

How to Type Mathematical Notation in OLS

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Note: Since UOP's OLS is not programmed to accept equations typed in Math Type or Equation Editor, here are two "old fashioned" ways to write mathematics in OLS.

Typing Algebraic Expressions in Plain Text Format:

Type the equations horizontally using appropriately placed parentheses. Let these examples serve as a guide:

| Operation | Typical Notation | Equivalent Notation in Text Format |
|-------------------|--|---|
| multiplication | $3 \cdot 4$ | 3*4 |
| division | $\frac{2x}{x-3}$ | (2x)/(x-3) The parentheses are vital! You must include () around each numerator and around each denominator to be clear as to precisely what is being divided by what. |
| exponents | $4x^2y^3$ | 4*x^2*y^3 or 4 x^2 y^3 |
| radicals | $\sqrt{3}$ $\sqrt[3]{x^2}$ $2x\sqrt[4]{y}$ $\sqrt[3]{2x-5}$ | sqrt(3) 3RT(x^2) or x^(2/3) 2x*4RT(y) or 2x*y^(1/4) 3RT(2x-5) or (2x-5)^(1/3) Parentheses on fractional powers required! |
| quadratic formula | $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ | x = [-b +/- sqrt(b^2 - 4ac)] / [2a] |

Using ASCII Codes to Make Math Symbols:

You can type some math symbols using your numeric keypad. To make the ASCII code display, hold the ALT key down while typing the digits then release the ALT key and the symbol should appear. (On a laptop you may need to NumLock first.)

| Symbol | ASCII Code | Symbol | ASCII Code |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| square root symbol $\sqrt{\quad}$ | ALT+251 | less than or equal to \leq | ALT+243 |
| plus or minus \pm | ALT+0177 | greater than or equal to \geq | ALT+242 |
| square 2 | ALT+0178 | composition $f \circ g$ | ALT+0186 |
| cube 3 | ALT+0179 | one-fourth $\frac{1}{4}$ | ALT+0188 |
| multiplication dot $x \cdot y$ | ALT+0183 | one-half $\frac{1}{2}$ | ALT+0189 |
| division sign \div | ALT+0247 | three-quarters $\frac{3}{4}$ | ALT+0190 |