

## Tips for doing well on MATLAB homework

- Start early.
- Begin by reading the MATLAB material carefully. Work through all the examples and make sure you understand the commands and how to use them. You will find it helpful to work through all of the problems, even if they are not assigned.
- Use lots of cells. This will make you work much more readable. Execute the commands a cell at a time to make sure there are no errors.
- Save your work often.
- Some of the problems have a twist beyond the examples. Just copying and pasting a command from an example, then attempting to change some variables a little with no understanding of how the command works often doesn't work very well.
- When you get stuck on one problem or part of a problem, go to the next one.
- After this first session, think about the problems, read over your work, find your gaps, mistakes, etc., and figure out how to fill in the missing parts. A day or more later, go back to the computer. Make sure your answers are well-written as well as correct.
- Be sure you answer ALL the parts of each question, including implied parts (e.g., if you are asked to do something by two different methods, compare the answers). Explain your answers.
- When possible, do problems more than one way. Compare the solutions.
- Check your answer. How do you know it is right? Include that in your solution.
- Make sure any numerical results are in a digestible form.
- When it would be useful, convert an exact answer to a decimal using **double** (for example, to compare it with a decimal, or because it isn't a recognizable number).
- If you run into a problem and send me an email requesting help, be sure to attach the solution M-file. I'm not very good at figuring out what to do about the problem if all you send me is a MATLAB error message.
- Before turning in your printout, read it over carefully. Make sure your it makes sense and is in a form that will be easy for the grader to read. Make sure your comments and explanations have not been chopped off at the right. If it has been chopped off, the grader won't be able to guess what you might have written.