

# University of Nottingham Ningbo China

CENTRE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

PRELIMINARY YEAR, SEMESTER TWO, 2024-25

## INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICAL SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING MID-SEMESTER EXAM

Time allowed: ONE Hour

---

Candidates must write their ID number on this cover page and fill-in their attendance card but must NOT write anything else until the start of the exam is announced.

**This paper contains TWENTY questions. The total number of points is 100.**  
**Answer all questions with necessary steps.**

Only general bilingual dictionaries are allowed. Subject-specific dictionaries are not permitted.

No electronic devices can be used in this exam.

**Do NOT open the examination paper until told to do so.**

**All answers must be written on this paper.**

### INFORMATION FOR INVIGILATORS:

A 10-minute warning should be given before the end of the exam.

Please collect the examination paper after the exam.

Please return the examination paper in ID order.

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Marks (out of 100): \_\_\_\_\_

This page is intentionally blank.

**Section A: Multiple-Choice Questions (4×15=60 Marks)**

Tick (✓) one most appropriate answer for each question.

- Which of the following commands can delete all variables saved in MATLAB workspace?  
☐ help      ☐ delete      ☒ clear      ☐ clc
- How to concatenate the vector  $b = [2, 4, 6]$  to an existing  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$  to form a 4-by-3 matrix  $C$ ?  
☒  $C = [A; b]$       ☐  $C = A + b$       ☐  $C = [A, b']$       ☐  $C = A(\text{end}, :) + b$
- Given  $a = [1, 2, -3]$  and  $b = [1, 0, 1]$ , what is the output of MATLAB statement  $a.*b$ ?  
☐ 1, 1, -3      ☒ 1, 0, -3      ☐ -3, 1, 1      ☐ -2
- Which of the following is NOT a pre-defined variable in MATLAB?  
☐ j      ☒ e      ☐ inf      ☐ pi
- What vector is generated by the following statement  $x = 1:2:5$ ?  
☐ 2, 3, 4, 5      ☐ 3  
☒ 1, 3, 5      ☐ 1, 1.25, 1.5, 1.75, 2
- Which of the following statements will create a row vector of 10 numbers that are randomly generated between 0 and 10?  
☐  $10*\text{rand}(10)$       ☐  $10*\text{rand}()$       ☒  $10*\text{rand}(1, 10)$       ☐  $\text{randi}(0, 10)$
- Which of the following statements can create a vector that divides the interval  $[-4, 4]$  into 80 evenly spaced subintervals?  
☐  $\text{linspace}(-4, 0.1, 4)$       ☐  $\text{linspace}(-4, 4, 79)$       ☐  $\text{linspace}(-4, 4, 80)$       ☒  $\text{linspace}(-4, 4, 81)$
- Which of the following MATLAB commands finds all roots of the polynomial function  $f(x) = 2x^3 - 4x - 5$ ?  
☐  $\text{roots}([-5, -4, 2])$       ☐  $\text{solve}([2, 4, 5])$       ☐  $\text{roots}([2, -4, -5])$       ☒  $\text{roots}([2, 0, -4, -5])$
- What is the output of the following MATLAB script?

```
a = 1:9;
b = 9:-1:1;
c = sum(a==b)
```

- ☒ c=1      ☐ c=5      ☐ c=8      ☐ c=45

10. What is the output of the following MATLAB script?

```
list = [];
for i=9:-2:5
    list = [i,list];
end
disp(list)
```

☐ 9, -2, 5

☒ 5, 7, 9

☐ 9, 7, 5

☐ 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

11. To plot the graph of  $y = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-2x}}$  on interval  $[-1, 1]$  in MATLAB, one creates an array  $x$  representing the given interval using:  $x = \text{linspace}(-1, 1)$ . Which of the following statements is correct for creating the corresponding array  $y$ ?

☐  $y = 1/(1+e^{(-2*x)})$ 
☒  $y = 1./(1+\exp(-2*x))$ 
☐  $y = 1/(1+e^{\{-2*x\}})$ 
☐  $y = 1./(1+1/\exp(2*x))$ 

12. The following MATLAB script is designed for generating an overlaying plot with two curves  $y = 5x^2$  and  $y = \sin x \tan x$  on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ . Identify the line that contains an error.

```
Line 1: x = -1:0.1:1;
Line 2: y1 = 5x.^2;
Line 3: y2 = sin(x).*tan(x);
Line 4: plot(x,y1,'r-',x,y2,'b:', 'LineWidth', 2)
Line 5: legend('curve1', 'curve2')
```

☒ Line 2

☐ Line 3

☐ Line 4

☐ none of them

13. What is the file extension of MATLAB script files?

☐ .script

☐ .mat

☒ .m

☐ .fig

14. What is the output of the following MATLAB script?

```
i = 1; s = 0;
while s<=25
    s = s+i;
    i = i+1;
end
fprintf("i=%d,s=%d\n", i, s)
```

☐ i=7,s=22

☒ i=8,s=28

☐ i=7,s=22

☒ i=8,s=28

15. In nested loops, the break command contained in the inner loop will exit which of the following?

☐ entire loops

☒ inner loop

☐ entire program

☐ none of them

**Section B: Short Answer Questions (40 Marks)**

Write your answers in the designated box provided for each question.

---

16. Let  $m = \pi/2$  ( $\approx 1.5708$ ) and  $n = \exp(2)$  ( $\approx 7.3891$ ) be two variables created in MATLAB. Write the output of the following MATLAB statement:

```
fprintf('m=%.2f,n=%.3f\n m+n=%d\n',m,n,floor(m+n))
```

[5]

```
m=1.57,n=7.389
m+n=8
```

17. Write a MATLAB function **MatrixSum(A)** that finds the sum of all elements in  $A$ .

You may use MATLAB built-in function `size()` for checking the size of the matrix, but do NOT use the built-in function `sum()` here. [10]

```
function y = MatrixSum(A)
[m,n] = size(A);
y = 0;
for i=1:m
    for j=1:n
        y = y+A(i,j);
    end
end
end
```

18. Write a MATLAB script for finding the sum of the first 100 prime numbers:

$$2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 11 + \dots = ?$$

You may use MATLAB built-in function `isprime()` in your script.

[10]

```
mysum = 0;
n = 1; count = 0;
while count < 100
    if isprime(n)
        mysum = mysum + n;
        count = count + 1;
    end
    n = n + 1;
end
disp(mysum)
```

19. Analyse the MATLAB function **func(array)** given below and answer the questions.

[10]

```
Line 01: function m = func(array)
Line 02: % input: an integer array in ascending order (repeated values may exist)
Line 03: n = length(array);
Line 04: rec = 1;
Line 05: m = 1;
Line 06: for i=1:n-1
Line 07:     if array(i)==array(i+1)
Line 08:         rec = rec+1;
Line 09:     else
Line 10:         if rec>m
Line 11:             m = rec;
Line 12:             rec = 1;
Line 13:         else
Line 14:             rec = 1;
Line 15:         end
Line 16:     end
Line 17: end
Line 18: if rec>m
Line 19:     m = rec;
Line 20: end
Line 21: end
```

- (i) What is the final output value  $m$  when array = [1, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7, 7, 13]?
- (ii) What information is saved in the two variables: rec and m, that are used in this function?
- (iii) Briefly explain the code segment from Line 10 to Line 15.
- (iv) What task does this function attempt to solve?
- (v) When will the code segment from Line 18 to Line 20 be used? Give an array example.

- (i)  $m=3$
- (ii) rec: how many times current value is repeated  
m: the maximum repeated time of a value found so far
- (iii) if current value has larger frequency (rec) than the one saved in (m), update (m) by (rec);  
otherwise keep the value saved in (m).  
in both cases, reset the variable (rec) back to 1, for counting the frequency of the next number.
- (iv) to find the largest frequency that a number appears in the array
- (v) it is need when the last few elements have the highest frequency.  
for example, array = [1,3,5,5,7,7,7,13,13,13,13]

20. List THREE differences between MATLAB function file and script file.

[5]

Refer to your lecture notes.

Use this page for rough work.