AME 499 – Introduction to Computational Methods – Programming with Wolfram Mathematica
Units: 3
Spring 2015—MW—10:00-11:50am

Location: VKC 203

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Contact Info: (213) 740-8253

IT Help: USC Information Technology Services
http://itservices.usc.edu/
Hours of Service:  Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am-7:00 pm,
                 Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm,
                 Saturday-Sunday: 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
Contact Info: consult@usc.edu, (213) 740-555
Course Description
Introduction to computational methods in engineering: learning to develop and implement numerical algorithms for solving a range of mathematics, physics, and engineering problems. This course is suitable for undergraduate students in aerospace, bio, civil and mechanical engineering.

Learning Objectives
- Use Wolfram Mathematica modeling & simulation software to develop, implement, and debug numerical algorithms for a range of typical problems in math, physics, and engineering.
- Analyze posed problems, define the “best-fit” computational approach, and write well-designed, well-documented, modular code using an interpreter-based scripting language of Wolfram Mathematica.
- Utilize extensive Mathematica visualization/graphics capabilities to present the code output in an easily understandable, report/publication-style format.
- Get acquainted with Mathematica built-in suites of specialized functionality: Equations Solving (obtaining closed-form and numerical solutions for algebraic and differential equations and systems of equations), Matrices and Linear Algebra, Control Systems
- Get introduced to building of interactive applications with Mathematica

Prerequisite(s): None
Co-Requisite (s): None
Concurrent Enrollment: None
Recommended Preparation: 1 year of college-level calculus and physics

Course Notes
Class notes, assignments, handouts, and other class materials are downloadable from the Blackboard: https://blackboard.usc.edu/. Class announcements will also be posted on the Blackboard.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials
Required Textbook:


Supplementary Reading:

Description and Assessment of Assignments
Two midterm exams, 10 sets of weekly homework problems, and the final exam will be assigned and graded during the semester. The accumulated points that a student earned from all the assignments will be used to assign a grade for the student. The grading is curved.

Grading Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Homeworks, 15 pts. Each</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 500 100

Assignment Submission Policy
Weekly homework assigned, and due the following week.

The homework problems will require writing programs in Mathematica scripting language. A student must submit hardcopy in the form of one or more sheets of paper upon which the developed Mathematica code and output are printed, and softcopy in the form of a zipped archive of the developed Mathematica notebook(s). Homework problems will be graded according to the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Problem not attempted, OR no hardcopy submitted OR no softcopy submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hard and soft copy submitted, but notebook evaluation terminates with an error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Hard and soft copy submitted; notebook evaluation generates results that don’t match the hardcopy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>Hard and soft copy submitted; notebook evaluation generates incorrect results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>Hard and soft copy submitted; notebook evaluation generates correct results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In all cases better-written code earns more points.

Additional Policies
Late homework receives NO credits.
Course Outline
1. Introduction: Overview of main principles of Mathematica programming (Chapter 1, handout)
   - Starting up Mathematica and getting familiar with the notebook interface
   - Overview of elementary operations, entering input and evaluating it, displaying the output
   - Basic syntax: expressions, variables, comments, error messaging
   - Using Mathematica help: the Documentation Center, function information

2. Mathematica Language (Chapter 1, handout)
   - Expressions as the main element of Mathematica language: types, structure, evaluation
   - Defining variables and functions, assigning values to variables (immediate and delayed assignments), symbolic and numerical computations
   - Predicates and Boolean Operators

3. Numerics in Mathematica Language (Chapter 1, handout)
   - Representation of numbers in Mathematica: types of numbers, exact vs. approximate numbers, random numbers
   - Precision and accuracy of numerical computations

4. Data Structures: lists, arrays, tables (Chapter 2, handout)
   - Lists: structure, syntax, constructing and displaying
   - Operation on lists: measuring, rearranging, accessing elements, assigning components
   - Structure, syntax, and operations on arrays
   - Structure, syntax, and operations on tables
   - Multidimensional data structures: lists of lists

5. Procedural Programming (Chapter 3, handout)
   - Conditional functions (If, Which, Switch)
   - Loops and iteration (Do, For, While, Break, Continue)
   - Recursion

