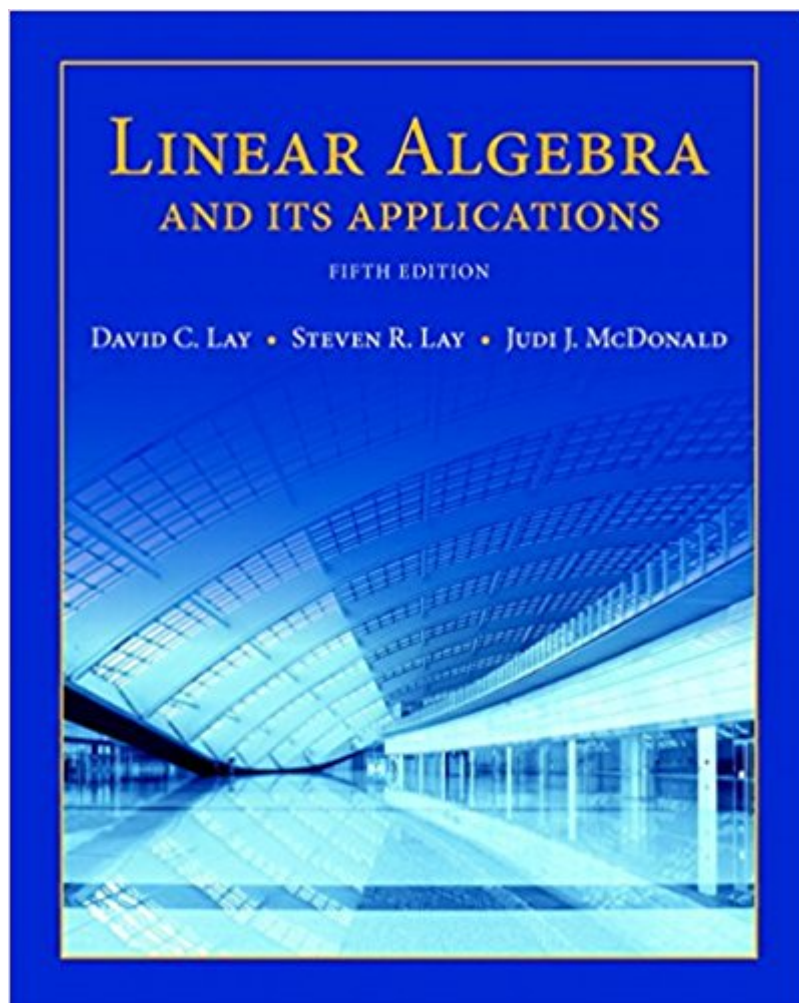


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Linear Algebra And Its Applications (5th Edition)



Synopsis

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With traditional linear algebra texts, the course is relatively easy for students during the early stages as material is presented in a familiar, concrete setting. However, when abstract concepts are introduced, students often hit a wall. Instructors seem to agree that certain concepts (such as linear independence, spanning, subspace, vector space, and linear transformations) are not easily understood and require time to assimilate. These concepts are fundamental to the study of linear algebra, so students' understanding of them is vital to mastering the subject. This text makes these concepts more accessible by introducing them early in a familiar, concrete setting, developing them gradually, and returning to them throughout the text so that when they are discussed in the abstract, students are readily able to understand.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First of all, I want to briefly talk about the history of the editions of this book starting with the 3rd edition. The third edition was, for the longest time, considered the best, significantly better than the first two editions, and was largely loved by more people than the "main competitor," the book by Dr. Lang. Then came the "updated 3rd edition" and 4th editions, and I don't know what Dr. Lay was thinking, but the 3rd edition really messed with the ebb and flow of problems and content and the 4th edition was so awful with all the errors riddled I swear he must have gotten a random person from the street to rewrite his book from scratch by looking at scribbled notes or something. By this point, it seems Lang's book was gaining more favor as Lay's went downhill. Now the 5th edition comes. It seems a good return to form to the 3rd edition, which is nice. This book is geared for the physical scientist/engineer in mind and mathematician second. It treats itself as a student's first (gentle) introduction into abstract mathematics, a necessary tool for upper level courses in any STEM area, providing plenty of visuals that make sense, solid examples from both a plug-and-chug standpoint and a physical standpoint, and very clear progression in the difficulty of problems. In fact, the most meaningful exercises are the most difficult ones, such as a project involving resistors in a circuit with infinitely increasing parallel routes or the final problems in the predator-prey systems. But most importantly I feel are the True/False problems littered throughout the book.

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