

**Problem Set 0**

Winter 2018

**Due** by 10:30am Tuesday, January 16, either in class or by email to [marykw@stanford.edu](mailto:marykw@stanford.edu)

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**Note:** Problem Set 0 is not worth any points, but if you are enrolled in the class and have not turned it in I will pester you until you do.

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1. What is your (academic) background?
2. Why are you here? What do you want to get out of this class?
3. Have you seen error correcting codes before? If so, in what context?
4. On a scale from 1-5, what is your comfort with the following topics? Here, interpret 1-5 like:
  1. I've never seen this before
  2. I've seen this in passing
  3. Maybe I took a class on that once...
  4. Comfortable
  5. Expert; I use this every day

(Note, most of these are not prerequisites for the class, so "I've never seen this before" is a fine answer.)

  - Linear algebra:
  - Probability theory (basic definitions; Chernoff bounds):
  - Abstract algebra (finite fields):
  - Cryptography:
  - Complexity theory/Pseudorandomness:
  - Information theory: