

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Mathematics 284 – Linear Algebra

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course develops the techniques and theory needed to solve and classify systems of linear equations. Solution techniques include row operations, Gaussian elimination, and matrix algebra. Investigates the properties of vectors in two and three dimensions, leading to the notion of an abstract vector space. Vector space and matrix theory are presented including topics such as inner products, norms, orthogonality, eigenvalues, eigenspaces, and linear transformations. Selected applications of linear algebra are included.

Prerequisite

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in MATH C2220 or equivalent

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Differentiation techniques involving algebraic, trigonometric, logarithmic and exponential functions
- 2) Implicit differentiation
- 3) Integration techniques, including: substitution, integration by parts, trigonometric substitution, and trigonometric power reduction methods.
- 4) Evaluating improper integrals
- 5) Calculating limits with indeterminate forms and using L'Hospital's Rule
- 6) Sequences and Series: Finding infinite limits, calculating terms and partial sums, applying convergence tests to determine convergence or divergence, using Taylor and Maclaurin series to approximate functions
- 7) Graphing in rectangular and polar coordinates, using parametric equations, and conics
- 8) Modeling applications, including related rates, relative extrema, area between curves, and surface area.

Course Content

- 1) Solve homogeneous and nonhomogeneous systems of equations, including symmetric and skew symmetric matrices, using row operations, row echelon form and reduced row echelon form.
- 2) Perform matrix algebra including multiplications, transpose, trace and the inverse of a matrix
- 3) Calculating determinants of matrices and identify properties of determinants. Solve application problems involving determinants such as invertible matrices and their determinants, the determinant as a function, and Cramer's Rule.
- 4) Introduction to the general Euclidean vectors spaces: Algebraic and geometric vector arithmetic, vector norms and unit vectors, directional vectors, the dot product, the cross product, vector form of lines and of planes in $\mathbb{R}^3$ and $\mathbb{R}^n$, orthogonality of vectors and orthogonal projections, distance between parallel planes, between skew lines, between a point and a line
- 5) Solve problems involving linear transformations in Euclidean and vector spaces: linear transformation as a function, the standard matrix for a linear transformation and linear operators
- 6) Calculate the rank, nullity, kernel, and nullspace generated by a matrix or linear transformation
- 7) Introduction to the concept of inner product spaces: definition of Inner products, distance between vectors, the norm of a vector, angle between vectors, the Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality, the Triangle Inequality, and orthogonality

- 8) Calculate orthonormal bases including the Gram-Schmidt Process, change of bases for a vector space, and the transition matrix between the two bases
- 9) Introduction to the concepts and calculations of eigenvalues, eigenvectors and diagonalization including diagonalizable matrices, the multiplicity of an eigenvalue, orthogonal diagonalization

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Solve systems of linear equations using several algebraic methods.
- 2) Transform a matrix into row echelon and reduced row echelon forms.
- 3) Perform a variety of algebraic matrix operations including:
 - a. Multiplication,
 - b. Transpose,
 - c. Trace,
 - d. Determinant, and
 - e. Inverse.
- 4) Perform vector operations on vectors from Euclidean Vector Spaces including vectors from $\mathbb{R}^n$.
- 5) Perform linear transformations in Euclidean vector spaces including basic linear operators.
- 6) Prove whether a given structure is a vector space.
- 7) Determine if a set of vectors:
 - a. Spans a vector space, and
 - b. Is linearly dependent or independent.
- 8) Find a basis and the dimension of a vector space.
- 9) Calculate the:
 - a. Rank,
 - b. Nullity,
 - c. Column space, and
 - d. Row space of a matrix.
- 10) Use inner product to determine the length of a vector and to describe the orthogonality of vectors.
- 11) Perform changes of bases for a vector space including computation of the transition matrix, and
- 12) Determine an orthonormal basis for the space using the Gram-Schmidt process.
- 13) Compute all the eigenvalues of a square matrix including any complex eigenvalues, and determine their corresponding eigenvectors.
- 14) Apply linear algebra techniques to solve real world problems.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Independent exploration activities, which measure students' ability to analyze the connections between the algebraic and graphic representations of various types of vector spaces and matrices of linear transformations.
- 2) Quizzes and exams (and a comprehensive in-class final exam) which measure students' ability to work independently to perform a variety of matrix operations, vector operations, prove a vector space, solve for the basis and compute eigenvalues.
- 3) Homework assignments in which students apply algebraic principles discussed in class to a series of practice problems to help them formulate questions and receive feedback from the instructor, tutors or classmates.
- 4) Select appropriate technology in which students apply algebraic principles discussed in class to projects in order to better understand abstract concepts.

Special Materials Required of Student

Scientific calculator or graphing calculator

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom and computer lab

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and demonstrations using visual aids including but not limited to the computer, graphing calculator or videos
- 2) Group discussions and problem solving
- 3) Quiz and examination review
- 4) Homework and extended projects
- 5) Collaborative projects
- 6) Calculator and/or computer assignments

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** Lecture notes; assigned textbook sections explaining mathematical concepts and procedures; instructional materials provided by the instructor; worked example sets; reference materials for mathematical symbols and notation; supplemental explanations from approved online resources; and documentation for graphing calculators or mathematical software.
- 2) **Writing:** Problem sets requiring clear, step-by-step demonstration of reasoning using correct mathematical notation; written explanations supporting solutions and justifying methods; error analysis and revision of incorrect or incomplete work; solution summaries explaining conceptual understanding; problem-based learning tasks requiring application of multiple skills; written responses to mathematical prompts or inquiry problems; and organized documentation of problem-solving strategies used in individual or group assignments.
- 3) **Other:** Online homework assignments or quizzes using learning platforms; collaborative problem solving using shared documents or discussion boards; graph construction by hand and with technology; review and annotation of instructor feedback to revise and resubmit work; preparation for exams through practice tests and concept reviews; mathematical modeling activities using real-world data; use of graphing calculators or math software to explore and verify solutions; and completion of study logs, learning reflections, or structured practice plans to build mastery.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Lay, *Linear Algebra and Its Applications*. 6th edition. Pearson, 2020.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Use analytic, numerical, and graphical methods to solve linear algebra level problems
- 2) Solve multi-disciplinary application problems and interpret the results in context
- 3) Prove basic results in linear algebra using appropriate proof-writing techniques