

MTH 237-60

Extra credit 3. The development of linear algebra (1 pt)

Studying matrix multiplication from the perspective of linear transformations between vector spaces, we're going to be faced with a chicken-and-egg type question. Did people study matrix multiplication in their applications and then invent the concept of linear transformations to formalize the concept (probably), or did people invent matrix multiplication so it would reflect linear transformations well (less likely)?

Research the history of linear algebra and matrix theory and, in a page or two, tell me what you learned. Cite your sources, but we're all mathematicians here, so don't worry about a special kind of formatting: either a hyperlink or a title, author, and page number will suffice (*i.e.* make sure I can look up the information myself).

Credit will be awarded for an obvious attempt to learn and communicate a little about the history of the subject and for basic communication quality. I won't nitpick grammar, but I expect to be able to follow your train of thought.