The MATHSTAT Network, Maple, and VLA

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Welcome

Welcome to the computer laboratories and classrooms in the Department of Mathematics at the University of South Carolina. If you are reading this as you are waiting for your lab session to begin, introduce yourself to another student in the lab and wait for your TA or instructor to begin the lab.

Instructions

Two purposes of this week's lab are for you to become familiar with the MATHSTAT network and Maple 10 and to ensure that you are able to access the `VLA` package and the worksheets provided with our textbook. You will learn how to login and logout of the network and how to access Maple 10 and the Internet.

Login and Logout

- When you are seated at a computer on the MATHSTAT network, begin the login process by pressing **Ctrl-Alt-Delete**. This will open a window in which you will be asked to enter your username and password.

- Your permanent *username* in the MATHSTAT network is the same as your Blackboard username. Your TA should have a list containing your username if you do not know it. Your initial MATHSTAT *password* is your nine-digit student ID number.

- If you have trouble with your login process, tell your TA and ask for a temporary login. Don't save anything on the computer with a temporary login. **All temporary logins will be disabled within a week.**

- Once you are logged in, take a look at your Windows desktop. You should see several icons, including ones for *Internet Explorer* and *Maple 10* (the red icon, not the yellow one).

- Change your password. To do this, press **Ctrl-Alt-Delete** and then click the button labeled **Change Password**. You will need to re-enter your current password, and then your new password (twice). The system may not accept passwords that are simple words or otherwise too easy to guess.

- To logout of the MATHSTAT network, press **Ctrl-Alt-Delete**. Click on **Log Off** ... confirm that you want to logout by pressing the button labeled **Log Off**. **Do not turn off the computer.** Prior to leaving the computer, visually verify that it is ready for the next user to login.

A First Look at Maple

Locate and double click the (red) Maple 10 icon on the desktop. When Maple 10 starts, a Tip of the Day will be displayed. These tips can be useful, but most of them will not be relevant to you at this point. Our task for today is to set up the interface of Maple 10 to our standard.

Maple Preferences

To be able to follow the instructions provided in the labs, each user must configure Maple the first time you start the program. **You must set your preferences as specified in this document.** You should only have to do this the first time you use Maple 10 using your MATHSTAT login.

- Display The display options are available from the Maple 10 user interface under the **Tools** menu. Pull down the **Tools** menu and choose **Options**.
    - Click on the **Display** tab. Change the settings to show:
Input display:	Maple Notation
Output display:	Typeset Notation (or 2-D Math Notation)
    - Click on the **Interface** tab. Change the settings to show:
Default format for new worksheets:	Worksheet
    - Click **Apply Globally**.
- Palettes The palette options are available from the Maple 10 user interface under the **View** menu. Pull down the **View** menu and choose **Palettes** and then **Arrange Palettes**.
    - Click **Remove All**.
    - Click **Common Symbols**, **Expression**, and **Matrix**.
    - Click **OK**.
- Finish Close out of your Maple session and re-open Maple 10. You should only see three palettes on the left of your screen. You should see a red Maple prompt (>).

Accessing the Internet and Lab Materials

- Internet Explorer is the standard browser provided in the MATHSTAT computer labs. An icon for Internet Explorer should be on your desktop. Double click this icon to launch the browser.
- Open the Math 526 Lab homepage `http://www.math.sc.edu/~meade/math526-S07/`. Add this page to your list of favorite websites by selecting **Add to Favorites** under the **Favorites** menu at the top of the window.
- From the Math 526 Lab homepage, click on **Daily Assignments**. This page contains the homework and lab assignments for the entire course.

The VLA Materials

Many sections and exercises in the textbook can be accessed as Maple worksheets. These worksheets as well as a collection of Maple commands specifically designed for use with this book are provided on the CD that comes with the book. The library files have already been installed on the computers in our classroom. You need to install the `VLA` files to your `Z` drive. First, copy the `VLA` folder from the CD to the top level of your `Z` drive. Also, I recommend creating a `MATH526` folder on your `Z` drive and saving all of your work to that folder. You might want to copy the `tutorials` and `problems` folders to the `MATH526` folder and not touch any of the files that are in `Z:/VLA`.

To use the VLA materials on your own computer you will need to follow the instructions provided on the CD that came with the book. You will also need to have Maple on your computer. Several options for purchasing Maple will be discussed in class.