

CM 1021 Mathematical Methods for Computing I - Autumn Semester 2009

Getting Started with Maple

What is Maple?

Maple is a *computer-algebra* package that can do symbolic mathematical calculations as well as numerical calculations. It is a very powerful package which can take much of the hard work out of long mathematical calculations.

In this module, it is important to be able to do calculations by hand but you will also learn how to do many of the processes using Maple and how to apply Maple to solving mathematical problems.

Getting into Maple

Maple can be accessed from the labs in the Austin Pearce building as well as many other computer labs in the University.

From the menus, select

Start → All Programs → Other Packages → Maple 12 → Maple 12

The first time you start Maple, make sure that you select “Worksheet mode” and not “Document mode”.

Getting your own version of Maple

The Mathematics Department has paid for an extended license which enables us to distribute Maple to students for use on their own computers. The cost is £30 and it is available from the Department administrator in 31AA04. Details of the scheme can be found at

<http://www.maths.surrey.ac.uk/ug/resources/maple.php>

Downloading Maple worksheets

To help you learn Maple, there are five Maple worksheets which contain instruction, examples and exercises. They can be found by going directly to

<http://personal.maths.surrey.ac.uk/st/J.Rayman/>

To download a file, right-click on the link and select Save target as. For the filename, Windows sometimes changes the suffix of the file from .mw to .xml. If the name of the file does end in .xml, you should change this to .mw before saving the file. **Be sure to save the file before you start and save your work regularly.**

Lab classes

There are four lab classes during which help will be available. Work through the five worksheets.

Don't be afraid to experiment and see what Maple can do, you will be surprised.