

How to Compare Text Files

A CS1371 Low Level File I/O Aid

In the homework, some problems will you, the student, to output a text file; thus, comes the question “is my output text file correct?” Your output text file needs to be identical to the output text file produced by the solution code (where that file with ‘_soln’ appended to the file name is included in the Homework .zip file).

While you can very simply write code that will read in your output file and the solution output file and compare if they are equivalent, MATLAB already has built in capabilities to check this for you.

To check if two files are identical, go to the Home button in the main MATLAB window. One of the very first options listed is “Compare.” When you click this, MATLAB will open a separate window and allow you to select two files; it will then compare those files. If the files are identical, MATLAB will tell you so. If the files are not identical, it will highlight which parts of the files are not identical, which you can then use to narrow down where your code is erroring.

Best of luck, and happy coding!