

Volcano Fractal, by Philippe de Courcy

# Mendocino College Online Math Orientation

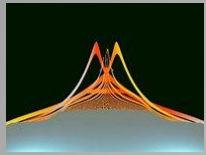
presented by Susan Bell & Jason Edington

What is a fractal? *Answer given at end of presentation.*



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## Part 1: Getting Registered & Enrolled

You will need a Course ID and MyMathLab Access Code:

You can find the course ID on the college website. Go to:

[www.mendocino.edu](http://www.mendocino.edu)

- Click on 'Classes and Programs'
- Click on 'Distance Education: Online Math' – Course ID is at the bottom

### MyMathLab Access Code

- Valid 1 year for a specific student and textbook.
- It may come bundled with your textbook, purchased at the college bookstore, or bought online with a credit card during registration.

ZIP Code for Mendocino College: 95482

[Click here to take the How to Register Tour](#)

If you use AOL : Open AOL first and then the Internet Explorer browser.



## RETURNING STUDENTS – Welcome Back!

### Log In to CourseCompass

- Use your existing CourseCompass login name and password.
- On the My CourseCompass page, click *Enroll in a New Course* and follow the links.

### Do you need a new MyMathLab Access Code?

- Each MyMathLab access code is valid for 1 year for a given textbook. You may purchase an access code at the bookstore, or online with a credit card.
- You may not need to purchase a new code if you are progressing from MTH 11 to MTH 44, or are repeating a course from the prior semester.

**Reinstall the software** shown on the new *Browser Check*.

## THE TEXTBOOK IS ONLINE, SO SHOULD YOU BUY ONE ?

*Answer: Not necessarily*

- **Buy a textbook**

The biggest advantage of having a book (recommended), is that you can study offline. And if you buy it at the Mendocino College bookstore (in Ukiah, Lakeport or Willits), it comes bundled with a MyMathLab Access Code.

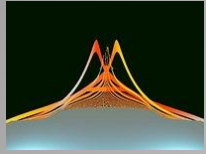
- **Get a used book**

This fine, but you also will need to have your own MyMathLab Access Code, since the codes are linked to a specific student.

- **Buy a stand-alone MyMathLab Access Code** (About \$65 or so)

This is a less expensive option, and gets you into the course where you can use the online textbook (downside: can't scroll; must click page to page). You may purchase it at the Mendocino College bookstore, or online with a credit card during the CourseCompass registration process.

*Note: If you plan to buy a textbook off-campus, check your course syllabus for the correct ISBNs, to be sure you get the book and an access code.*



# Part 2: Course Hardware & Software

## System Requirements

### PC Users (for all courses)

#### Operating Systems

Windows® 2000, Windows XP,  
or Vista

### Mac Users (for MTH 55, 56 & 220 only)

#### Operating Systems

OS-X and higher

### PC and Mac Users

**Internet Browsers:** Internet Explorer v.6 or 7; Firefox v.3.0 ; Safari v.3.1

**Internet connection:** Cable/DSL, T1, or other high-speed to be able to view multimedia content; 56k modem minimum

**Memory:** 64 MB RAM minimum; **Monitor resolution:** 1024 x 768 or higher

**Pop-Up blockers:** Disable Pop-Up Blocker software (Ctrl + the pop-up bar below menus and toolbars).

# Install MyMathLab software

You must install MyMathLab on any computer you wish to use to complete assignments.

*If you plan to complete assignments at work, you may need permission from your employer to download software.*

- Click on the **Browser Check**, which is located on the course website from the Installation Wizard button.
- **Download** the new flash-based MathXL Player v.2 and other needed plug-ins and players.

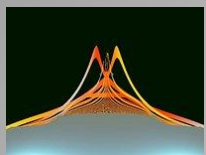
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## Special Hardware/Software Offer

If you want to purchase or upgrade your computer or operating system, you are eligible for CA community college student discounts:

[www.collegesoftware.org](http://www.collegesoftware.org)

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## Part 3: Getting Technical Support

It is your responsibility to have a fully-functional computer that is capable of handling all your online work.

Contact Tech Support (not your instructor), for your computer hardware and software questions and problems:

[http://www.mymathlab.com/contactus\\_stu.html](http://www.mymathlab.com/contactus_stu.html)



**Live Chat!** Monday-Thursday (5am-8pm), Friday (5am-5pm), and Sunday (2pm-9pm) Pacific Time



**Email 24/7:** Fill out a product support form online.



**Call: 1-800-677-6337** Monday-Friday (5am-5pm), and Sunday (2pm-9pm) Pacific Time

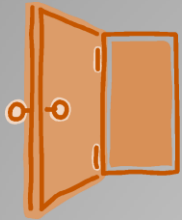


## Develop a Computer Back-Up Plan

When you are under a tight deadline, everything goes wrong, right?! Make sure you have ready access to a back-up computer that's fully equipped and functional. Suggestions:

- **Use the Learning Centers' computers** (available to all students)
- **Enroll in CSC 500** to use the CSC Lab computers (Ukiah, Lake, Willits), where MC lab techs are available for support.
- **Arrange to use a friend's computer**, but be sure you have downloaded the MyMathLab software at the start of the semester, so you know it will work when you need to use it.


Technical problems and family emergencies do NOT serve as a valid excuse for missing due dates.

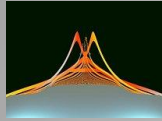


## Emergency Back Door

When CourseCompass is down, MathXL is a back door you can use to do your homework and quizzes. *You will not be able to access the textbook, videos, and other course items.*

To see  click here: [www.mathxl.com](http://www.mathxl.com)

- Enter from the “MyMathLab login (back door)” link on the far right side of the screen. The *First-Time User* and *Established User* login links will not work for your course.
- Log in with your CourseCompass login name and password.
- The work you complete in MathXL will appear on the course website when you return to .



## Part 4: Explore the Website

### My CourseCompass

This is the first Webpage that appears after you log into Course Compass.

General Announcements – *CourseCompass postings*

Courses you are taking & Course ID – *Links to the Course Website*

My Account – *Change your email/other contact information here*

### Your Course Website

The entire course is located here, along with the communication tools you will use to interact with your instructor and classmates.

Announcements ~ Syllabus

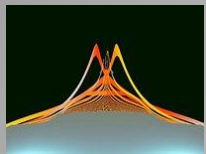
Textbook (*including MyMathLab help, How to Enter Answers & MyMathLab Tutor Center*) ~ Assignments ~ Gradebook

Study Plan ~ Discussion Board ~ Messages

Multimedia Library (*textbook-specific*) ~ Web Exploration

Course Map ~ Installation Wizard (Browser Check)

Course Compass Help & Support



## Part 5. Course Requirements

- **Email your instructor as soon as you enroll!**

Your instructor will send you links to your course materials. Read the syllabus very carefully, as it covers the course requirements, and may vary somewhat from the information in this orientation.

- **Use the course *Discussion Board* to Introduce Yourself**

- Use online help for instructions on navigating class forums.
- Go to the applicable *Discussion Board* forum and post an introduction. Use standard grammar and punctuation—text messaging abbreviations are not acceptable in college courses.

Body of Message: Introduce yourself so everyone gets a good sense of who you are—what's important to you with respect to your education, job/career and other life interests. *If you are a returning student*, also share your tips for success in online math .

Post a reply to others (optional): Click the reply button located on the bottom right of any posting. You may even find a great study partner!

# Learn How to Study & Do Assignments

## Step 1 Study the Textbook

At the top of the page online are links to *How Do I Enter Answers?* and *MyMathLab Student Help*, followed by links to the textbook chapters, sections, solutions to odd-numbered exercises, and other resources.

From the *Textbook* link online, click the chapter and section and do the following:

- **Listen to the online lectures** , which also can be accessed from the *Multimedia Library*.
- **Do all of the examples and related practice problems** at the beginning of each section. This is the most important study tip of all, as the examples cover each type of problem you'll encounter on a quiz.
- **Do as many of the end-of-section exercises as needed**, until you can solve each type of problem quickly, easily, and correctly.
- **Review the end-of-chapter summaries & PowerPoint and/ or Animation presentations,\*** which outline key concepts/procedures.

