



# Matrix Groups (Universitext)

*M. L. Curtis*

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These notes were developed from a course taught at Rice University in the spring of 1976 and again at the University of Hawaii in the spring of 1977. It is assumed that the students know some linear algebra and a little about differentiation of vector-valued functions. The idea is to introduce students to some of the concepts of Lie group theory-- all done at the concrete level of matrix groups. As much as we could, we motivated developments as a means of deciding when two matrix groups (with different definitions) are isomorphic. In Chapter I "group" is defined and examples are given; homomorphism and isomorphism are defined. For a field  $k$  denotes the algebra of  $n \times n$  matrices over  $k$  We recall that  $A \in Mn(k)$  has an inverse if and only if  $\det A \neq 0$ , and define the general linear group  $GL(n,k)$  We construct the skew-field  $\mathbb{H}$  of to operate linearly on  $\mathbb{H}^n$  quaternions and note that for  $A \in Mn(\mathbb{H})$  we must operate on the right (since we multiply a vector by a scalar  $\alpha$  on the left). So we use row vectors for  $\mathbb{H}^n$ ,  $\mathbb{H}^n$  and write  $xA$  for the row vector obtained by matrix multiplication. We get a complex-valued determinant function on  $Mn(\mathbb{H})$  such that  $\det A \neq 0$  guarantees that  $A$  has an inverse.

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