

Learning Mathematica

1. Find a computer with Mathematica, or install it on your own computer by following the directions at:
http://www.colby.edu/administration_cs/its/support/online_help/file-services-overview.cfm
Be sure to install Mathematica 10 unless you have some good reason not to. To use Mathematica you either need to be on campus or be using VPN (see the ITS webpage for more information). Also be aware that we have a limited number of licenses, so if everyone attempts to use Mathematica the night before an assignment is due, it may be the case that you will not be able to use it then. Also, **be sure to shut Mathematica down if you are not currently using it.**
2. Start Mathematica. If you downloaded it onto your own computer you will probably have to enter license information, which can be found in the README file on the ITS file server.
3. Keeping Mathematica open, direct your web browser to:
<http://www.wolfram.com/broadcast/screencasts/handsonstart/>
Watch the videos “Notebooks”, “Methods to Get Started”, and “Basic Calculations”. These total about 40 minutes. As you watch, you should pause the video and try the commands in Mathematica for yourself.
4. Use the Mathematica Documentation to figure out how to enter matrices, give them names (like A and B etc.), multiply them, row reduce them, etc. You may find this part of the documentation helpful:
<http://reference.wolfram.com/language/howto/DoLinearAlgebra.html>

If you give this a good shot and are having trouble, don't hesitate to stop by!