

Week 0: Reading and Exercises

How This Works

Each week, on Monday, you will be given the reading for the week. In mathematics, reading without working through problems is useless. So a number of interesting exercises are also assigned. Solving them is usually not hard, but writing them up neatly and meeting a deadline is less pleasant. So, while you are expected to look at all of the practice problems each week, your homework will consist of only five problems per week. These are to be more thought-provoking problems and you are expected to present them in a neat, professional way. But the plug-and-chug problems below can be solved on scrap paper since they are not to be returned for credit.

After this first week ("Week 0"), handouts like this will not be mass-printed, but you will be expected to download them from the course web page.

Reading

Please read Sections 1–5 of Chapter 1 in time for Monday's lecture. I will not cover all of this in class, but you are still responsible for the material. Any questions about the material can be addressed in class, office hours or conferences.

This early material may seem rather straightforward and mechanical, but it provides a solid foundation for the concepts and problem-solving tasks that will come later.

Practice Exercises

NOTE: Do not hand in.

Here are some practice problems to work on at home. It is extremely important that you are proficient at such exercises; without these basic skills, you will be hard-pressed to complete the exams in the allotted time.

If you have any questions about these problems, please discuss them in your January 20 conference or come see Erin or me.

- pages 11-12, # 1-23 (odd).
- pages 25-26, # 1-6 (all) and 7-31 (odd).
- pages 37-39, # 1–15 (odd), 27, 29.
- pages 47-48, # 1–21 (odd).
- page 55, # 1–11 (odd).