

1035-Z1-1207      **Peter L Staab\*** (pstaab@fsc.edu), Dept. of Math, 160 Pearl St., Fitchburg, MA 02130.  
*Teaching Linear Algebra in a Finite Mathematics Course using WebCAS.*

For students with weak mathematical skills, mastering linear algebra is often difficult, despite its basic nature of adding, and multiplying numbers. The finite mathematics course at Fitchburg State College is designed for students that need to satisfy a basic math requirement and many students are weak in such basic skills as arithmetic. I have recently developed software that runs natively in the Firefox browser that allows students to perform basic matrix operations including finding inverses, step-by-by Gaussian Elimination and pivoting. The students are required to do a project using the software and write a short paper documenting the problem. In the talk, I intend to present the level of material typically taught in the class and show how the software is used. The context of the software within the course will also be shown, and I will present my personal philosophy to using this software instead of alternatives. (Received September 19, 2007)