\*PowerPoint & Animations are located in the *Multimedia Library*, if they are available for your course.



## **MyMathLab Tutor Center - Call 1-800-435-4084**

Get help with odd-numbered textbook exercises Sunday-Thursday (2pm–9pm) Pacific Time. *If asked for a registration number, give your Course ID, which is on the My CourseCompass home page.*

### **Step 2: HOMEWORK (graded/untimed; unlimited attempts)**

**Due Sundays by 11:59pm - Homework covers complete chapters or multiple sections of one or more chapters.**

- Click *Assignments*, and then the specific assignment, to access (or re-access) current or past-due homework. It is recommended that you work on your homework until you have scored 100%.
- Answers are saved automatically as you complete them, so you can return to finish up at another session.
- Try not to get behind, but homework will remain open all term.

### Step 3: QUIZZES (graded/timed; 2 attempts/best score counts)

**Due Sundays by 11:59 pm , quizzes cover complete chapters or multiple sections of one or more chapters.**

- Click *Assignments* to access a quiz. Go back through *Assignments* if you want to take it again.
- Go to the *Gradebook* to review your quiz. Send a CourseCompass message to your instructor if you think the computer scored something in error. *Be sure to identify the quiz and problem number, and describe how you solved it.*

Quiz Makeup Dates: See your course syllabus for detail on applicable mid-term and end-of term dates.

## Don't Lock Yourself Out of a Quiz or Test!

To navigate back and forth, without getting locked out:

- Use the *Previous*, *Next*, or *Test Overview* buttons **ONLY** within the quiz. Then click *Submit* when you have finished.
- If you click the "Back" arrow on the Internet browser, you will lock yourself out, and may not be able to re-access the quiz.
- If you open a new Internet browser window, you will lock yourself out, and may not be able to re-access the quiz.


## Complete Weekly Assignments by Thursday or Friday

Assignments are due Sundays, but you need to work ahead:

- Don't miss courses deadlines when family emergencies and computer breakdowns occur.
- Give yourself time to post problems to the Discussion Board and receive feedback, so you can complete your work before deadlines.
- Take advantage of help provided by MyMathLab techs or tutors, but who are not available from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

## Step 4: STUDY PLAN (graded)

If you score less than 100% on any quiz, MyMathLab will create a personalized study plan for you.

- Click on the the *Study Plan* button (or access it from the *Gradebook*) to improve your skills and course grade.
- Expand each chapter/section/objectives and complete the problems that are annotated with a pencil  to prove mastery.

You also may prove mastery by taking a Sample Chapter Test, which may be found by clicking on *Assignments* and the *Quizzes* button, and then scrolling below the assigned quizzes.

Note about Assignment views: You must be in “Quiz” view to see the Sample Tests. Return to the “Show All” view to see all of your course assignments.

- Your Study Plan grade will be based on mastery of the quiz objectives.

## Final Exam & Online Gradebook vs. Course Grades

- **Final Exam**

There will be a comprehensive, online open-book final exam. You also must deliver, FAX or mail a legible copy of your solutions to your instructor, and will receive credit only for the problems you have worked out fully on paper.

