

WEBWORK GUIDE

Introduction

For this class, we are using a web-based homework system called WeBWorK. The login link is

<https://courses1.webwork.maa.org/webwork2/oberlin-math134c/>

WeBWorK has some nice advantages over written homework assignments:

- You can try the problems as many times as you like (before the deadline), and the system will tell you whether or not you have the right answer. This allows you to fix any errors in your work immediately.
- After the assignment's deadline, the system will show you the correct answer for each problem when you try it (but your answers will not be scored).

However, there are a few caveats that you should keep in mind:

- You are welcome (even encouraged) to work together on WeBWorK problems, but be forewarned: WeBWorK generates slightly different problems for each student, so copying another student's answers won't work!
- Once a WeBWorK assignment closes (i.e., once the deadline has passed) the assignment CANNOT be re-opened. So, please pay close attention to the deadlines!

Setting Up Your Account

Enter the URL (listed above) into your web browser. Your username is your `firstname.lastname` as listed in the Oberlin e-mail directory (so if your Oberlin e-mail address is `albino.squirrel@oberlin.edu`, then your username is `albino.squirrel`). Your initial password is "password" (all lowercase letters, no quotation marks). You should change your password after you log in for the first time.

When you first log into WeBWorK, you'll see a few buttons on the left. Use the "Change Email" button to enter your preferred email address and the "Change Password" button to change your password. Then, try the "Homework Sets" link to see how the system works. You can select a set and print it out in PDF format if you wish to work out the problems on paper. Your problems will be the same when you log in again to enter the answers.

Using WeBWorK

When typing things into WeBWorK, bear in mind that the system will use the standard order of operations. Exponentiation comes first, multiplication and division second, and addition and subtraction last. You can overrule this sequence by using parentheses. Expressions in parentheses are evaluated first. Redundant parentheses are OK (they will not affect the correctness of your answer). For example, if you determine that

$$\frac{a + b}{c - d}$$

is the answer to one of your homework problems, you will need to enter the following expression into WeBWorK:

$$(a + b)/(c - d).$$

To this end, the "Preview Answers" button is useful to make sure you have typed your answer in correctly. When you click "Submit Answer," WeBWorK will tell you whether or not the answer you typed is correct.

Note: WeBWorK requires precise syntax. You have unlimited tries on each problem, so if you are certain that you have done the problem correctly, check your parentheses and other syntax, and keep numbers inside

of square roots (and other operations) instead of using rounded-off decimal answers.

WeBWorK Help

The “Email Instructor” button is useful if you get stuck. This will send me an email that includes a link to the problem that you’re currently working on. Please feel free to contact me if you are having any difficulties with using WeBWorK.