1 Have you read through the class syllabus, noted the important dates, and the class policies?

Yes

2

2.1 Background in ML

I took none of the courses listed. STAT 4052 - Intro. to Statistical Learning is the closest course I took.

2.2 Courses on Probability/Statistics

STAT 3032, STAT 3701, STAT 4051, STAT 4052, MATH 5651, STAT 5102, STAT 5511, STAT 5601

2.3 Courses on Linear Algebra

MATH 2243, MATH 4242

2.4 Courses on Optimization

I have not taken any courses on optimization.

3
$$w^* = \underset{w \in \mathbb{R}^P}{\arg\min} \frac{1}{2} ||y - Xw||^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||w||^2$$
 into closed form.

Solution:

$$\begin{split} w^* &= \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{w \in \mathbb{R}^P} \frac{1}{2} ||y - Xw||^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||w||^2 \\ \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial w} &= -\frac{1}{2} * 2X^T (y - Xw) + \frac{1}{2} * 2\lambda w \\ &= -X^T (y - Xw) + \lambda w \end{split}$$

The closed expression is derived by

$$-X^{T}(y - Xw) + \lambda w = 0$$

$$X^{T}Xw + \lambda w = X^{T}y$$

$$w(X^{T}X + \lambda I) = X^{T}y$$

$$w = (X^{T}X + \lambda I)^{-1}X^{T}y$$

It is valid even when n < p. When $\lambda > 0$, the sample covariance matrix makes all of its eigenvalues to be greater than 0. Thus, it makes the sample covariance matrix to be invertible, and that invertibility produces a unique solution when n < p.

4 Python code for Q3

Consult the code submitted.

5 Solution to $\max_{w \in \mathbb{R}^n: w^T w = 1} w^T A w$ and $\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^n: w^T w = 1} w^T A w$

It is the largest eigenvalue of matrix A. A could also be called as the Spectral Radius of A as A is a positive definite.