

18.06 vs. 18.C06

Linear Algebra

**Linear Algebra
and Optimization**

(faster paced)

(both fulfill same course requirements, prereqs!
...course 6-3 suggests 18.C06 for sufficiently advanced students)

≈ 60% overlap

more **linear algebra** vs. more **optimization**

(more depth in linalg.,
e.g. in factorizations,
vector spaces, eigenstuff;
...a little optimization)

(more depth in optim. algorithms,
problem types, convexity, examples;
less depth in matrix/vector concepts)

more **physics** vs. more **data science/ML**

(linear ODEs, PDEs,
functions as “vectors”)

(discrete data classification,
data bias, robustness)

some **computers** vs. **computer mini-projects**

(depends on
instructor!)

(some **programming**
experience assumed!)

18.06 vs. 18.700

(see also [18.701](#)
for students with
much more proof
experience)

“**applied**” vs. “**pure**” math

few proofs vs. **formal proofs** expected

(deduce patterns
from examples,
informal arguments)

(definitions to
lemmas to theorems
... **training in proof writing**)

more **applications** vs. more **theorems**

more **concrete** vs. more **abstract**

(but still more
abstract than
other 18.0x!)

some **computers** vs. only **pencil-and-paper**

(depends on
instructor!)