HW2 Comments

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CPS 271

If you got a low score

• It’s OK; we still love you

• Most of you need work on writing up things rigorously and precisely

• Better to get feedback on this through homeworks than on tests or rejected journal/conference papers
Our desiderata for hw questions

• We like questions with short answers:
  – Easier for us to grade
  – Easier (in principle) for you to answer

• We aren’t trying to trick you!
• Our goal is to help you think clearly and precisely about the concepts by working through and presenting your answers
• Your goal should be to organize your thoughts in a way that helps you see the path to an elegant solution

Writing Good {Matlab} Code

• Read previous solutions
  – Don’t repeat the same mistakes!
  – True in general, not just for code
• If you are writing a very large program, stop and ask yourself if you are doing the right thing
  (we tend not to assign very large programs)
• Try using block matrix operations (avoid loops)
  – Improves clarity
  – Reduces mistakes
  – Easier to debug
• Use comments to indicate what mathematical operations various chunks of code are doing
Submissions of Code

• Include your name in comments
• Include comments!

• Put all files in one folder/directory with your name as part of the directory name
• Submit a single .zip or .gz (please no .rar)

How to Answer Mathy Questions

• Ask for clarification if you aren’t sure what is required

• Back up your answers with math – Don’t give hand wavy arguments
Electronic Submissions of Text

- Please include your name in the file name

- Please use open standard document formats
  - Good: PDF
  - OK: doc
  - Bad: docx (Office 2007+)

General Comments

- Please try to make Jason’s job easier

- Turning in clear and well organized assignments:
  - Is good practice for you
  - Reduces the our grading burden significantly

- Don’t forget: Most of you will be TAs, maybe even professors, some day.