

## Preface

These notes really should be titled “61C for the devoted, committed, hard-working student trying to stay on top of things”, but that just isn’t as catchy. These notes serve to give a very high-level, intuitive feel for what the course is trying to teach. Always keep in mind that the goal of these notes is **clarity over clutter**, so naturally there will be some sacrifice of precision and accuracy. Knowing this, these notes should **not** be used as a replacement for any reading, discussion, or other course material. These notes should be treated as an introduction to the subject or as a way to catch up when behind, which is all too likely during the semester.

One can find long, complex, and detailed explanations in the textbook or with an easy Google search, but these resources aren’t useful at all when given little to no background. These notes serve to create a core understanding of the material that can be further built upon. As a student myself, I find that a TA’s intuitive and concise explanation of a topic is much more effective than parsing through the course reading, interpreting lecture slides, or combing through piazza. My goal is to post these notes almost as if I were explaining these concepts in discussion section: brief, to the point, and *hopefully* entertaining.

## How You Should Use These Notes

I truly hope you don’t come running to these notes the night before a midterm, but this is definitely a useful tool to get a basic understanding very quickly. Other than in moments of panic, you should use these notes to:

- (1) First expose yourself to unfamiliar material.
- (2) Give yourself an intuitive feel for challenging concepts.
- (3) Start with an “easy read” before going into further, more difficult, reading.

## Good Luck

With that, good luck with the semester! I look forward to working with you in person, and I hope these notes help get you through the challenges we send your way!