Individual Reflection

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I hoped to get good at Matlab and get an A in the course. I would say that it’s kind of worked out as I am most likely getting a A- in this course instead of a A. Which isn’t the end of the world for me as I also got a A- in 131. The second thing I hoped for was to be great at Matlab and currently I can say that I am not great at Matlab. I am decent enough to do the problem sets however from what I know and the people I have talked to Matlab is meant to be used for much harder and complex problems. What I mean by this is that I know the basics, but I need much more practice and experience to become good at Matlab.

The thing that I am most proud of would be the final project, especially the algorithm that we came up with to solve the thermocouple problem. The main reason I am proud of the algorithm is that the way we created it is vastly different than what other people did. We decided to solve the differential equations and then linearizing the results using nonlinear regression and then using that to find parameters. The algorithm was refined multiple times, and, in the end, we ended up r^2 values of .998 which is almost prefect and it’s a value that I only saw one or two other groups have. Furthermore, I can put this project on my resume as it would be a good talking point.

One thing that I would do different would be to study much harder for the exams as I didn’t really do that well on the third exam. Which is the main reason I am not going get a A and an A- instead. I would do this by making sure I did all of the sample practice exams that were posted and going to office hours to get help on anything that I didn’t understand. I would also advise to start studying a few days in advance not the day of. The most useful skill in my opinion that I learned in this class would be teamwork. Teamwork is a skill that will be useful at every point in my life, especially once I get a job as almost every engineer is excepted to work with his peers in a team. I was on better terms with my ENGR 131 team than 132 and this was a important experience as I had to learn how to put my difference aside and work with people who I didn’t get along with that well.