

Math 152 Introduction to WebWork adapted from Mei Zhu

1 Logging into WebWork

To begin, first go to

http://hosted.webwork.rochester.edu/webwork2/plu_math152_simicmuller/.

There is a link to the WebWork page on the course webpage. Your username will usually be the first 6 letters of your last name followed by the first and middle initial (no capitals). If your last name is shorter, your username will only use your last name and the first letter of your first name. In some cases the middle initial may be an a if you do not have a middle initial. For example, Sarah Jane Armstrong's username is armstrsj and Ksenija Simic-Muller's username is simicmka. **Your password has been set as the same as your login:** Sarah Jane's password will also be armstrsj. Email me as soon as possible if you have trouble logging into WebWork.

2 Changing your Password and Email Address

Once you have logged in, you may change your password and/or email address. You should definitely change your password as soon as possible. Go to the blue area on the left side of the webpage and select "password/email." Then follow the instructions.

3 Finding Homework Sets

The homework sets button is listed at the blue area on the left side of the webpage. Click on the button: you will see a list of homework sets. Please check "Status" for the due time for each homework set. For example, if the status is listed as "due 02/10/2009 at 11:00 pm EDT" then the homework is due on 02/10/2009 at 11:00 pm Eastern standard time or 8:00 pm Pacific standard time. **Don't forget that the due times are all in EST, so you are not surprised when your time runs out three hours too soon.**

4 Working on a Homework Set

Select the homework set by double clicking on the set. Let's begin with Orientation. This homework set is designed to familiarize you with how WeBWorK works and its notation. After clicking on Orientation, you will see a list of problems. Select the problems one at a time by clicking on them. Answer the questions by filling in the blanks.

4.1 Tip #1: Download a Hardcopy

You may download a hardcopy by clicking on "Download a hardcopy of this homework set." Most times it is more efficient to solve the problems by hand on a piece of paper than to solve them in your head. Please write down your work neatly so you can go back to look for mistakes if your answer is incorrect.

4.2 Tip #2: Avoid Syntax and Typing errors

WeBWorK is very fussy about using mathematical notation correctly. That means that you can have a "correct" answer and still get it wrong because you did not type it in correctly. Your first set of problems, Orientation, will provide you with an introduction of basic WebWork syntax, such as $\sqrt{2}$ (sqrt(2)), and π (pi). Please read all instructions carefully. A detailed list of mathematical symbols is available in WeBWorK is given at <http://webwork.math.rochester.edu/webwork/system/html/docs/docs/pglanguage/availablefunctions.html>

4.3 Tip #3: Checking Parentheses

It is very important to use parentheses correctly as shown in Orientation. Many incorrect answers are caused by using parentheses incorrectly. Please make sure to check:

1. Your opening and closing parentheses match up and each grouping makes sense.
2. The expression shown in preview is the expression you really meant.

4.4 Tip #4: Previewing and Checking your Answers

To protect yourself from syntax, parentheses and typing errors, make a habit of previewing your answers before you submit them. The "Preview"

button is at the bottom of the problem page. You want to make sure the expression in preview is exactly what you want. After you have previewed your answer, you may check the correctness of your answer by clicking on the “Check Answer” button.

5 Submitting Answers

WebWork will tell you if your answer is correct. If it is incorrect, you can work on the problem again and enter a different answer. Once you are happy with your answer to the problem, you can submit your answer by clicking on the “Submit Answers” button. Even after you have submitted your answers, you can come back at a later time to make changes until the number of attempts allowed is exceeded or the problem set due date passes. Now you can move on to the next problem. When you are done, be sure to logout.

6 Getting Help

WebWork homework can be very helpful for providing you with instant feedback. However, sometimes you may find doing WebWork homework frustrating. Be sure to check your actual mathematics, in addition to your syntax and parentheses when your answer is incorrect. I will get a report showing which problems you got right and wrong and how many attempts you made (though the number of attempts does not affect your grade in any way). If you really cannot figure out what is going wrong with your answer, email me by clicking on the button “Email instructor” at the end of the webpage of the problem you are working on. In the blank space for “Feedback,” please write down an outline of what you have done to solve the problem. I will usually be able to tell you whether your difficulties are caused by incorrect mathematics or by incorrect syntax. Please note that it is important to keep a clear written work on a piece of paper for the problems that you have trouble with. The more information you can provide to your instructor, the more effective your instructor can be in helping you.