- **Online Gradebook**

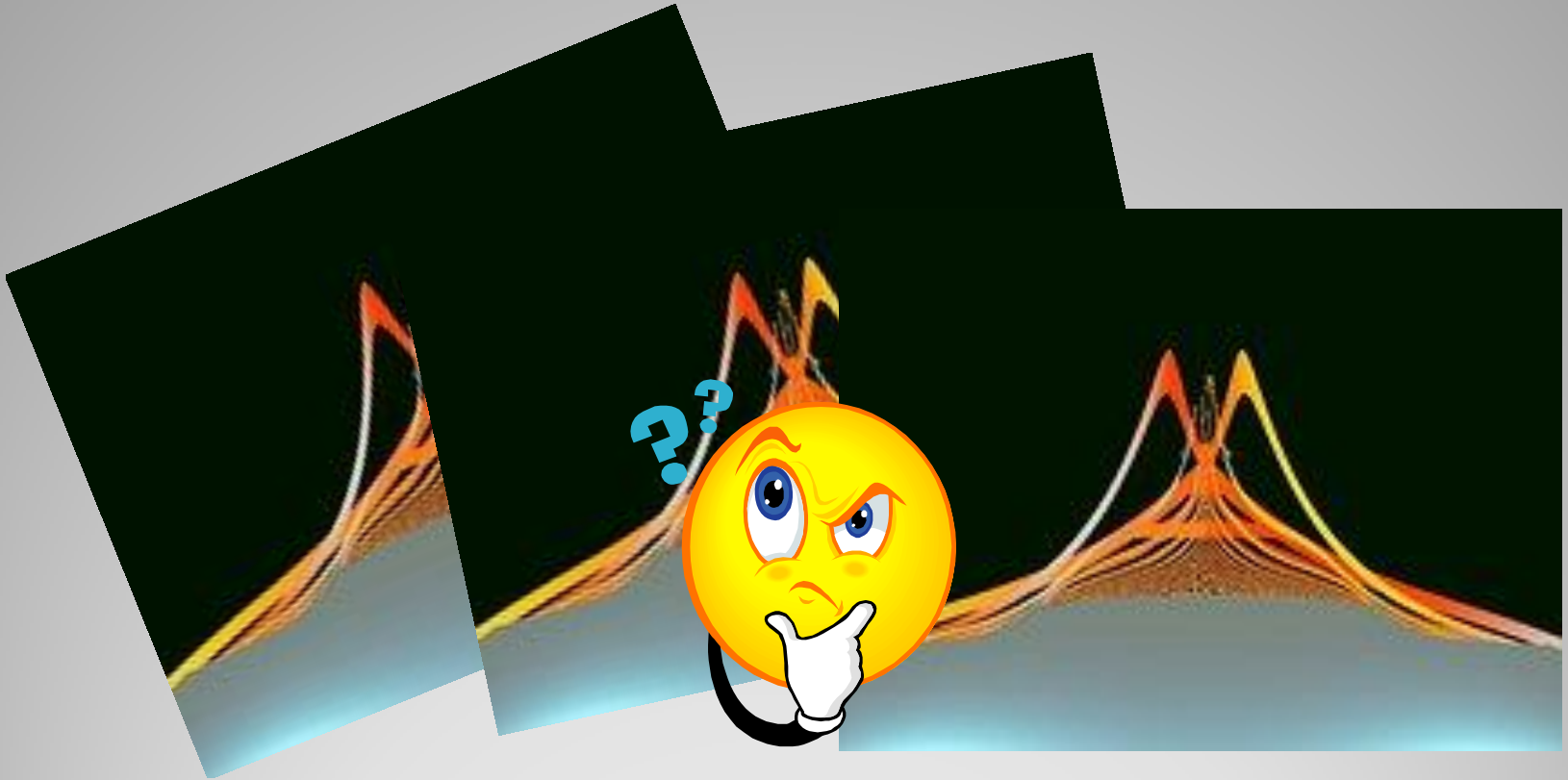
Online grades reflect completed work. They will be accurate only if you have submitted every assignment, or until your instructor manually enters zeros for missing work.

