

Re: good text for linear algebra?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2005-04/msg04481.html>

- *From:* Robin Chapman <rjc@xx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 29 Apr 2005 13:43:03 +0100
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G. A. Edgar wrote:

> In article <d4sohs\$dbm\$2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Robin Chapman
> <rjc@xx> wrote:
>
>> G. A. Edgar wrote:
>>
>>> At one point
>>> I said: "This system of linear equations can be solved by Cramer's
>>> Rule."
>> Was Cramer's rule essential to the matter at hand?

Was it?

>> Could you have said
>> "This system of linear equations can be solved by Gaussian elimination"
>> or simply
>> "This system of linear equations is soluble"?
>
> So, a mathematics student doesn't need to know the existence of
> Cramer's Rule because you can always solve by Gaussian elimination?

That is not what I said --- but out of these two methods, Gaussian elimination is the more practical.

> I
> suppose similarly you claim that a mathematics student doesn't need to
> know the quadratic formula, because you can always solve by completing
> the square...

Your suppositions are amusing, however I cannot "similarly claim" as I made no claim to start with.

—

Robin Chapman, www.maths.ex.ac.uk/~rjc/rjc.html
"Elegance is an algorithm"
Iain M. Banks, _The_Algebraist_

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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ *Re: good text for linear algebra?*
 - ◇ *From:* G. A. Edgar

- *References:*
 - ◆ *good text for linear algebra?*
 - ◇ *From:* mk
 - ◆ *Re: good text for linear algebra?*
 - ◇ *From:* G. A. Edgar
 - ◆ *Re: good text for linear algebra?*
 - ◇ *From:* Robin Chapman
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 - ◇ *From:* G. A. Edgar

- Prev by Date: *Re: Types of functions and relations*