Computer Exercise 1: Latex

Latex is a powerful typesetting language whose uses include an elegant and efficient way to write mathematics. Although Project 1 can be written up as you wish, I would like subsequent projects to be written in Latex. The purpose of this Computer Exercise is to give you functional proficiency in writing Latex documents.

The Assignment:

1. Install Latex on your machine
2. Use Latex to create a new document with the title “Latex Crashcourse: Revised”. Replace my name with your own, and make some stylistic changes in the document. These can be anything you want: changing font sizes, changing margins, changing font shapes, changing the mathematical symbols, etc. Get creative, see what you can produce. The point is for you to think about things you would conceivably want to include in a project write-up (centering, controlling fonts, positioning figures, referencing equations) and to practice achieving these things.
3. Submit both your source code and your finished document in class on Friday, February 3.

Note that this assignment is kind of “dumb”, in the sense I have given you the answer if all you want to do is reproduce my work. Since I haven’t specified what exactly you should do above and beyond my work, you could, in principle, simply copy my code and be done with this. Indeed, my code is designed to teach you basic Latex syntax, so you should indeed look at it. On the other hand, the point of this exercise is to gain proficiency in the language, so when it comes time to write up the next Project, you can focus on the writing rather than the mechanical details of text production. So challenge yourself, and if you find that you can’t achieve what you want (e.g. an enumerated list with roman numerals; the “delta” symbol; a left-flush equation; etc.) ask me about it and I’ll help you.

I will not grade this assignment with any rigor. I will look to see that you’ve done the work, and you’ll will get credit for going through the paces. (Rigor will be reserved for class projects and exams.)