MATH 5300 – 001: Introduction to Scientific Computing  
Spring 2017

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Office Hours: TuTh 11:00AM – 11:50AM; or by appointment

Section Information: MATH 5300 – 001

Time and Place of Class Meetings: TuTh 2:00PM – 3:20PM; Pickard Hall (PKH), Room 105

Description of Course Content: This course provides a deeper look into the computational aspects of many numerical techniques used for solving otherwise intractable problems in science and engineering. It also serves as an introduction to scientific programming in the numerical MATrix LABoratory language MATLAB. MATLAB is a high-performance language for technical computing. It integrates computation, visualization, and programming in an easy-to-use environment where problems and solutions are expressed in familiar mathematical notation.

Course Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to use the numerical MATrix LABoratory language (MATLAB) for scientific programming applications. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of how numbers are represented in a computer system and discuss presence of computer errors in representing numbers. Students will become familiar with a variety of numerical methods for solving mathematical problems that involve systems of linear equations; nonlinear equations/systems; definite integrals; first- and higher-order derivatives; and polynomial interpolation. Students will be able to apply numerical methods to solve real-world problems that involve models of the five mathematical types listed above; to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the implemented methods; and to write and present a short report (term paper) in front of an audience of peers/classmates.


Requirements: Students will need access to a computer with the program MATLAB installed. UT Arlington computing facilities with MATLAB access, such as (1) University Center Computer Lab, 2nd floor; and (2) Engineering Lab Building, Room 256. Students will need access to a computer with an internet connection and web browser to obtain various course materials.

Supplementary Material: The instructor will make additional readings available to students as needed.

Course web page: http://www.uta.edu/math/faculty/hristo/teaching/math5300S17.html
Schedule of Lecture Topics: Topics covered during the semester in MATH 5300 include:

- Number Representations and Errors: Chapter 1
- Getting Started with MATLAB (class meets in LS B27)
- Direct and Iterative Methods for Solving Linear Systems: Chapters 2 & 8
- Numerical Methods for Solving Equations of One Variable: Chapter 3
- Interpolation and Polynomial Approximation: Chapter 4
- Numerical Methods for Differentiation and Integration: Chapters 4 & 5
- Numerical Methods for Differential Equations: Chapter 7

“As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Hristo V. Kojouharov.”

Grading Policy: Grades are based on weekly homework assignments (10%), two midterm exams (70%), and a term paper (20%). There is no extra credit.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Grading Scale: A = 90+; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59-

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

- Homework Assignments (10%): Theoretical and computational problems will be assigned regularly throughout the semester. Homework will usually be assigned weekly on Thursdays, and written reports will be due the following Thursday. Teamwork is encouraged.
- Two Mid-Term Exams (70%): Each mid-term exam will be given during a class period and you will have 80 minutes to take it. Exams will be made up of questions similar to the assigned homework problems. A tentative schedule of the exams is as follows: Exam #1 - Thursday, March 23, 2017; Exam #2 - Thursday, April 27, 2017. Topics and exact dates for each exam will be announced in class at least a week in advance. Make-ups for exams will be given only for the university approved absences, and should be discussed prior to the exam.
- Term Paper (20%): A short report discussing the numerical solutions, interpretation, and comparison of the results of a project must be submitted at least one week before the last day of classes. The project should be about a real-world problem and you should implement two different numerical algorithms, in a computer language of choice or use any available software, to solve it. I highly encourage the use of MATLAB for this project. A hard-copy of the term papers must be submitted by Thursday, May 4, 2017. In addition to a hardcopy submission, the term papers should be orally presented in class during the last week of classes.

Attendance Policy: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I expect you to attend class regularly. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.
**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.

Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor
code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at https://www.uta.edu/conduct/.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located outside of the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.