QUESTIONS MOST COMMONLY ASKED ABOUT 18.014–18.024 CALCULUS WITH THEORY ("HONORS CALCULUS")

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Many questions that students ask about this calculus sequence are answered in the description published in the Freshman Handbook. Read that first!

Here are answers to some further questions:

(1) Does this sequence cover all the topics of the 18.01–18.02 sequence?

Yes, and a number of other topics as well. Thus it covers all the calculus topics that are needed by students majoring in any department at M.I.T.

(2) Does it take more work than the 18.01–18.02 sequence?

Yes, but not an unreasonable amount. Students who take 18.01 report that they spend an average of 9 hours per week (including class time) on the subject; students who take 18.014 report they spend an average of 10 hours per week (including class time). (By comparison, 3.091 takes 9 hours, 8.01 takes 9.5 hours, 8.012 takes 10.5 hours, and 6.001 takes 14.5 hours.)

(3) Is it harder than the 18.01–18.02 sequence?

Of course. That's the import of the phrase "honors calculus". However, students who qualify for the subject (see the Freshman Handbook for details) in general find it well within their capabilities; this sequence is no harder for them than the regular calculus sequence is for most students.

(4) Is it intended primarily for potential math and physics majors?

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No, it is intended for potential majors in any department. It can be particularly valuable for students who are potential engineers. A number of such students have commented that they are glad to have taken this sequence, since their curricula did not have room in later years for rigorous math subjects. This was in fact the only opportunity they had to get a taste of theoretical mathematics.

(5) How large is the subject?

Average enrollment in the fall term is 35–40. (This means that each recitation section consists of 15–20 students, whereas sections in the other calculus options run about 30–35.)

(6) Can I take 18.024 without 18.014?

No. The second-term subject relies heavily on the foundations established in the first term.

(7) What if I still can't decide?

Then I advise you to try it. It's easy to switch out of this sequence, even as late as the middle of the term, into one of the other calculus options. But it's impossible (after the first week) to switch in.