Dear students in MTH 448/563 Data-Oriented Computing for Mathematicians,

Welcome! Some important notes about the course follow.

1. Laptop
As you are probably aware, this is a hands-on lab-style course. You will need to bring a laptop to class every day. If you do not have a laptop, contact me ASAP to discuss your options.

2. Python
Our primary software tool will be Python (3.6). I recommend that everyone - before Tuesday - install the (free) Anaconda distribution of Python, which includes a very complete collection of useful libraries. After you have installed Anaconda, make sure it's working by starting up a Jupyter notebook. (See installation notes below for mac).

3. Operating system
In order to automate various repetitive tasks, we will be learning about and using the bash command shell, which is standard on Linux and Mac computers, but not on Windows. Windows users are strongly urged to install Ubuntu Linux (16.04 or 16.10) on their machine in one of the three possible ways described below.

Regardless of operating system, please make sure you have at least a basic functional Python programming environment in place when you show up to class on Tuesday. If you have any difficulties, I should be in my office available to help next Monday, from 4-6pm.

I'm looking forward to seeing you Tuesday and being your instructor on Data-Oriented Computing!

Best,
Dane Taylor

Installation of Anaconda for Python Development on Mac

Step 1. Download Anaconda version 3.6 and install into user home directory.
https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/install/mac-os#macos-graphical-install

***Note that if using a Mac, proper functioning may require you to previously install Xcode.

Step 2. Update Conda and Anaconda.

Type into terminal
conda update conda
conda update anaconda
jupyter notebook