MATH 10 - Linear Algebra

Fall 2019

Tips on Mathematical Writing

Handout

... especially proofs.



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Tips for Mathematical Writing

Adapted from *Book of Proof* by Richard Hammack, please consult pages 107–109 from his book for more details.

- 1. Begin each sentence with a word, not a mathematical symbol.
- 2. End each sentence with a period, even when the sentence ends with a mathematical symbol.
- 3. Separate mathematical symbols and expressions with words.
- 4. Avoid misuse of symbols.
- 5. Avoid using unnecessary symbols.
- 6. Use the first person plural ("we" or "us").
- 7. Use the active voice.
- 8. Explain each new symbol!!!
- 9. Watch out for "it."
- 10. Since, because, as for, so. Use these as conjunctions between statements (i.e. variations of $if \dots then$).
- 11. Thus, hence, therefore, consequently.
- 12. Clarity is the gold standard of mathematical writing.