

# Computing tools for mathematics

## First steps

Ethan Bolker

January 25, 2015

This course is being offered for the first time, so there's no fixed syllabus yet. What we do will depend in part on the preparation students come with. The class is small enough so that I can reasonably easily adjust topics and difficulty on the fly.

- Answer the questions that follow, bring hard copy to class.

This pdf was created from the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  source appended. If you know  $\text{\LaTeX}$  use that source to fill out the questionnaire.

- If you have a computer of your own you plan to use, visit the course home page (under construction) at <http://www.cs.umb.edu/~eb/480/>, find the links page, install and test the latest Python 3.4 and the latest PyCharm Python IDE.

If you don't have a computer of your own to use, we will figure something out . . .

Here are the questions:

- What math courses have you taken?
- What other math courses are you taking this semester?
- What other time commitments do you have (work, child care, ...)?
- No programming is required for this course. I'll teach what you need to know. But you may come with some knowledge. What programming skills do you have? Are they fresh or rusty? What languages? Do you like programming?
- What personal access do you have to a computer? Can you bring a laptop to class?
- When do you expect to graduate? What do you think you will be doing after you graduate?
- What are your fondest wishes and worst fears about this course?
- Anything else I should know about you?

*Here is the  $\LaTeX$  source for this document. You can cut it from the pdf and use it to start your answers. I used the `\jobname` macro for the source file name, so you can call your file by any name you like.*

```
% Math 480 questionnaire
%
\documentclass{article}
\pagestyle{empty}
\usepackage[textheight=10in]{geometry}
\usepackage{verbatim}
\usepackage{hyperref}

\author{Ethan Bolker}
\title{Computing tools for mathematics\\
First steps}

\begin{document}
\maketitle

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\newpage
\emph{
Here is the \LaTeX{} source for this document. You can cut it from the
pdf and use it to start your answers. I used the} \verb!\jobname!
\emph{macro for the source file name, so you can call your file by any
name you like.}
\verbatiminput{\jobname}
\end{document}
```