

UPDATED GENERAL INFORMATION — JANUARY 13, 2020

Office hours

These are currently scheduled for 2:30 to 4:00 PM on Mondays, and by appointment. The easiest way to make arrangements is to speak with me before or after class, or to send me an electronic message.

Change to file name

The file previously named `intro2topA-03a.pdf` has been changed to `intro2topA-04a.pdf` because it involves material from Chapter 4 of Sutherland.

Assignments for Chapters 2 – 4

General comments on working homework exercises are given in `solutions00x.pdf`.

Working the exercises listed below is **strongly recommended**.

The following exercises are taken from Sutherland:

- Chapter 2: 2.1 – 2.4
- Chapter 3: 3.1, 3.3 – 3.6
- Chapter 4: 4.1 – 4.2, 4.8

The following references are to the file `exercises01w14.pdf` in the course directory.

- Additional exercise for Chapter 3: 1
- Additional exercises for Chapter 4: 1 – 2

Reading assignments from solutions to exercises

Another strong recommendation is to read through the solution to Exercise 4.12 from Sutherland (see the file `solutions01w14.pdf` in the course directory).

Recommended exercises for Chapter 5 of Sutherland

- Chapter 5: 5.2 – 5.4, 5.6, 5.7, 5.9, 5.10, 5.13

The following references are to the file `exercises02w14.pdf` in the course directory.

- Additional exercises for Chapter 5: 1, 2, 5, 6(*iv*) – (*v*), 7

Passive versus active understanding

In his essay "Of Studies," Francis Bacon (1561–1626) states that "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." In reading mathematical material, one way of interpreting this is that some things should be understood passively and others should be understood actively. Specifically, here is the difference between *passive understanding* and *active understanding*:

A passive understanding means that one can follow the reasoning presented in a written proof fairly well.

An active understanding means that one knows the argument well enough to explain it correctly — or nearly so — to someone else (for example, on a quiz or examination).

There are also many intermediate steps between purely passive and purely active understanding, but in this course we shall often note which things must be understood actively and which only need to be understood passively. However, in contrast to Bacon's statement, there are more than just a few things which need to be understood actively.