“Sparknotes” for *Linear Algebra* by Peter Lax

Muthu Chidambaram

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Preface

> "A modern mathematical proof is not very different from a modern machine, or a modern test setup: the simple fundamental principles are hidden and almost invisible under a mass of technical details." - Hermann Weyl

These notes contain short summaries of (my) proof ideas for exercises and some theorems from the book *Linear Algebra* by Peter Lax. I have tried to make the summaries as brief as possible, sometimes only one line or one equation. My hope is that the summaries will give enough information to reconstruct a full proof without bogging the reader down with details. In many cases, I am sure that I inadvertently sacrificed clarity in an attempt to obtain brevity, and would greatly appreciate any feedback.

Also, I like when people include (what they presume to be) relevant quotes from mathematicians of past generations in their notes, so I have to ask you to forgive my haughtiness in starting these notes with a quote from Hermann Weyl.

1 Fundamentals

1.1 Exercise 1

$x + z = x = x + z' \implies z = z'$.

1.2 Exercise 2

$0x + x = (0 + 1)x = x$.

1.3 Exercise 3

Coefficients can be represented as row vectors.

1.4 Exercise 4

Function can be represented as row vector by letting $a_i = f(s_i)$ for each $s_i \in S$.

1.5 Exercise 5

Follows from exercises 3 and 4.

1.6 Exercise 6

$y_1 + z_1 + y_2 + z_2 = (y_1 + y_2) + (z_1 + z_2)$ and $k(y_1 + z_1) = ky_1 + kz_1$.

1.7 Exercise 7

$a \in Y \cap Z \implies ka \in Y, ka \in Z \implies ka \in Y \cap Z$.

1.8 Exercise 8

$k0 = 0, 0 + 0 = 0$.

1.9 Exercise 9

If S contains x_i then it must contain kx_i.

1.10 Exercise 10

If $x_i = 0$, k_i can be anything.

1.11 Exercise 11

$x = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{\dim Y_i} y_j^{(i)}$.

1.12 Exercise 12

Complete basis for W to U and V. Use W basis vectors and additional U and V basis vectors to get $\dim X = \dim U - \dim W + \dim V - \dim W + \dim W$.

1.13 Exercise 13

Send i^{th} basis vector to e_i, where e_i is vector of all zeroes except a one in the i^{th} place. Can permute mapping to get different isomorphisms.

1.14 Exercise 14

$x_1 - x_2 + x_2 - x_3 = x_1 - x_3$.

1.15 Exercise 15

$x' = x + z_x, y' = y + z_y \implies x' + y' = x + y + (z_x + z_y)$.

1.16 Exercise 16

$x \in X_1 \bigoplus X_2 \implies x = (x_1, x_2) = (x_1, 0) + (0, x_2)$.

1.17 Exercise 17

Construct a basis for X from Y: $y_1, ..., y_j, x_{j+1}, ..., x_n$.
Then $X/Y = \text{span}\{x_{j+1}, ..., x_n\}$.

2 Duality

Theorem 1

$x = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i x_i \implies k_i(x) = a_i.$

2.1 Exercise 1

$l_1, l_2 \in Y^{\perp} \implies l_1(y) + l_2(y) = 0 = (l_1 + l_2)(y).$

2.2 Exercise 2

$\forall \xi \in Y^{\perp\perp} \implies \forall l \in Y^{\perp},\ \xi(l) = 0 = l(y)\ \forall y \in Y.$