6. Strings (Chapter 2, handout)
   - Structure and syntax
   - Operations on strings, accessing string elements, finding substrings, partitioning strings

7. Graphics and Visualization (Chapter 6, handout)
   - Graphics primitives, their construction, display, manipulation
   - Function visualization (Plot, Plot3D, ParametricPlot, ParametricPlot3D, PolarPlot, RegionPlot)
   - Data visualization (ListPlot, ListPlot3D, ListLinePlot, contour and density plots, visualization of tabular data)
   - Vector Visualization, Charting & Information Visualization
   - Graphics/Plot styling
   - Combining and modifying graphics
8. Functions and Modules (Chapter 3, handout)
   - Patterns: structure, methods of matching
   - Creating and applying rules, delayed vs. immediate application, rule substitution, evaluation process
   - Functions: definition, syntax, evaluation process, parameter passing, checking for argument validity, function with variable number of arguments, function with defaults, function attributes
   - Module as means to localize names of the variables and avoid the name conflicts between the global and local names

9. Packages (handout)

10. Specialized built-in Mathematica functionality suites (Chapters 4, 5, and 10; handouts and Wolfram online tutorials)
   - Equations solving (Solve, NSolve, RSolve, FindRoots, FindInstance, manipulating equations)
   - Differential Equations solving (DSolve, NDSolve)
   - Matrices and Linear Algebra (vector and matrix operations, LinearSolve, Eigensystem, LeastSquares minimization)
   - Control Systems (TransferFunctionModel, StateSpaceModel, model connections and manipulations, StateResponse, OutputResponse)

11. Building of interactive applications with Mathematica (Chapter 7, handout and Wolfram online tutorials) – optional, time-permitting
   - Interactively manipulating variables, symbolic expressions, plots
   - Creating expressions for which value dynamically updates and controlling the updates of dynamic values
   - Creating, placing, and styling control objects
   - Attaching dynamic expressions to control objects
   - Animating expressions
   - Creating a custom interface
## Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics/Daily Activities</th>
<th>Readings and Homework</th>
<th>Deliverable/ Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1      | Introduction  
Mathematica language                                   | Chapter 1, handout  
HW0 assigned                               | HW0 due 1/14             |
| 2      | Mathematica language                                        | Chapter 1, handout  
HW1 assigned                               |                        |
| 3      | Numerics and precision  
Data structures: lists                                     | Chapter 1 and 2, handout  
HW2 assigned                               | HW1 due 1/28             |
| 4      | Data structures: lists, arrays, tables                      | Chapter 2, handout  
HW3 assigned                               | HW2 due 2/04             |
| 5      | Data structures: nested lists  
Procedural programming                                     | Chapter 2 and 3, handout  
HW4 assigned                               | HW3 due 2/11             |
| 6      | Procedural programming: loops and iteration                 | Chapter 3, handout  
HW5 assigned                               | HW4 due 2/18             |
| 7      | Procedural programming  
Review for Midterm 1                                          | Chapter 3, handout            | HW5 due 2/25             |
| 8      | Midterm 1, 3/02  
Strings                                                          | Handout  
HW6 assigned                               |                        |
| 9      | Graphics & Visualization                                    | Chapter 6, handout  
HW6 due 3/11                               |                        |
| 10     | Graphics & Visualization  
Functions & modules                                                   | Chapter 6, handout  
HW6 due 3/11                               |                        |
| 11     | Functions and modules  
Packages                                                           | Chapter 3, handout  
HW7 assigned                               | HW7 due 4/11             |
| 12     | Review for Midterm 2                                           | HW8 assigned                               | HW8 due 4/08             |
| 13     | Specialized functions: equations solving (algebraic & differential) | Chapters 4 and 5, handout  
HW9 assigned                               | HW9 due 4/22             |
| 14     | Specialized functions: linear algebra, control systems       | Chapters 5 and 10, handout  
HW10 assigned                               |                        |
| 15     | Interactive applications  
Review for final exam                                        | Chapter 7                                  | HW10 due 4/29            |
| FINAL  | Final Exam                                                   |                                        | 5/11  
8:00 – 10:00 am                |
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems
A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/ will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.