

How to Study for MA1161

January 16, 2007

To do well in this course, you will need to spend at least two hours of studying calculus outside of class for every hour spent in class. Here are some suggestions¹ for what to do with that time. Most of these activities are best done with one or two other MA1161 students.

- Complete any worksheets or problems that you didn't have time to finish during class.
- Spend a half-hour reading the text and working through the examples. Skimming is NOT sufficient.
- Do the homework problems.
- Remaining time can be spent on one or more of the following:
 - Check your homework problems with classmates, discussing discrepancies and different methods of solving problems.
 - Check your homework using Mathematica.
 - Read through your class notes and try to find all the mistakes your instructor made in the lecture.
 - Work through problems from the review section of the book.
 - Make up your own problems, and figure out how to check your answers without just re-doing the calculation.
 - Read through the Mathematica notebooks and compare them with what we have discussed in class.
 - Write up a brief summary of the section or chapter we have just finished. Sort the information into two or three categories: 1) The Big Idea, 2) Essential Formulas to be memorized, 3) Basic Procedures to be understood and practiced.
 - Look through the review problems or problems that were not assigned, and decide which Big Idea is needed to solve each one. (This is a great way to review for a test.)

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A sample reading/homework schedule for the first two weeks is as follows. Note that “a”=first half and “b”=second half.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday/Weekend
Look over course web-site Work BST Practice Problems	Read §1.1a Review for BST	Read §1.1b & §1.2a Do §1.1a HW	Read §1.2b Do §1.1b & §1.2a HW Review §1.1a HW
Read §1.3 Do §1.2b HW Review §1.1b & §1.2a HW	Read §1.4a Do §1.3 HW Review §1.2b HW	Read §1.4b & 1.5a Do §1.4a HW Review §1.3 HW	Read §1.5b Do §1.4b & §1.5a HW Review §1.4a HW