

***ENG EC 500 B1 (Ishwar) Introduction to Learning from Data***

**Notes on Homework Formatting**

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In these notes we discuss how you can help us give you the maximum amount of credit for your homework. We ask that you follow the following formatting requests in creating your homework.

- Put your full (first and last) name and BU ID on your homework.
- Read and answer the questions. Make sure you have read the entire problem and understand what is being asked. And make sure you provide an answer for each question asked.
- Show your work and provide details. Single word answers are generally not acceptable. For example, if a problem asks if  $A$  and  $B$  are independent, don't simply say "yes" or "no", but rather show how you reached that conclusion.
- Neatness counts. There are many students and many parts to each problem, and with so many pieces there is not time to view your particular homework like the Rosetta Stone. If your train of thought is too hard to follow you might unnecessarily lose points.
- Clearly indicate your final answers – in particular, please box your answers so the grader can find them!
- On any problem with figures, graphs, and plots, be sure to label axes of all plots. Be efficient in generating plots: do not simply create a separate figure for every single plot. Group related plots together. Make judicious use of subplots.
- Also **discuss and explain what is going on** in the plots (the results, their significance, etc). Do not simply produce a series of plots without any explanation! Interpretation of the results is as important as the generation of the plots, and they will be graded accordingly!
- Use a **fresh** "standard"  $8.5 \times 11$  paper. Don't write your answers on the printout of the homework assignment itself. Don't mix sizes. While unusual, mixed paper sizes and used pages can be missed during handling.
- Keep problems and sub-parts of problems in order. For example, don't put part (d) before part (a), as the grader may assume you just didn't do all the parts before (d). You can, of course, solve them in any order, but please hand in your solutions with the problems and sub-parts of problems in increasing order and clearly labeled. This is especially true for any Matlab/coding problems, where some people have a tendency to collect all the plots for all parts at the very end of the homework, making it very hard to find all the pieces belonging to a particular part.
- Only use one side of the paper if you are writing with ink. Yes, I know it uses more paper, but when you use both sides, problems sometimes arise in ink leaking through to the other side and it can be harder to follow your development across pages.

- Start each problem on a new page. This helps us find each of your problems, both in the grading process and in recording the overall score.
- Bind your homework in the upper left corner. Homeworks that are submitted in multiple parts, or bound with only a paper clip, or not bound at all, tend to get separated and parts tend to get lost. Homework bound with multiple staples in “booklets” is hard to move through during grading.