- **Course Grades**

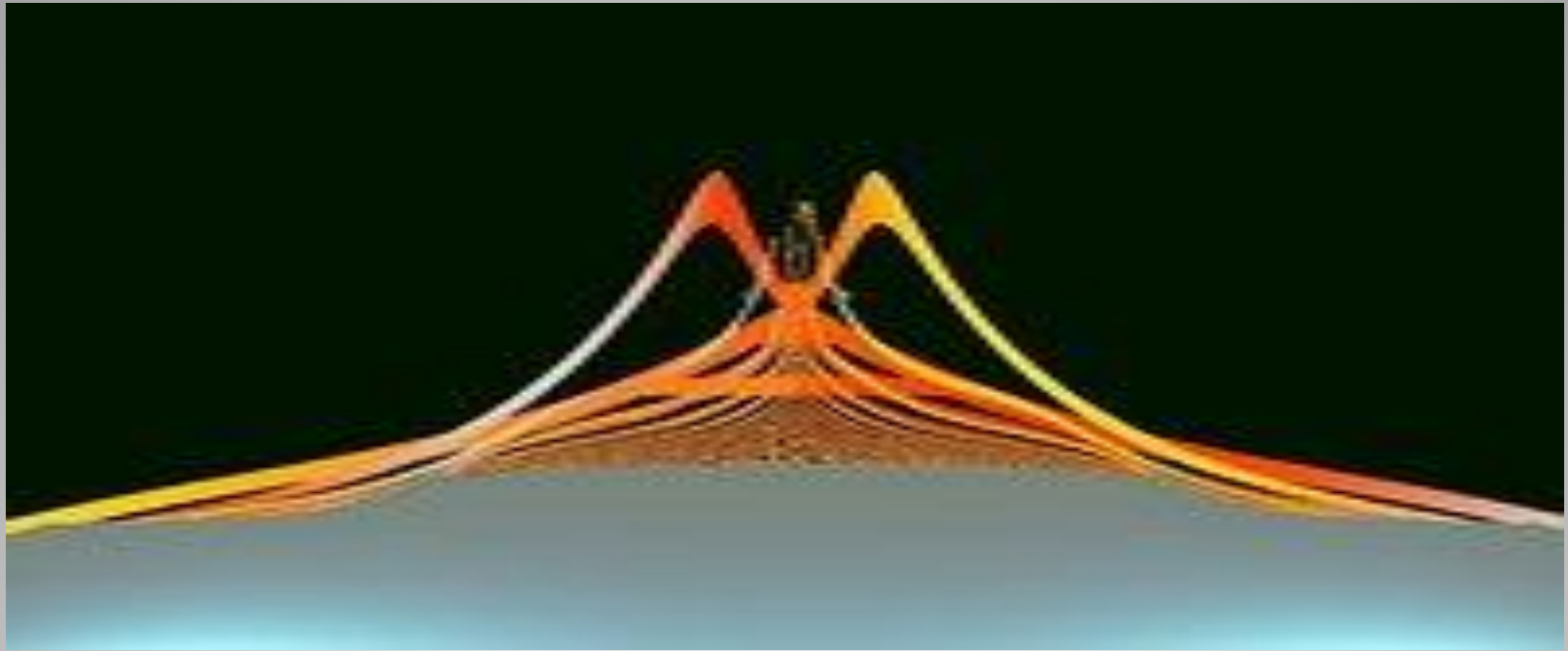
Check your syllabus to see how grades are determined. Instructors reserve the right to adjust your final course grade (up or down), based upon your performance and progress throughout the term.

## Review of Key Startup Tasks

- ✓ Email your instructor to obtain course materials.
- ✓ Obtain a valid MyMathLab Access Code, so that you can get registered and enrolled in CourseCompass right away.
- ✓ Open the Browser Check online, and install all of the software needed to view and complete assignments.
- ✓ Review the Syllabus and Calendar for your weekly assignments, which begin right away.
- ✓ Complete your Class Introduction on the Discussion Board.
- ✓ Pass the Syllabus Quiz with score of 100%, so you can open and take the graded quizzes.
- ✓ Take the How to Enter MathXL Answers tour; from the *Textbook* button, located at the top of the page.



**So now, what exactly is a  
FRACTAL?**

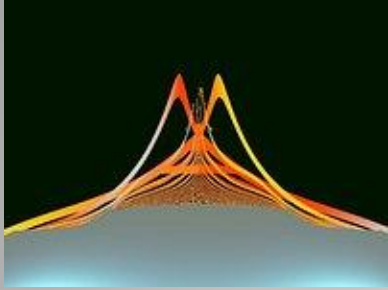


**A simple definition of a Fractal:** A geometric pattern repeated at smaller & smaller scales to form irregular shapes and surfaces that do not look like the original pattern. *Source: Math/Science Nucleus, Freemont, CA.*

If you want to play with fractals, here are 2 of many websites:

Cool Math: <http://www.coolmath.com/fractals/gallery.htm>

Geocities: <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/7959/fractalapplet.html>



**Good Luck**

**&**

**have a great semester!**

***See you Online...***