

KNOT MAN

ISSUE
#4

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

MATRIX

BY
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&
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IN THE



WHAT IF
LIFE WAS A
DREAM?
WHAT IF
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE SEEN
WASN'T REAL?



WHAT IF YOUR
WHOLE
EXPERIENCE
WAS A
COMPUTER
PROGRAM
DESIGNED TO
HARVEST
ENERGY FROM
ENSLAVED
HUMAN
BEINGS?



THEODORE J. KNOTT'S FRIEND BILL IS
ONCE MORE TELLING HIM OF HIS LATEST
WILD PHILOSOPHICAL SPECULATIONS...

JUST LIKE THE COMPLEX
NUMBERS... NOT REAL!
OR... NO... THE
QUATERNIONS!



Hmmm... IT'S
ONLY MONDAY
MORNING, BILL!
I THINK I
NEED A
COFFEE.



BESIDES, THAT'S
SUCH A CRAZY
IDEA. IT COULD
NEVER WORK!



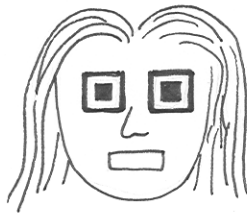
THEODORE J. RETURNS WITH HIS
MUCH NEEDED CAFFIENE SUPPLEMENT.



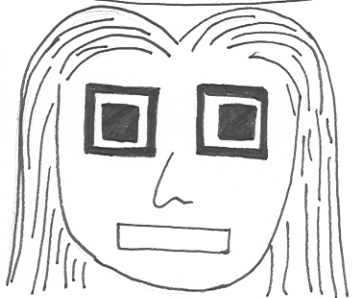
YOU KNOW BILL,
SOMETIMES YOUR
IDEAS ARE MORE
RADICAL THAN A
NEST OF SQUARE
ROOTS!



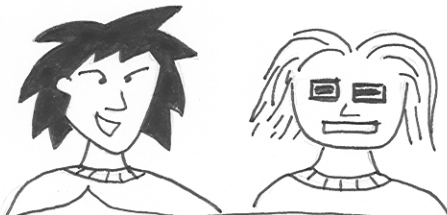
MORE OVERWHELMING
THAN A DOMINATING
MAP!



OH WELL... LET'S
DO SOME KNOT
THEORY!

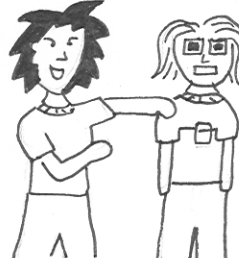


BILL...ARE YOU ALRIGHT?



YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TRYING
TO TIE 4-DIMENSIONAL
KNOTS AGAIN, HAVE YOU?

BUT TRY AS THEODORE J. KNOTT
MIGHT, HE COULD NOT BRING
BILL TO HIS SENSES...



DAAAH...
WHO
AM I?

Hmmm... I JUST
WENT TO GET A COFFEE
AND NOW BILL DOESN'T
EVEN KNOW WHO HE
IS!



BUT ALL AT ONCE A DARKLY CLAD MAN BURSTS INTO THE ROOM...

MAYBE YOU NEED A COFFEE...

THE STRANGER GRABS THE PAIR AND DRAGS THEM TO THE NEAREST PHONE BOOTH...

QUICK, WE'VE GOT TO GO... HE WAS TOO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH!

PHONE

PHONE

NEXT THING THEY KNOW, THE TWO MATHEMATICIANS ARE IN A STRANGE PLACE FILLED WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY...

WOAH! IMAGINE HOW MANY DIGITS OF π THESE COULD CALCULATE!

THEODORE J. MY NAME IS MÖBIUS.

I CAME TO RESCUE YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF MANKIND. YOUR FRIEND WAS UNDER ATTACK BY AGENTS OF THE MATRIX!

WOW! I KNEW MATRICES WERE UGLY BUT NOT THAT DANGEROUS!

HOW IS HE INFINITY?

IT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD...
...HE HAS LOST HIS IDENTITY...
...HIS "I" ... HIS ...

OH NO! HE'S LOST HIS
I = IDENTITY
MATRIX!

IF BILL LOSES HIS IDENTITY, SO WILL OUR WHOLE GROUP! THEN WE'LL BE NOTHING... ONLY A SEMI-...

