Problem Set 0
Setting up for the Course

AM121/ES121 — Fall 2018

Due 5:00 PM, Monday, September 10, 2018

1 Setting up for AM121/ES121

Welcome! The tasks in this assignment will set you up for the course. You will not be graded for this assignment and there’s nothing to turn in. There is also a sectioning form to complete by Tuesday, September 11. We will start with Piazza, which is one of the most important resources in this course for keeping you informed and on track.

Setup Task 1

Know the course website.

Visit the course website at http://am121.seas.harvard.edu. Check out the Resources page. In particular, read Course Logistics Overview. All course materials will be posted at this website. We will have a canvas course site just for homework submissions.

End Task 1

Setup Task 2

Start using Piazza.

1. Go to the AM121/ES121 class page on Piazza (http://piazza.com/harvard/fall2018/am121es121) and post your first question or note. Write up something very short—share with the class an interesting Optimization article, or ask the course staff and other students some relevant question such as “Why did you decide to take AM121/ES121?” Now, label your post with the relevant “tag”. Drag the “pset0” tag onto your question or note. Look at the other tags to see if there is another that also describes your post. For example if your question is about office hours, tag your post with “office_hrs”. If you posted an interesting Optimization article, tag your post with “interesting”. You should always tag your posts.

Piazza should be the place that you ask the course staff questions related to course materials. The course staff will respond to your question or note next time one of us checks Piazza. Other students may also respond, unless you make your post “private” i.e. share it only with instructors.

2. Now you will make a comment on someone else’s post in Piazza. Look through other students’ posts, either by clicking on a post in the left sidebar, or by clicking a tag such as “pset0” at the top of the page to find a post that has used this tag. This is another chance to experiment! “Like” someone’s post by clicking “Good question” (if it really is). Start a followup discussion and reply with your answer. Test out some LaTeX code by using the math environment symbols; for example, the code \$$ (\sum_{i=1}^5 x_i) + y \$$ will produce \( \sum_{i=1}^5 x_i + y \) as output.

End Task 2
Please also take note of the anonymous feedback form on the course website. Feel free to use this to provide any comments or suggestions to the course staff at any time.

Setup Task 3

Setup AMPL on your computer. Follow the Piazza posts to set up AMPL and the corresponding optimization solvers on your computer. You will need to use AMPL for assignment 1.

End Task 3

Setup Task 4

Complete the Piazza poll on handout printing. To save trees, we’ll post assignments electronically and will not hand out hard copies of assignments. However, we understand that some of you may prefer to have hard copies of lecture notes that you can write, highlight and mark to the delight of your heart during lectures. We ask you to complete the Piazza poll regarding whether you’d like to have handouts of lecture notes at the beginning of each lecture. This will help us plan the number of handouts to print so that we can best facilitate your learning while being sensitive to the environment. We’ll distribute handouts of section notes as you’ll likely be asked to work through some practice problems during sections.

End Task 4

Setup Task 5

Complete the online sectioning form. An online sectioning form will be available on Piazza by Friday, September 7. Please ensure you submit it by Tuesday, September 11! Section assignments will be published soon after that.

End Task 5

Turning in your assignment

All of the problem sets in AM121/ES121 will have a “Final task” that summarizes what you should submit to the course staff. Follow the directions below to submit your first assignment. (In this case, there’s nothing to turn in!)

Final Task 6

You must finish tasks 1 and 2 by 5:00 PM, Monday, September 10, 2018 and task 5 by Thursday, September 11, 2018.

End Task 6