**CSCI 130 – MATLAB Availability**

**Confluence Hall Room 276**

All computers in **CH 276** have MATLAB installed. During 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday, the building is open and the classroom is unlocked. A few days after the semester starts, a classroom usage schedule is posted on the large video screens in the hallways. During these hours, students may use the computers whenever a class is NOT in session.

During other hours, access to the building and the room is controlled and access granted to authorized MAVCard holders. Engineering majors should have building access. Even though you may have building access, access to the room is separately authorized. Access is enabled automatically for students enrolled in the course. That being said, I highly recommend you try your MAVCard after hours on both the building and classroom. If it doesn’t work, send me an email ASAP and I’ll investigate.

**Note:** MATLAB is also installed on lab computers in the Math Department (Wubben Hall), especially room WU 205. Those rooms are also open 8:00 – 5:00 Monday – Friday and you can use them when there isn’t a class in session. You may or may not (probably not, unless you’re a Math major) have after hours access to the building or the rooms, but I do know that if you can get into the buildings, sometimes students leave the lab doors propped open.

**TLC (Tutorial Learning Center)**

The TLC (HH 113) has a couple of computers with MATLAB installed. In addition, some general MATLAB help is available at certain times. I recommend checking with them for their schedule and availability.

**On Your Own Computer**

MATLAB is a licensed product (i.e., it costs money to use). CMU pays for the licenses for the on-campus computers mentioned above. Even though a commercial license is quite expensive, MATLAB one year licenses are available to students for $49. Here’s the link to the website:

<https://www.mathworks.com/store/link/products/student/new?s_iid=htb_buy_gtwy_cta3>

[**Note:** For this course, you only need the “MATLAB Student (unbundled)” version, as the Simulink Student Suite is not needed. You also don’t need any of the optional add-on Toolbox modules. All you need is the basic MATLAB Student version (at $49).]

Better yet, there’s a free 30-day Trial Version which you can download and install on your Windows or MacIntosh laptop or desktop computer immediately. (MATLAB will not work on smartphones or tablets.) The trial version requires about a gigabyte of available external storage to install. If necessary, after the 30-day trial is over, one can easily activate the student version for $49 in order to continue using MATLAB. The free trial is available at:

<https://www.mathworks.com/campaigns/products/trials.html?s_iid=htb_trial_gtwy_ar>

**Use GNU Octave (instead of MATLAB)**

**GNU Octave** is a free open source alternative to MATLAB which runs on Windows computers. It’s nearly identical to MATLAB and has all the capabilities you’ll need for this course. If you’re using a Windows computer, I **HIGHLY** recommend you download and install **GNU Octave** and use it instead of MATLAB. The D2L Week #8 (MATLAB Basics) section contains videos where I present how to download, install and use GNU Octave.

[**Note:** In theory, GNU Octave can be installed on certain versions of Macintosh computers, but the procedure is complicated. It’s so complicated, I don’t recommend even attempting it. If you must use a Macintosh computer, I recommend you either wait until Week #11 and install the MATLAB 30-day free trial or purchase a one-year subscription for $49.] If you have difficulties installing, either send me an email or connect via my Zoom Virtual Office.