UTAustinX UT.5.05x
Linear Algebra - Foundations to Frontiers

Help

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Course   Progress   Dates   Discussion   Syllabus   Outline   laff routines   Community

🏠 Course / Week 0: Getting Started / 0.2 How to LAFF

Previous   Next

0.2.4 Grading and LAFF

🔖 Bookmark this page

Calculator

0.2.4 Grading and LAFF

Reading Assignment

0 points possible (ungraded)
Read Unit 0.2.4 of the notes. [LINK]

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Topic: Week 0 / 0.2.4

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💬 Grading and laff   **2**
Cant wait to start

How to grade the course was another decision that required compromise. Our fundamental assumption is that you are taking this course because you want to learn the material, and that the homework and exams are mostly there to help you along and let you self-assess. For this reason, for the homework, we

- Give you multiple chances to get an answer right;

- Provide you with detailed answers; and

- Allow you to view the answer if you believe it will help you master the material efficiently.

In other words, you get to use the homework in whatever way helps you learn best.

Don't forget to click on "Check" or you don't get credit for the exercise!

How your progress is measured is another interesting compromise. The homework for each week is worth 5% of the total points in the course. There are 12 graded weeks, and hence this adds up to 60%. Now, within each week, limitations of the edX platform did not match with how we wanted to present the course. We very much wanted the homework close to the material so that the homework helps you along. This means that homeworks are scattered throughout the units and subsections. At the time LAFF was first created, the edX grade book starts with 100 points, and allows only integers to be assigned to subsections within weeks, unless subsections are equally weighted... Thus, we had to compromise.

Let us explain how this now in practice works, using Week 1 as an example.

- Homework from Week 1 is worth 5 points towards the 100 point total.

- Week 1 has 6 graded subsections (1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, and 1.8). Some of these subsections have a lot of homework problems, others have a few. Still, each subsection is worth the same. So, if you get all homework points in Subsection 1.2, then that gives you 1/6 × 5 = 5/6 points towards the total 100 points for the course. Subsection 1.3, which has a different number of homework problems, also gives you 1/6 × 5 = 5/6 points towards the total 100 points for the course.

Not much we can do about it without totally reformatting the course.

🖩 Calculator

To view your progress, click on "Progress" in the edX navigation bar. If you find out that you missed a homework, scroll down the page, and you will be able to identify where to go to fix it. Don't be shy about correcting a missed answer. The primary goal is to learn.

Some of you will be disappointed that the course is not more rigorously graded, thereby (to you) diminishing the value of a certificate. The fact is that MOOCs are still evolving. People are experimenting with how to make them serve different audiences. In our case, we decided to focus on quality material first, with the assumption that for most participants the primary goal for taking the course is to learn.

Let's focus on what works, and be patient with what doesn't!

‹ Previous   Next ›

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