

Maple TA

Almost all of your homework grade will be from assignments given in an online homework system called Maple TA. Here is an overview of how the system will be used.

- Before you can work on any assignment which will be graded, you must register. Go to the specific web location for your section, then go through the tutorial (http://www.math.okstate.edu/~alspach/mapleta/MapleTA_tutorial.pdf) and follow the directions. If you need help, staff from the MLRC will be available at designated times.
- There will be an assignment for each week. Usually an assignment will correspond to two sections of the text.
- Each assignment will have an announced due date and time. Your assignment must be submitted before that due date and time. You should submit early in case of unforeseen computer problems. Generally exceptions will be made only if the Maple TA server is down or unreachable.
- Although it may happen that there is more than one assignment that is available at a given time, **Maple TA will only allow one graded assignment to be in progress at a time**. Be sure you have chosen the correct assignment before you hit *Go*. (In progress means the time from when you first hit *Go* until the assignment is submitted for grading.)
- You may attempt an assignment more than once but the problems will generally be different for each attempt. The attempt which is submitted before the deadline and which has the highest score will be used for your grade. While working on an assignment you will be able to check whether your answer is right or wrong by clicking on *How did I do?*.
- Some sections have practice assignments in addition to graded assignments. Practice assignments are not recorded for grading and may be started while a graded assignment is in progress. If you are having trouble with a problem on a graded assignment, it may help to try a similar one on the corresponding practice assignment.

- When you begin a graded assignment:
 1. You will be offered the opportunity to print it out. I recommend that you print the assignment.
 2. Work the problems on paper and carefully write out the steps of the solutions.
 3. Once you are satisfied with your work, return to Maple TA and enter your solutions.
 4. Before you submit an assignment for grading, use *How did I do* to check your answers to each question.
 5. If an answer is wrong, there are several possibilities: You made an error in solving the problem, your answer on paper is correct but was not entered correctly, your answer is not in the correct form (Is the answer an equation? Does the question require Maple syntax? Are units required?), Maple TA could not determine that your answer was equivalent to the correct answer or there is a software bug. In the last two cases you should submit a *Bug Report* and contact your instructor.
 6. If you submit an assignment and receive a message that something is wrong with some answers, this means that Maple TA cannot parse (understand) what you have entered or you left an answer blank. Blanks and answers with syntax problems are automatically marked wrong. You should attempt to fix these before finally submitting the assignment.
 7. Once an assignment has been submitted for grading, there is no opportunity to make changes. You can review the grading and see the correct answers. (If you have left the session, click on *View my results in this class* on the right side of the class page.)
- When working online it is a good idea to periodically save and quit. This will ensure that you can return to your assignment and not lose any answers that you have entered up to that point. Note that Maple TA will automatically end your session after several minutes of inactivity. Some students have experienced browser problems including crashes when starting the java applets that are used in symbol mode and to preview answers. If you are using these, try them early in the session so that problems will not cause you to lose much work.

- Maple TA must be allowed to open windows so if you use a pop-up blocker, list the server as an exception. Javascript and java must also be allowed.
- On most problems you will see a link labeled *Bug Report*. If there is something wrong with the problem, i.e., the problem does not make sense, it will not display properly, etc., click on this link, complete the form and submit it. If you believe that your answer is correct and you have entered it correctly, but *How did I do?* is marking it incorrect, you can either submit a bug report or click the button **View Parameters** at the bottom of the bug report form. Copy the information which is given into a message and send it to your instructor along with a description of the difficulty and your answer.

Once you have begun an assignment your instructor cannot do anything to change the problems that you were given. Your instructor can change the score on a problem on an assignment if the instructor feels that it is warranted. Consult your instructor for his or her policy.

Note: You may be able to find answers to questions about Maple TA in the FAQ

<http://www.math.okstate.edu/~alspach/mapleta/MapleTAFAQ.html>