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Introduction to Mathematica: symbolic computing and simple simulation visualization

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Mathematica is a powerful programming tool with a visually appealing graphical user interface. While possessing many of the capabilities of a more traditional programming language, it features symbolic computing, which renders mathematical expressions in a format that is easier to read and manipulate. Given these ergonomic features, Mathematica is, among other things, useful for quick numerical simulations and can provide complimentary interactive animations. In this tutorial, we will walk through Mathematica's symbolic prowess and its application to quick simulation and graphical visualization. Prior to and during the tutorial, we will supply students with materials geared towards exploration of Mathematica's functionality.

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