WE'VE GOT TO GET IT BACK! ONLY THEN WILL YOU AND BILL BE ABLE TO FULFIL THE PROPHECY, BRING THE PLANETS BACK INTO ALIGNMENT AND CREATE WORLD PEACE!

MÖBIUS, I NEED A MOUTHFUL OF HIGH ENERGY GENUS-1 DONUTS, TWO SOCKS, TWO SANDALS AND ONE TOPOLOGICAL UTILITY BELT, ENHANCED FOR LINEAR ALGEBRA!

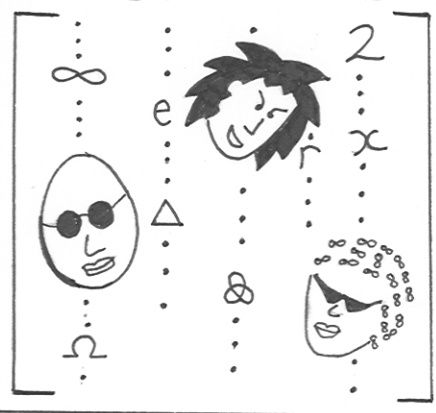
IT WILL BE SO.

THIS SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR...

KNOT MAN!



KNOT MAN, MÖBIUS AND INFINITY RETURN TO THE MATRIX

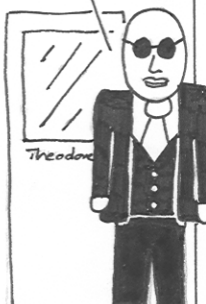


WE'VE GOT TO LOOK FOR CLUES!



WAIT! THERE'S A GLITCH IN THE MATRIX!

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 8 \\ 7 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 7 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$$



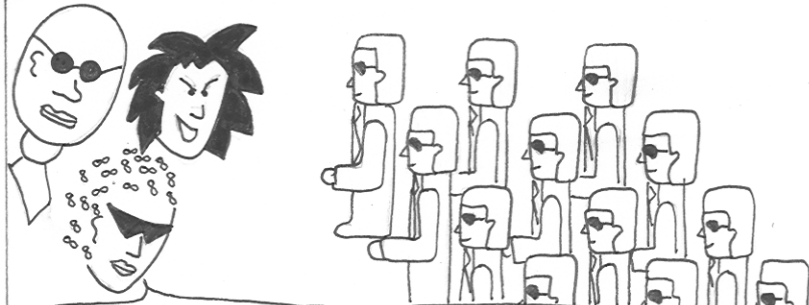
YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT 3 SHOULD BE A 2!



$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

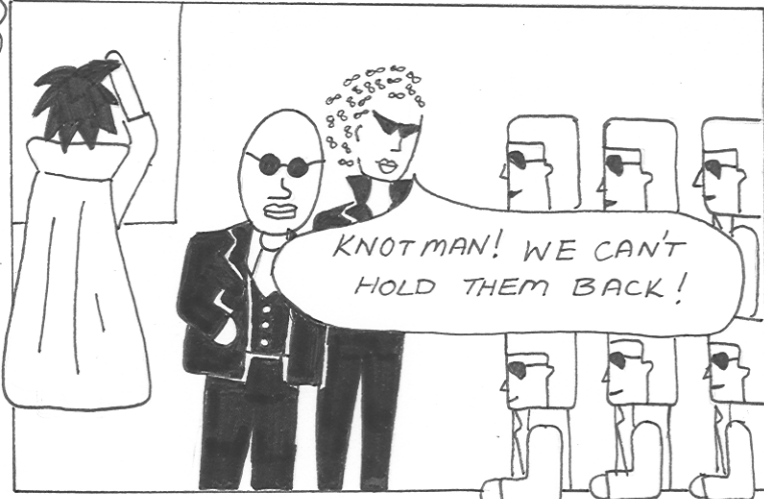
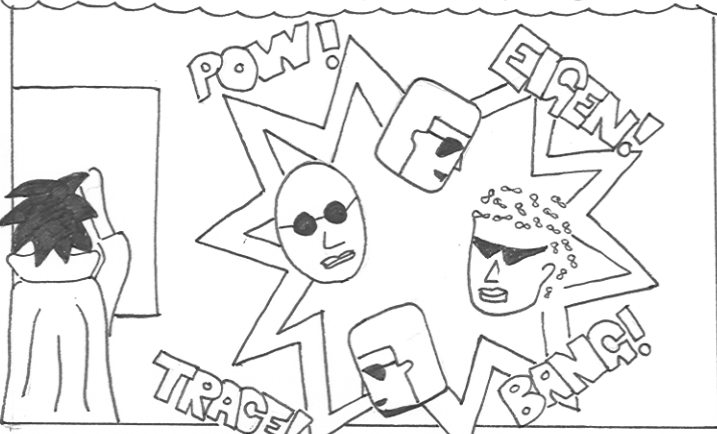
NO, KNOTMAN! AGENTS ARE COMING!

