Project approval by Quinn Lanik

CSCE 155N was an overall fun and challenging class, which made me respect programmers on another level. Some of the challenges I faced while taking this class and doing the final project was deconstructing the code into parts so I could better understand it, making the code understandable to a user who does not know how the code works and remembering the different uses of the inner functions we used. I believe the class was taught in a forgiving and rewarding way, which helped me succeed in the class as well as my other classes.

The process of doing the final project involved a lot of visits to office hours as well as a lot of speculating, which turned out to be a positive feature of the project in the end. Though the project was a bit difficult because of all the different aspects that went into it, when I dissected the code and broke it up into sections it became manageable rather than impossible. A lot of the LA’s were able to help me to figure out how to think about it as a step-by-step process. The project was challenging but it was fun because you could customize it and play around with all the different ui controls, which I hope to use in future classes by programing a process that I can input different flowrates and components.

Making the code understandable to someone who does not know how the code works as well as making it clear so I can look back and see exactly what I did was a challenge. Adding in comments was very helpful in doing so but a lot of the comments seemed repetitive because the same process was taking place but with another variable, I still believe it was necessary just in case a user might not recognize the similarities. Being able to go back in my work and see the changes I made and where I messed up in the past allowed me to fix future mistakes I ran into further into the project. I believe I was able to accomplish the goal of having my code be readable and easily usable, because of the help I was given and the ability to guess and check for parts of the project.

There were a lot of inner functions that I had to remember from either past labs or lectures, that I had to imply in the code, this was a challenge because I don’t have the best memory. I enjoyed being able to go back to past labs and trying to figure out what functions might work, many examples include: using the correct annotation for x and y limits on a graph, comparing lengths of arrays, using string comparison, the correct usage of the string to number application, etc. Overall, the final project allowed for me to use almost everything I learned during the semester and to create a fun “puzzle” to solve.

The overall way Quinn taught the class was an engaging and most enjoyable experience it could be, “it is still homework,” I enjoyed learning about the different things you can do in MATLAB, from creating your own customizable plot to simply adding and subtracting. The class structure was made for students to succeed with flexible office hours and clear instructions, it is almost hard to fail if you take advantage of all the resources that are provided. Quinn is also always able to answer questions which is a great help if the LA and a student is stumped on a problem. The class was very forgiving when it came to deadlines, I could always ask for an extension which not only allowed me to succeed in this class but also allowed me to focus on my other classes when I needed the extra study time.

CSCE 155N was a class that I will remember for the welcoming atmosphere as well as the engaging activities. I faced many challenges throughout the course but the flexible deadline schedule and almost 24/7 help allowed me to become comfortable with the basics of MATLAB. The labs were unique and fun to dissect which allowed for an overall positive experience class. I would be happy to take a class taught by Quinn again and hope that I can get that opportunity.