

Math151 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville - Chat for August 26, 2015 with the course instructor, Louis Gross.

I will be online starting at 7:30PM and will be happy to answer questions regarding any aspect of the course, assignments, etc. You can type in this document to ask questions - note that you need to be logged into your UTK Google Drive account to be able to type in this.

When you ask a question, please do not use your name because this document will be saved and publicly posted after we close it. I will be on-line at least until 8:30PM but will stay on longer if there are still questions.

I am online now if you have questions  
Lou

Hello?  
Umm, how does this work exactly?

You just type a question, as detailed as you'd like, and I will respond.  
Lou

Oh groovy. , I am in your section 2 classes and had a couple of questions about the class future.

OK, but please don't use your name -

this will be posted publicly eventually.  
Lou

Ah ok, first question then I guess. When we do tests or Exams, will MatLab be available to us for use? Most of the content we cover, both in class and in book are very dependant on the program. I wanted to know so that if it was not allowed, I would work on doing practice work and problems we had partially by hand, and partially with Mat Lab

The in-class exams (including the Final) will not allow any electronic devices except a simple calculator (not on your cell phone - just a separate calculator). However the tests will be constructed so as not to require a calculator. Some attendees feel more comfortable knowing they have one though. I will hand out sample exams so you can see what the exams are like. They will be taken for example from the in-class exercises we do as well as from assignments from the text that don't require Matlab. For example, as we did in class today, I could give you a graph from a scientific paper and ask you describe what you learned from the graph.

Lou

I see, thank you for the info. I only recently installed MatLab so am still playing catch up a bit with the systems functions.

I had another question about scheduling a office appointment, but i'll just refer to the syllabus and send out a email privately. Thank you again for your answer, look forward to class tomorrow. Ah, I see, thanks for that as well,

There will be projects that use Matlab that make up part of the overall course grade but you will have time to practice and learn more about Matlab to complete these. There will be times on Thursday sessions to go over Matlab with your TAs as well. For example, if there is time in the class tomorrow, they will go through the heightanalysis.m file I showed today to illustrate how Matlab works. The videos that are posted on the home page can help you learn as well.

Lou

Not a question, but for anyone working to learn Matlab (like me), I have found it useful to work the homework problems by hand and then note, on each section of that homework, how that particular problem would be entered into/solved via Matlab. Actually writing out what I would need to enter has really helped. I've also worked them out in Matlab, printed it, and stuck it in there with the handwritten homework so that I have a reference for what the written problem should look like coming out of Matlab.

Excellent - what you are doing is what we call pseudo-code - it is a way to write out in a quick understandable form that doesn't depend on the exact computer language used what the code will do. Some folks find this best to do by writing out the mathematical formulae but others write out each exact calculation step. Whatever you feel most comfortable with.

Lou

I wanted to make sure I have the log stuff right since I am farther removed from high school algebra than many of my classmates. :) For example, if the problem was  $\log_2 8$ , would that be 3? Because you have to times 2, three times, to make 8?

Yes that is exactly correct. Note that the exponential and log material is in Chapter 4 and reading that may help you refresh your memory. But I have found that for many class participants, we need to start this material early and repeat it in order for the concepts to be comfortable to all.

Lou

That makes me feel better about being old - thank you for clearing it up.

You're not old - I am.

Lou

I

Is there anything we should have prepared for recitation tomorrow? Anything from the book or other supplemental material that would be helpful?

You should certainly have gone through the assignment problems I suggested on the course home page, but just as much bring along any questions about the Matlab material either at the back of the chapters or in the videos. Also, if you have time, read through Chapter 3 to get ahead and ask any questions about that material.

Lou

Unless anyone else has a question, I'm going offline.

Lou

Goodnight!