CS100M/CIS121/EAS121
Introduction to Computer Programming

Spring 2004
Lecture 11
MATLAB Advice

Announcements

• Prelim 1 (from Syllabus):
  – retrieve in Section (lab)
  – will go over in lab as part of lab
  – leftovers in Carpenter B101 around Thurs
  – regrades? see Syllabus, deadline next Thurs
• Reminder about grades and grading
• A3 due 3/10 – start soon!

Advice

• The course
• Using the notes and solutions
• Using labs
• Doing homework/working with partners
• How to study
• Taking an exam

The Course

• Are you keeping up with e-mail and on-line announcements?
• Are you attending office hours? Asking consultants for help? Making appointments?
• Have you checked out Additional Help on the course website?
Using Notes and Solutions

- Are you going to lecture?
- Are you looking at the notes and posted examples?
- Are you reading the textbook and trying those Quizzes? (see pg 451)
- Are you asking for help if you get stuck on a particular problem?
- Are you using the on-line (extensive) version of MATLAB Help? (section programming?)

Using Labs

- Are you going?
- Are you trying to solve the problems before raising your hand?
- Are you reading the error messages and looking up syntax/semantics in MATLAB Help?
- Are you reviewing the posted solutions?

Homework/Partners

- Are you actually doing the work independently? Are you relying too much on your partner?
- Are you spending time thinking about the design and writing algorithms before programming?
- Are you solving the problem by breaking it down into smaller parts and testing those parts?

Studying

- Have you reviewed the notes, solutions, and review questions?
- Have you identified what you don't understand early?
- Are you practicing simple problems before tackling the longer, more challenging ones?
- Actually, are you practicing?
  - programming is a skill
  - so, you need to practice!
Studying (continued)

• Some advice
  – write study sheet of language elements, syntax, example
  – memorize terms, rules
  – memorize simple examples (“templates”)

• Drill small examples by principle
  – identify principles before solving, then solve
  – keep drilling until you can solve quickly, then increase difficulty
  – always solve by principles!

• Simulate test conditions!
  – 20-30 min/problem and drill!

Test Taking

• Read instructions (in advance if possible)
• DIS's successful trick: Write down memorized examples after test begins (is this legal?)
• Skim entire test (sometimes hints for other problems)
• Problems sometimes give away algorithms
• Read comments, hints, specifications
• Try to calm down (breathe in and out slowly, think of something funny, ask yourself if the fate of Humankind depends on your performance....)