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Pilgrimage to see Cleve Moler, inventor of MATLAB

I went to an [ASU Math Department](#) Seminar yesterday:

[Cleve Moler, the Mathworks, The Evolution of MATLAB](#)

I started off with [Mathematica](#) as a grad student. It was a powerful way for me to get introduced to scientific computing and to develop the codes for my dissertation research. It also had a nice notebook-style interface that combined text, code, and graphics.

Once at ASU, [George Hilley](#) finally got me to wean myself from [Mathematica](#) and onto [MATLAB](#). It seemed more powerful for the kind of basic data processing and matrix manipulations that we were doing and I did not really take advantage of the symbolic computation capabilities of [Mathematica](#).

Now, I am a basically competent [MATLAB](#) programmer. People like [George Hilley](#) and [Olaf Zielke](#) are much more gifted and even take advantage of the GUI for [MATLAB](#). I joke (half seriously) with students about getting them off of using MS Excel and onto using MATLAB.

Anyways, listening to the original author, [Dr. Cleve Moler](#) was interesting and hearing about the practical and basic approach he took back then and then how it really took off as the engineers discovered it while the mathematicians were not so impressed. [Here](#) is a video interview with Dr. Moler that covers some of the topics.

Dr. Moler's [books](#) look interesting and the latter one (Experiments with Matlab) is one he is developing with applications to high school and beginning college students.

The other cool thing about the [Mathworks](#) is that they are supporters of [public radio](#).

Thanks to [Nathan Toké](#) for alerting me to this seminar.

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