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### E1.1.1

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Recall that there are two midterm exams, and a comprehensive final. Each midterm exam is worth 10%. However, we decided that the exams should behave more as self-assessments rather than course assessments in order to preserve the learning goals of our course.

So what does that mean for you? The exam will be like the homework. You will be able to redo questions multiple times if you miss. You will also be given solutions so you can check your work and you can view the solutions at anytime. So the exam is "low stakes".

Why do we have the exams? They may provide evidence of what and how much you are learning. But, more importantly, they are part of the learning and understanding process. We understand that your primary goal is to learn linear algebra. While studying for the exams, you will have the opportunity to review, make connections, and learn the hard-to-grasp concepts more deeply. In the end, this should enhance retention of your knowledge and skills. In addition, by taking the exam, you also have the chance to evaluate yourself.

We encourage you to look through each week, in particular the *What You Will Learn* in *Opening Remarks* and the *Summary* in *Wrap Up*. Reviewing the notes for all weeks (to date) may also be useful. In addition, complete the Sample Exam and look at solutions we provide to discover sections to revisit before sitting for the exam. We urge you to take the exam as you would an exam from a college class. That is, give yourself an hour and 15 minutes to complete it. Then you can check and self-correct.

Are you proficient? Mathematical proficiency, described by the National Research Council in 2000, can be paraphrased to designate that one is proficient when one understands concepts, computes fluently, applies understandings to solve problems, reasons and justifies thinking, and engages in the mathematics, demonstrating the belief that it is doable and worth doing. We deliberately designed LAFF to build these proficiencies for different learning styles, giving you choices in how you interact with the materials. So, how do you measure up? Only you will know the results of the self-assessment, so don't feel judged. Be gentle to yourself.

Enjoy!

Discussion

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