THE TRIO FACE A PHALANX OF IDENTICAL AGENTS.



OH NO! NOBODY HAS EVER DEFEATED A MATRIX OF AGENTS BEFORE!

MÖBIUS AND INFINITY LAUNCH THEMSELVES COURAGEOUSLY INTO THE FRAY...



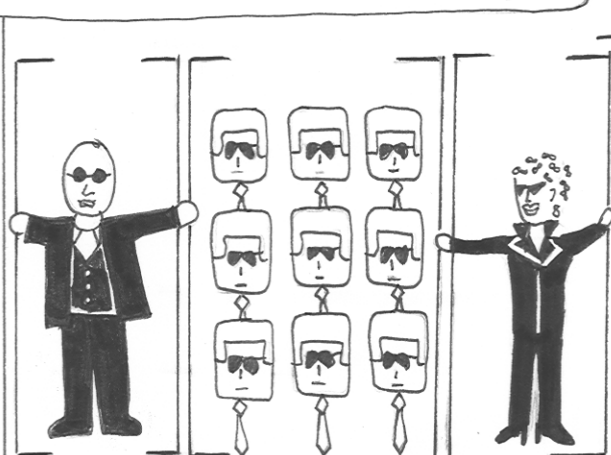
KNOTMAN! WE CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK!

SPEEDIER THAN A ROW REDUCTION ALGORITHM...
MORE CUNNING THAN THE CAYLEY-HAMILTON THEOREM.
LEVEL-HEADED ASA TRACE UNDER CONJUGATION...
MORE CHARMING THAN A WHO'S WHO OF TRIGONOMETRIC IDENTITIES



OF COURSE! IT'S ASSIMPLE AS JORDAN NORMALFORM! QUICK, MÖBIUS, INFINITY, TAKE THESE MATRICES!

YOU MUST CONJUGATE THEM!



-1

SURELY ENOUGH, THE AGENTS WERE DIAGNOLIZED AND DISPERSED ALONG VARIOUS EIGEN VECTORS!

GOOD WORK, KNOT MAN! NOW LET'S FIND BILL'S IDENTITY MATRIX!

THROUGH A DOOR, AND THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN A CHAMBER, CONFRONTED BY A RATHER POMPUS CHARACTER.

THE ARCHITECT!

REALITY BLAH FATE EQUATION BLAH BLAH FREE WILL BLAH BLAH.

OH NO! THIS GUY'S PHILOSOPHICAL MUMBO JUMBO IS WORSE THAN AN ARTS TUTE!

BUT THEN, PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF THE MATRIX FAILED. WHY?

KNOT MAN HAS A SUITABLE REPLY TO THIS DUBIOUS QUESTION.

BUT IN SPECIAL MATRICES, THE DETERMINANT IS ALWAYS THE ONE!

WITH THE ARCHITECT DAZED AND CONFUSED BY HIS OWN NONSENSE, KNOT MAN SPRINTS TO THE DOOR... TO WHATEVER THE ARCHITECT IS GUARDING...

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM THE ONE.

A MULTIPLICATIVE IDENTITY?

THE ONE.

YOU LOOK LIKE KEANU REEVES TO ME...

LOOK! WE WON!

THE ONE!

WHOWON?

THE ONE.

ONE WON?!

MR THE ONE, CAN YOU PUT THE 1'S BACK IN BILL'S IDENTITY MATRIX?

IT IS DONE.

PARTY ON DUDE!

BILL'S IDENTITY IS RETURNED...

THANKS A KNOT!

TIME FOR US TO TAKE A COORDINATE CHART HOME!

... AND BACK TO REALITY

HMMM... I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM...

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Zzz

KNOT MAN! MASTER OF THE MATRIX!

