

Continue



Math 104 stanford

[illegible]

for applications of linear algebra throughout data science, natural sciences, and engineering. There is a lot of excellent software to implement such algorithms, but the best scientists and engineers have a good sense of what is going on inside these software tools because in any real-life situation it is only a matter of time before one needs to make a computation or solve a problem for which the software tools in hand are not good enough and one needs to dig deeper to make things work. This is one among many reasons for learning the computational theory of linear algebra with the breadth and depth developed in Math 104.Math 113Further coursework in pure as well as many parts of applied mathematics involves knowing how to read and write proofs. Math 51 provides a flavor of how the conceptual side of math can involve ways of thinking that are rather different from how one usually encounters math in classes before Math 51 (e.g., the importance of precise definitions, and the utility of thinking in terms of properties rather than explicit numbers).Gaining familiarity and facility with proof-writing and reading is best done in the context of learning a substantive subject (just as learning how to cook is best done by preparing actual meals). There are several classes that the Math department offers which have proof-writing as one of their course-level learning goals: Math 110 (proofs in the context of applied number theory and cryptography, offered once each year), Math 115 (proofs of the core theorems of single-variable calculus, offered every autumn and spring), and Math 113 (proofs in the context of linear algebra). The ability to write proofs is assumed in many 100-level Math courses (e.g., Math 107 on graph theory, Math 143 on differential geometry, Math 151 on probability theory, and Math 152 on classical number theory) and is very helpful in parts of physics, CS, etc.As an introduction to proof-writing in the context of linear algebra, Math 113 presents a lot of Math 51 material in the broader setting of vector spaces (with complete proofs throughout), and goes much further. In particular, it teaches how to think about linear algebra without the crutch of ambient “coordinates” (akin to the standard basis in Math 51); this perspective is very useful in further mathematics as well as in applications of linear algebra to differential equations and beyond. The type of reasoning covered in Math 113 is at the heart of nearly all contemporary mathematics, and is tremendously useful in parts of other disciplines too (e.g. theoretical computer science, quantum computation, quantitative finance, theoretical physics, computer graphics). An example from another discipline is: “What are the theoretical limits of anonymity when I am making queries on a large data set” ? For instance, can one get useful data out of large collections of genomic information, or even just health records, without compromising the anonymity of the people from whom this data was collected? (This is a field called “differential privacy”, by the way.)