Maths 260: Introduction to Maple TA

What is Maple TA?

Maple TA is a web-based system of student assessment. In Maths 260, we will use Maple TA to test your knowledge of prerequisite material (such as basic integration and differentiation, and eigenvalues and eigenvectors) and also to test your understanding of complex numbers once that part of the syllabus has been taught.

The tests on Maple TA do not contribute directly to your final mark for Maths 260, but doing the tests will help you learn the material you need for Maths 260 and hence to get a good grade in the course. Taking a test will take about 20-30 minutes of your time. You can retake each test as many times as you like, and the test will be different each time. Your answers are marked immediately.

We are very keen to hear your views on Maple TA. If you have any comments or problems using Maple TA please email Vivien Kirk at v.kirk@auckland.ac.nz.

How to log in to Maple TA

Maple TA can be found at:

http://maple-ta.math.auckland.ac.nz:8180/mapleta/login/login.do

You should log in using your UPI as your username and your University ID number as your password. Once you have logged in you can change your password. Since Maple TA is a web-based system, you can log in from any computer with internet access, including from home.

The first time you log in, you need to validate your user details and register for the class. Check your user details are correct and click on 'Submit' to continue. If you want to change your password, click 'Password Update' at the top of the page. Click on 'Find classes open for registration', select 'Maths 260 2010 S2', click 'Register' and then 'Confirm'. You only have to do this the first time you log in.

How to use Maple TA

Once you log in to Maple TA, you should see a screen entitled 'Classes I Am Taking', and a link to 'Maths 260 2010 S2'. Click on this link and a list of the available tests (called

'assignments' in Maple TA) will appear. Click on any link to start a test on that topic.

You can navigate through the test questions using the 'Back' and 'Next' buttons at the top of the page, or using the 'Question Menu'. Once you have answered a question you need to click 'Next' to move on. You can go back and change your answers at any time. There is no time limit to the test.

Once you have completed all the questions, click the 'Grade' button at the top of the page. Maple TA will warn you if there are questions you have left unanswered. When your answers have been marked, you will be given a score. You can then click the 'View Details' button at the top of the page to see which questions were answered incorrectly.

Format of answers

Maple TA tests have questions in three different formats:

- 1. Multiple choice questions where only one selection can be given; these questions have circular selection boxes.
- 2. Multiple choice questions where more than one answer can be selected; these questions have square selection boxes.
- 3. Written answer questions. For these questions, you must be sure to write your answer in the correct format. Each question states carefully the required format of the answer, but some points to note are given below.
 - If you are asked to give a list of solutions, such as eigenvalues, you need to separate your answers with commas. The order of your answers does not matter. For example, the two choices **3**, **8** and **8**, **3** mean the same thing.
 - If you are asked to give an answer which is a vector, you should answer in the format <1,2>. This corresponds to the vector $\begin{pmatrix} 1\\2 \end{pmatrix}$.
 - Use the symbol * for every product. For example, write $2\cos 2t$ as $2*\cos(2*t)$
 - Write $\sqrt{2}$ as sqrt(2)
 - Write e^{2t} as exp(2*t)
 - There is a preview button on each page. Click on this to see whether you have used the correct syntax for your answer. Clicking the preview button will not tell you whether your answer is correct, but will display your answer as a formula so that you can check it.