Digest 2

(A compilation of emailed homework questions, answered around Tuesday.)

Question. (From a student): I can only access wileyplus through blackboard. When I go to the wileyplus website, I am unable to access wileyplus. Is there something wrong with my account?

Answer. As far as I know, this is how wileyplus is supposed to work. Wileyplus is integrated into blackboard, and you should only be able to access wileyplus through blackboard.

Question. (From a student): I was just wondering if all the things we need to know in preparation for the midterm and final exams are part of your lecture/lecture notes. Are there certain things that we need learn ourselves from the textbook since I noticed homework 2 (due Sep 4) had questions that we did not cover, such as marginal cost/compounded interest rates related questions.

Answer. As of the date of this question (8/25) we have not yet covered marginal cost, but we should cover it by the time you have to do Online homework 2. Marginal cost is just another word for a derivative.

As for compound interest rates, I assumed people knew this already, but myself or the TAs can certainly review that by request.

To answer the first question, in general, between my lectures, the lecture notes and the TA discussion sections, all topics relevant to the exams should be covered. In class, feel free to ask for additional clarification on various topics in case I neglect to cover something. So, strictly speaking, it should not be necessary to consult the textbook for additional information. However, it's always nice to read a different perspective on things, so reading the textbook as an additional resource can't hurt.

Question. (From a student): (8/27) I just started the Online Homework for Sections 1.4-1.9 (due 9/4), and my grade for this assignment is listed as 1 point out of 15 points. Is this correct?

Answer. After you answer a question on wileyplus and click the Submit button, the response is recorded and graded for that question. So, if you only completed one question out of the 15 in this assignment, your grade would be displayed as 1/15. So, I imagine this is what happened, and if so, the 1/15 that is displayed is correct.

Question. (From a student): The grade for my online homework in blackboard does not match the grade in wileyplus. Is something wrong?

Answer. This is normal. Here is a post from wileyplus about this:

"There are three different methods of gradebook synchronization between the WileyPLUS Gradebook and the Blackboard Grade Center:

The first method is initiated by the student when using the Return to Blackboard link when the assignment is completed. If the student fails to use this link to return to the Blackboard environment, the grade will not be synchronized. Additionally, this feature is not available to students if the WileyPLUS content is configured to open in a new browser tab or window.

The second method is initiated by an instructor using the WileyPLUS Grade Refresh feature. This is found inside the Grade Center on the Manage menu, or among the WileyPLUS Course Tools. The instructor will have the option to synchronize all WileyPLUS assignments for all students; select assignments for all students; all assignments for select students; or select assignments for select students. If this feature is not available, please contact your Blackboard Administrator.

The third method is initiated by the system as configured in the Building Block by the Blackboard Administrator. If system-wide synchronization is enabled, it may be configured to occur every 12, 24, or 48 hours, or once per week."

Question. (From a student): A question on the online homework asks about interest rates compounded continuously; how can I compute that?

Answer. If a bank account has \$500 compounded at a continuous annual interest rate $r\%$, then after k years, the account has
$$\$500e^{\frac{r}{100}k}.$$
Once we start taking derivatives of exponentials, I will review continuous interest rates, though I had assumed (perhaps incorrectly?) that this subject had been covered in a previous class.