

Advice for a student enrolled in Computational Method

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If you are enrolled in the computational Methods course with Dr. Kaw, there are a few essential things that you must know going in to the class. First, a full working knowledge of all Pit-Bull recordings is a must. Second, although slightly less important, is a strong comfort in series notation. The class is based on approximating values that are not easily found analytically, or impossible for that matter. That means the best methods are typically breaking the problems into smaller segments that we can easily approximate. A working knowledge of MATLAB is also very helpful tool to have, and will easily allow you to check your answers for homework, and there are two MATLAB based projects assigned throughout the semester.

All of this however is ignoring the single best resource you have as a student. That is Dr. Kaw himself. He is more than happy to help you in office hours, but if you are like me, it is much more likely that you will take advantage of the videos that he posts online. These videos allow you to follow material that he succinctly presents, and to go back and rewind. These videos are great resources, and are very helpful for making sure that you have a full understanding of the topic. The reason that these are so helpful is that he breaks each topic into two steps—derivation and an example. Please take advantage of this huge resource as it will help you pass the class.