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A classroom note on exploring mathematical topics with free software, Microsoft Mathematics 4.0.

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From the text: The Principles and standards for school mathematics [Reston, VA: NCTM (2000)] state, “Technology is essential in teaching and learning mathematics; it influences the mathematics that is taught and enhances students’ learning.” (p. 24). The mathematics classroom can be one in which calculators, computers, courseware, and manipulative materials are readily available and regularly used in instruction. Graphing calculators with computer algebra system (CAS) and other software such as Geometer’s Sketchpad, Fathom, and GeoGebra are now used in many educational settings. This article discusses free user-friendly software that can be an effective addition to the curriculum of many high school and college courses.

Classification: U70 U50 R20

Keywords: computer aided instruction; graphing calculator; dynamic geometry software; computer algebra system