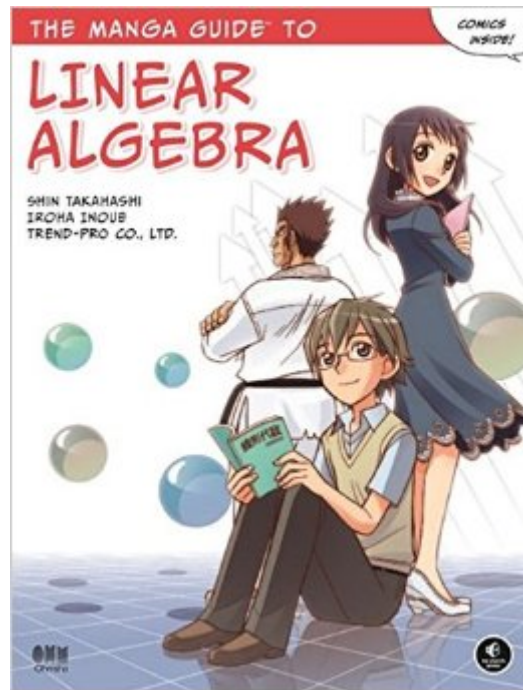


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# The Manga Guide To Linear Algebra



## Synopsis

Reiji wants two things in life: a black belt in karate and Misa, the girl of his dreams. Luckily, Misa's big brother is the captain of the university karate club and is ready to strike a deal: Reiji can join the club if he tutors Misa in linear algebra. Follow along in *The Manga Guide to Linear Algebra* as Reiji takes Misa from the absolute basics of this tricky subject through mind-bending operations like performing linear transformations, calculating determinants, and finding eigenvectors and eigenvalues. With memorable examples like miniature golf games and karate tournaments, Reiji transforms abstract concepts into something concrete, understandable, and even fun. As you follow Misa through her linear algebra crash course, you'll learn about: Basic vector and matrix operations such as addition, subtraction, and multiplication Linear dependence, independence, and bases Using Gaussian elimination to calculate inverse matrices Subspaces, dimension, and linear span Practical applications of linear algebra in fields like computer graphics, cryptography, and engineering But Misa's brother may get more than he bargained for as sparks start to fly between student and tutor. Will Reiji end up with the girl or just a pummeling from her oversized brother? Real math, real romance, and real action come together like never before in *The Manga Guide to Linear Algebra*.

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## Customer Reviews

Like the other excellent *Manga Guide to "X-Science"* Series this story-driven introduction to Linear Algebra provides a clear fun introduction to a scientific subject written by a competent academic and translated (without hiccups) into vernacular English. In this case and unlike the knowledge of

problem solving techniques and symbol manipulation one could also learn from Khan Academy's excellent videos this Manga Book also puts this important mathematical technique into the context of function mapping, basic modern algebra and set theory. I asked to review this excellent example of the Manga Guide Series because of the importance these techniques have in Machine Learning (an important toolkit in dealing with "Big Data"). These excellently-taught techniques and symbol manipulation tools are equally important in computer graphics and a variety of engineering disciplines. A valuable and fun introduction to an important mathematical tool and an important addition to my scientific library.--Ira Laefsky, MS Engineering/MBA IT Consultant and HCI Researcher formerly on the Senior Consulting Staff of Arthur D. Little, Inc. and Digital Equipment Corporation

How cool is this? Who wouldn't want to learn linear algebra from Japanese comics, more appropriately called manga. This is my second Manga Guide to read, and, first off, I found the story line a little more forced than the earlier Manga Guide title read on the solar system. With that said, the hero of this book has to teach linear algebra to the younger sister of a martial arts master. The lessons are offered in exchange for karate lessons. And, our young hero happened to have authored the school book used to teach the lessons. Not too much of a coincidence. Oh yeah, and there is a love story to boot. Not meant as your only source to learn linear algebra, The Manga Guide to Linear Algebra offers a "quick" look at some topics related to the subject. Specifically, the book is laid out in five lessons, broken into three groupings. For basics, there is linear algebra fundamentals. For prep, there is matrices and vectors. Lastly for the main parts there are linear transformations and Eigen values/Eigen vectors. Having a Math degree myself, and not touching linear algebra since my college days some twenty years ago, the book offered a great refresher on the subject for me. For someone new to the subject, the comics serve as reasonable explanations to the topics at hand. Instead of just being thrown a bunch of formulas and told to learn them, the characters in the story help you to absorb the knowledge more easily. I like that approach to the Manga guides, I just wish this story here was more compelling. I imagine the primary readers of this book are people taking a linear algebra class but getting lost in the basics due to the complexity of a text book. This book excels in its introductory nature. But, you really need the practice exercises of a text book to really drive the concepts home. Combined, the two pair well together for someone struggling to get started.

Linear algebra creates images of theoretical mathematical discussions (or lectures), and endless

proofs. However linear algebra has important applications in science and engineering, and opportunities for these implications are increasing as technology advances. However, to be able to apply linear algebra concepts to our world, one must first understand what they are. Here is where an introductory book like this one can be very handy. Manga guides have sought to present technical subjects within a story-line and through the use of comics. In this case, Reiji (a university student) wants to join the karate club. With a response like "YOU want to join THIS club?" Reiji's chances don't look good. However the captain of the club is ready to cut a deal. If Reiji tutors Misa (the captain's sister) in linear algebra, Reiji can join the karate club. Of course entry to the karate club does not ensure an easy ride. In addition, Reiji has been warned that even one pass at Misa will provoke a pummeling. Linear algebra is presented as a general framework that deals with relationships between sets. This framework can now be applied in several specific instances. After a somewhat nebulous initial definition of linear algebra, central concepts are clearly presented within in the framework of the unfolding story. Broadly these include a brief introduction to functions and mapping, vectors, matrices, and eigenvectors and eigenvalues. As far as the storylines goes, sparks fly between Reiji and Misa - if math could only be so cool! Manga guides have sought to introduce readers to difficult technical concepts within the framework of a storyline in a comic book. On that front, this book is just like the other Manga guides. However if seen from the perspective of learning linear algebra, it is an excellent non-threatening and fun way to get introduced to the topic.

I was an incoming graduate student in engineering with no formal linear algebra course when I bought this book. My roommate had a different book from this series and loved it, so I figured I'd give it a try, especially since I read manga so often anyway. Really love this book. The manga starts with a girl who needs help getting through her linear algebra course, so her sibling arranges a tutor for her. What I love about this set-up is that (1) you feel like you're getting a teacher because the tutor talks things out and asks/answers conceptual questions and (2) she asks side questions and pauses when confused (and sometimes I was right along with her). Even having finally taken a LA course, this book does a really good job of giving all of the variables and terminology meaning beyond simple matrices and equations. I would definitely recommend reading this while taking your LA course, it ties everything together so well.

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