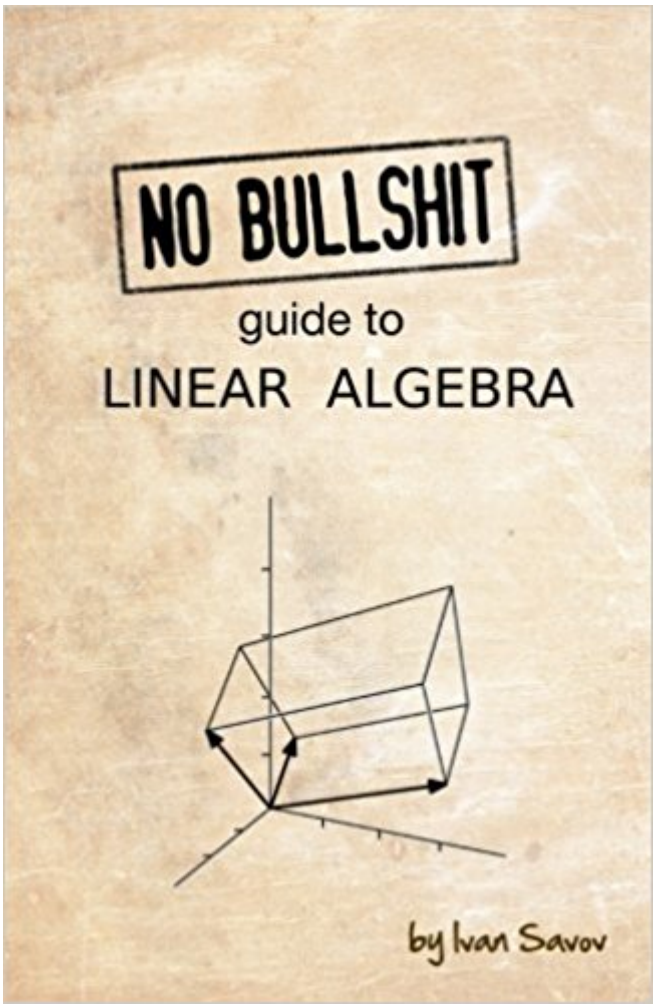
No Bullshit Guide To Linear Algebra



Synopsis

Linear algebra is the foundation of science and engineering. Knowledge of linear algebra is a prerequisite for studying statistics, machine learning, computer graphics, signal processing, chemistry, economics, quantum mechanics, and countless other applications. Indeed, linear algebra offers a powerful toolbox for modelling the real world. The NO BULLSHIT GUIDE TO LINEAR ALGEBRA shows the connections between the computational techniques of linear algebra, their geometric interpretations, and the theoretical foundations. This university-level textbook contains lessons on linear algebra written in a style that is precise and concise. Each concept is illustrated through definitions, formulas, diagrams, explanations, and examples of real-world applications. Readers build their math superpowers by solving practice problems and learning to use the computer algebra system SymPy to speed up tedious matrix arithmetic tasks. Ã¢â ¬Å“The book explains the concepts in a way that gives a strong intuitive understanding.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Joe Nestor, student Ã¢â ¬Å“ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s very well written and a fun read!Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Felix Kwok, professor Ã¢â ¬Å“I used this book in multiple big data courses when I needed a deeper understanding of the material.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Zane Zakraisek, student The author, Ivan Savov, combines 15 years of tutoring experience with a B.Eng. in electrical engineering, an M.Sc. in physics, and a Ph.D. in computer science from McGill University.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been teaching math and physics for more than 15 years as a private tutor. My tutoring experience taught me how to explain concepts that people find difficult to understand. I’ve had the chance to experiment with different approaches for explaining challenging material. Fundamentally,

I’ve learned from teaching that understanding connections between concepts is much more important than memorizing facts. It’s not about how many equations you know, but about knowing how to get from one equation to another. I completed my undergraduate studies at McGill University in electrical engineering, then did a M.Sc. in physics, and recently completed a Ph.D. in computer science. In my career as a researcher, I’ve been fortunate to learn from very inspirational teachers, who had the ability to distill the essential ideas and explain things in simple language. I want to recreate the same learning experience for you through my writing. I founded the Minireference Publishing company to revolutionize the textbook industry. We make textbooks that don’t suck.

WOW! What an amazing breath of fresh air! This approach to teaching linear algebra is superb! I have been out of university for a long time but need to refresh the topic because I am diving into machine learning. "Refresh" is a big word: I never liked nor grokked linear algebra; it never made sense to me. It just seemed like an illogical, useless topic optimized to torture the brain. But this book shows the way, the why and the how very clearly.I just love this textbook. It’s written in a very refreshing style for an academic book. It is simple and concise and the explanations are clear and well written. The author goes straight to the point and stresses the more important points to grab your attention. I really wish I had this when I was in college... The style you see in the excerpts is there throughout the book (I was afraid it was just a marketing gimmick). I absolutely recommend it.

I’ve sampled a few other resources for linear algebra self-study, including Strang’s text/lectures and Khan Academy videos, and found that Savov’s book has been by far the most useful. It’s difficult to find the appropriate pace with Strang’s text, since there are hundreds of problems per chapter and it’s tough to know which ones to skip. Khan’s videos provide a more deliberate pace, but don’t offer any practice problems (except for some basic matrix math in the precalculus track).The No Bullsh*t Guide sets a reasonable pace while providing enough practice problems to really make the concepts stick. And unless you’re the kind of person who can sit down and pore through dozens of dry textbook pages without losing focus, you’ll find Savov’s writing style extremely refreshing-- he manages to be lucid and engaging without sacrificing mathematical rigor. It’s tough to overstate how valuable this is, especially when the subject matter itself is less than sexy.In conjunction with this book, definitely check out 3Blue1Brown’s excellent 12-video series "Essence of Linear Algebra."

A very concise book that quickly gets to the meat of things, I originally bought this book as a supplement to Strang’s course but find myself working off of this primarily instead.

excellent textbook (rare)

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