

640:250 Introduction to Linear Algebra (Section 17)

General Information

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Text: Spence, Insel & Friedberg *Elementary Linear algebra: A Matrix Approach*

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Course Web Page: This document, other course materials, information about the course, and links to relevant web sites are posted on the course web site above. Click on **Mathematics 250 Information**.

Calculators in Linear Algebra: Linear algebra is the most widely-used mathematics tool in engineering, applied science, and statistics. Unlike the one-variable calculus problems that you can solve by hand calculation (or with the aid of a graphing calculator), many linear algebra computations need substantial computer resources. The best software package for this purpose is generally agreed to be MATLAB, although other symbolic computer programs such as MAPLE or MATHEMATICA also have linear algebra capabilities and some graphing calculators can do linear algebra problems with a small number of variables.

The regular sections of Math 250 do NOT require MATLAB (the sections designated as math 350C do require it). If you want to use MATLAB, it is installed on PC's in all the Rutgers public computer labs (in ARC, Loree, College Avenue, Livingston, and School of Engineering).

If you want to install MATLAB on your personal computer, the Student Edition (for Windows, Linux or Macintosh) can be purchased directly from the publisher, MathWorks, Inc. by going to their website: www.mathworks.com. It includes documentation and tutorials. The student edition of MATLAB can also be obtained at the Rutgers University book store.

Exams, Homework, and Grades: There will be two midterm exams and a final exam (all exams will be closed book). Each section will have quizzes and graded homework, as determined by the instructor. Your final course grade will be determined on the following 500-point basis:

each midterm exam: 100 points

quizzes and/or homework: 100 points

final exam: 200 points