Dear students,

For the programming assignments that you will see on this MOOC (starting from module 2), you will be required to perform certain image processing tasks using a programming language. In order to make the assignments machine-gradable, we have designed the problems in a way that you will only need to enter numerical values based on the results. In other words, the evaluation will be based on numerical results generated by your code rather than code checking. Although in principle you can use any programming language, we strongly suggest that you perform the programming tasks in MATLAB for the following reasons:

(1) Consistency: As long as the programming tasks are performed using the provided version of MATLAB and following the instructions given for each problem, you are guaranteed to get the expected results and earn the full grade.

(2) Use of built-in MATLAB functions: Some of the problems make use of built-in MATLAB functions, e.g., "imnoise" for adding noise to images. In such cases, we will specify the arguments to use in the programming problems in order to avoid ambiguity. Other programming languages (such as Python) may not have the built-in functions, or even if they do (like Octave), there is no guarantee that these implementations will treat the input arguments identically as MATLAB does. Using MATLAB, you will avoid the risk of getting results that are different from the expected.

(3) Support: We provide technical support for both installation and use of MATLAB for this course. Although some other languages are equally capable of handling particular tasks covered in this course, it is simply infeasible for us to provide support for all of these languages. Outside this course, you are free to use any of your preferred languages. However, within this course we ask you to use MATLAB so that our help is most useful to you when needed.

(4) To Octave users: Octave and MATLAB have basically identical syntax. Even many of the built-in MATLAB functions are available in Octave (or have their equivalents). Therefore, using MATLAB (at least for the purpose of this course) should not take any extra effort from your side. Again, we ask you to use MATLAB in order to ensure consistency.

Best regards,

Professor Aggelos K. Katsaggelos and Team