

1.1 – MathCad® Use Tips

MathCad® has a very good help menu in addition to a wonderful tutorial available to campus server users. Students are encouraged to make full use of these resources. The following tips address the most common questions students have.

What are the differences in the “=” signs?

" := "

Use " := " to set a value of a constant. If the constant value has not yet been established, hitting the "=" key will create enter a " := ". However, hitting the " : " key will always enter a " := ".

" = "

Use " = " to see the value of a constant or variable. The " = " key will always enter a " = " if the constant or variable of interest is already established.

" = "

Use " = " to constrain a value as is the case in an algebraic equation. The " Ctrl + = " key will enter a " = ". This is rarely used. It is useful in Solve blocks, etc.

How do I enter Text Type?

Start typing and then depress the space bar.

How do I enter Math Type?

Start typing and do not depress the space bar.

How do I enter a subscript in Math Type?

" ["

(Tip: To avoid confusion do not use subscripts in Math Type unless they are mathematical array subscripts unless you are an experienced MathCad user. Incidentally entering a "." at the end of a Math Type name allows inputting a Math Type subscript BUT IT IS NOT AN ARRAY VALUE.)

How do I create a function?

Always write the function's arguments in parentheses on the left hand side. For example: $f(x, y) := x + 2*y$.

How do I see if a function is working correctly?

The function $f(x, y) := x + 2*y$ may be evaluated as follows: $f(2,6) = .$
This will produce the following output: $f(2,6) = 14$.

How do create a column array variable from a 2-D array?

Use the " $M^{\langle \rangle}$ " tool in the matrix toolbox. For example, to create an array t from the first column of the 2-D array A write, $t = M^{\langle 0 \rangle}$.