

## New to Maple?

Maple is a symbolic algebra software package that is available on all of the computers in the Math Lab (the Physics lab probably has it, too).

Maple is a “symbolic” package because it can do things like: Factor a polynomial, Compute the derivative, Compute the antiderivative, etc. We will mainly use Maple for its graphing capabilities.

First, you need an account on the Math Lab computers (this is different than all the other labs on campus). See me to get the account.

When you come into the lab, sign in using your login name and password.

**Be sure to change your password from the default one given you. See the handout for the details.**

To start the Maple software, click your mouse on the **Applications** button, and select **Maple**.

**Helpful hint: You can drag the Maple icon to your toolbar (the horizontal bar at the top of the page) to make Maple easily accessible.**

When Maple starts, you will see a dialog box asking if you want to use **Document Mode** or **Worksheet Mode**. I always use the **Worksheet Mode**, although it does not matter that much. If you use **Worksheet Mode**, once Maple starts you will see the command line that starts with:

>

That’s where we will type in the Maple commands. To start, here are some commands to factor, differentiate and integrate:

```
> factor( 6*x^2 - 7*x -5 );  
> f:=3*sin(x)+arctan(x);  
> diff(f,x);  
> int(f,x);
```

In the first command, you may need to use the right arrow key to get out of the exponent. The second line *assigns* the value `3*sin(x)+arctan(x)` to the variable name *f*, the next line computes the derivative of *f*, and the line after that computes the antiderivative of *f*.

To download sample pages from our class website:

- Find the link on the class website.
- **Right click** the mouse, and choose “Save File As...”
- Once the file is saved to your computer, open the Maple software, then choose **File**, then **Open**, then find the file (default is to save it on your Desktop).