

Creating Assignments

(This is a 2-page document. Be sure to read both pages.)

All problem sets must be submitted via Canvas in a pdf format. There are three ways that students usually produce these, in order of preference:

- (1) Write it in \LaTeX , and generate a pdf. You can use \LaTeX on the web server, where viewing the resulting pdf is facilitated. Or you can set up \LaTeX on your personal workstation. We supply the \LaTeX source for assignments, which should be helpful in completing the document for submission. On the web server, you can create a shell script “publish.sh” (or name of your choice) with this content:

```
#!/bin/sh
pdflatex $1
chmod 644 $1.pdf
```

so that the command

```
publish.sh mydoc
```

results in the viewable “mydoc.pdf”. (Alternatively you can just execute the two commands.)

- (2) Write it in Word, using “Insert Equation” for the math, and generate a pdf.
- (3) Write it by hand, and scan it by camera or scanner. This is the “least preferred” method. And we reserve the right not to accept such documents if they are not neat, clear, and readable.

Of course nobody attempts to create solutions directly in \LaTeX or Word. What works well is to use pencil/paper or a white board to work things out, re-writing as often as needed to get a polished piece of work. Then **and only then** start the typesetting process in a .tex file using your favorite text editor. Again, starting with the source file for the assignment will be a great help.

If generating a pdf is going to pose a problem for technical reasons, contact the course staff as early as possible to let us know so that we can figure out how to make a suitable accommodation.

(See next page.)

Collaboration

You should strive to solve these problems on your own. But, sometimes even understanding the problems poses a challenge. You are welcome to discuss the problems with your classmates to achieve understanding of the problems and to consider small examples. You may use the BBCollaborate facility to meet, but do not keep or save a copy of the meeting or a transcript of it. You may also meet face-to-face. No other forms of meeting are acceptable, and no notes of any kind may be saved.

After you understand the problems, you should try to solve them on your own. If you need help, you can discuss the problems with the course staff. You may also ask others to find mistakes in your attempted solutions, and you may help find mistakes in your classmates' solutions. If you are truly stuck, you may discuss the problems with a few other students. If you do this, you must follow the Dan Spielman/Stan Eisenstat "Gilligan's Island Rule":

When discussing an assignment with other students, you may write on a board or a piece of paper, but you may not take any written or electronic record away from the discussion. Moreover, you must engage in a full hour of mind-clearing activity (e.g., watching back-to-back episodes of Gilligan's Island) before you work on the assignment again. This will ensure that you can reconstruct what you learned from the discussion, by yourself, using your own brain.

You must write your solutions independently and you must report your collaborations at the beginning of the submitted document. Failure to list people with whom you have discussed a problem set is considered a violation of academic honesty.

Other Sources

Similarly, if your solution draws on sources such as books or web pages other than those supplied with the course, you must cite those as well.