EE 417/517 Lecture Notes Policy

I am willing to give you copies of my lecture notes that will provide a narrative similar to the one presented in class. Owing to time and software constraints I typically will not be able to include figures (although the notes will include space where the figures should go). Additionally, there may be times when other things conspire to keep me from completing a set of notes and hence there may be gaps between the lecture notes and the lectures themselves.

The provision of lecture notes should not be viewed as a reason not to take notes in class—especially since figures will me missing from the supplied notes. I encourage you to take note during the lecture. However, if nobody is reading the lecture notes I provide, then they are a needless waste (and I have better things to do with my time). Therefore, to help motivate the reading of lecture notes and to help improve their quality, I will award bonus points if you catch errors in the notes. The value of the bonuses will be as follows:

- Simple typographical errors in the narrative are worth 0.1 points. Examples of such errors are misspellings, erroneously repeated words, or grammatical errors (like improper subject-verb agreement).

- Typographical errors in an equation are worth 0.2 points.

- Technical errors are worth 0.5 points. For example, if I claimed that forward differences have second-order accuracy, you would be awarded 0.5 bonus points if you pointed out that they actually have first-order accuracy.

- Identification of “missing material” is worth 0.25 points. When describing a topic with which you are quite familiar to those who are unfamiliar with it, it is all too easy to omit material which is important to the understanding of that topic. If you are confused by the discussion of some subject it may be because I left out something which is key to understanding that subject. On the other hand, it may be because you did not recall something that you really should have recalled (or even that you did not know something that you really should know at this point in your education). If you can convince me that the narrative would really be better with some additional material, that is worth 0.25 points.

A tenth of a point may not sound like much, but, unfortunately for me, I tend to make a lot of typographical errors (a whole lot!). Therefore, bonus points will only be awarded to the first person to identify the error. You may acquire no more than four points total. I find that sometimes sentences completely fall apart when they are initially written. Sometimes those sentences sneak through proof-reading. Therefore you cannot earn multiple points for multiple errors in a sentence. The bonus will be applied after calculating final grades in the absence of a bonus (a four-point bonus could make a difference of a letter grade). Thus the bonus will not hurt those who do not have bonus points—a bonus will only help those who do.