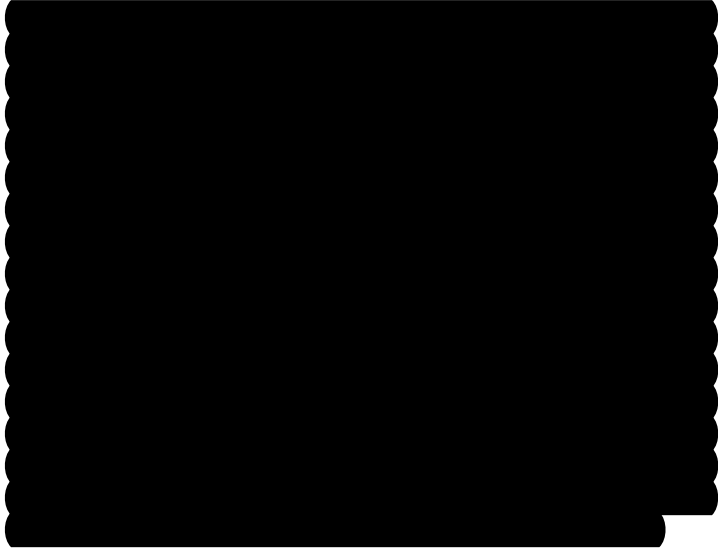
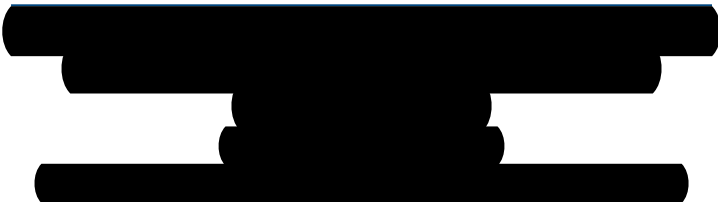


***Practical Linear Algebra:  
A Geometry Toolbox***  
by Gerald Farin and Dianne Hansford  
A. K. Peters, 2005, xvi + 384 pp. \$67.

I picked up this book with the thought, ‘oh, another linear algebra text’. I was pleasantly surprised, upon examination, that it is not just another one. The standard linear algebra material is presented with good motivating stories, illustrations and examples. The opening chapter discusses local and global coordinates; it begins with an old German folk tale concerning the burial of a treasure in a lake illustrating that the treasure’s local coordinates do not change as the boat moves, but its global coordinates, defined relative to the lake, do change. The chapter on linear maps in three dimensions starts with the example of a flight simulator.

Emphasizing the geometric viewpoint and the algorithmic way, clear visual representations are provided in every chapter with hand-drawn sketches in the margins. Applications to real-world problems are included in numerous examples. Exercises are given at the end of each chapter; solutions to selected exercises are given in an appendix. More solutions and supplementary teaching materials are made available in the book’s website: <http://vidya.prism.asu.edu/~farin/pla>. Most of the figures are computer generated using PostScript, an easy-to-use geometric language. A tutorial to this language is given in an appendix.

The book can be used at the freshman/sophomore level for engineers or computer scientists and also as an introduction to geometry. It is also an ideal preparation for computer graphics and geometric modeling.



<b>EARLY BIRD</b>		<b>LÈVE TOT</b>
<b>REGISTRATION</b>		<b>INSCRIPTION</b>
CMS Summer 2006 Meeting		Réunion d’été 2006 de la SMC
<i>April 30, 2006</i>		<i>30 avril 2006</i>

**Errata**

In the December 2005 Notes article by Jonathan Dorwein and David Bailey, “Future Prospects for Computer-Assisted Mathematics”, the first formula on page 3 (column 2) was mis-typeset.

The correct quantity on the right hand side of the formula is  $L_{-7}(2)$  where  $L_{-7}$  is a primitive Dirichlet L-series.

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