18.100A Office Hours and Homework: Information and Rules

Office Hours: Thurs. 3:10 - 5:00, in 2-383, or later on request; call my office. If that time is not possible, you can make an appointment (for right after class on M, W, or F if possible), by e-mail (mattuck@mit.edu) or office phone Ext. 3-4345 (617-253-4345; has voice mail). You can send an e-mail question any time; I read it on desk-top computers, in school and at home, not on a mobile phone or laptop, so the answer may take some time coming.

TA: An appointment will be announced, including office hours.

PROBLEM SETS

General Information The 18.100A class website is: http//math.mit.edu/∼apm/f18-18100A.html (I don't use Stellar). It has a link to the Fall 2018 Syllabus, which gives the posting dates and the due-in-class dates for the 12 weekly P-sets (numbered P-0 through P-11). They will in general be returned (with a sheet of printed solutions) at the beginning of the second class period after hand-in, usually a Wednesday.

Typically the week's problem set, posted on the class website Friday, will cover the Fri., Mon., and Wed. classes before the due date. It will give separately for each class the reading assignment and the related problems, so that you can be prepared for the next class. Mathematics needs some "sink-in" time; often a problem which seems undoable late at night will be clear the next morning. Saving the reading and P-set for just before hand-in time is not a good strategy for this class or math classes in general.

To pass 18.100A, at least 9 of the 12 P-sets must show reasonable effort and have been handed in on time (or have and follow permissions to hand them in late – see below.)

Handing in Assignments are due on the front table in 4-163 before the start of lecture; after that, they will be considered late.

If you aren't going to be in class that day and don't have someone available to hand it in for you, you can slip the assignment (stapled!) under my door 2-383 any time during the morning before class, up to 12:50. After that, it has to be handed in as above, in 4-163.

Late papers These will be treated like on-time papers, provided permission for a new due time has been obtained in advance and followed. If not, they will be recorded as having been handed in late and looked at, with some partial credit given if appropriate.

Returned problem sets not picked up in class on the Wednesday will be placed in an envelope outside my office 2-383, with the printed solutions stapled to them. If you miss getting a printed solution (for example, by not having done that assignment and not being in class the day the solutions were handed out) I'll leave a few in an adjacent envelope outside my office.

RULES

In general, collaboration on problem sets (other than the first one **P-0**) is allowed, but your paper must be thought through and written up independently. Copying a collaborator's solutions teaches you little as the exams will show.

Consulting problem set solutions from any previous semesters or getting them from the internet is not allowed. Apparent violations will be taken seriously. *over* →

PROBLEM SET WRITE-UP STYLE

0. On page 1, put **your name on the top right; collaborators on the top left**.

1. Write **DARK ENOUGH** and **LARGE ENOUGH** and **LEGIBLY ENOUGH** to be easily read by someone with less than average vision (me for instance). Subscripts should be placed where they belong – below ground level – but be large enough to be readable.

2. **Leave margins on both sides and top and bottom** (international students in particular often don't do this – I don't know why).

3. Keep writing solutions on the same page until you think the next one won't fit; then start it on a new page – a solution should lie if possible entirely on one page,

4. Follow the stylistic recommendations in the book – they make math easier to read.

5. Solutions in LaTeX or other math processors are acceptable if they are written in good math style: using display lines for equations and formulas, lining up equations, etc..., and they don't display digital diarrhea.

NOTATION USED ON THE P-SETS

There are three types of problems in the book; don't confuse Questions with Exercises and end up doing the wrong problem!

Questions: Q1.3/2: Question 2 in section 1.3 . These occur **at the end of each section**: they are short, easy, meant to test the ideas, and have Answers at the end of the chapter. Use the Answers only to confirm your own, or just for a quick glance and hint.

Exercises E1.3/2: Exercise 2 at the end of Chapter 1, tied to section 1.3.
These are tied to a given section and use the techniques explained in that section; look through that section for ideas or similar examples.

Problems P1-3: Problem 1-3, the third problem at the end of Chapter 1. These are at the end of the chapter, but not tied to a specific section – anything in the chapter might be helpful in solving them.

The notations refer to any of the eight printings of the book. The **last** number on the copyright page tells you what printing you have: 10 9 8 means the 8th printing, the current one.

If you have one of the printings 1-7, and a correction to an exercise or problem is required (rare), an asterisk * will appear on the P-set and you should look it up in the **list of corrections to printings 1-7** (a link to it is given on the 18.100A website, in the "18.100A Textbook" section).