

640:250C Introduction to Linear Algebra (MATLAB Sections)**General Information**

Text: Spence, Insel & Friedberg *Elementary Linear algebra: A Matrix Approach*

ISBN # 0-13-716722-9, Prentice-Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

Course Web Page: This document, other course materials, information about the course, and links to relevant web sites are posted on the Mathematics Department web site (<http://www.math.rutgers.edu>) Click on **course materials** and then **Math 250 Linear Algebra**. Follow the indicated links from there.

Computer Component of Course: Linear algebra is the most widely-used mathematics tool in engineering, applied science, and statistics. Unlike the one-variable calculus problems that you can solve by hand calculation (or with the aid of a graphing calculator), real linear algebra computations need substantial computer resources. The best software package for this purpose is generally agreed to be MATLAB (although other symbolic computer programs such as MAPLE or MATHEMATICA also have linear algebra capabilities and some graphing calculators can do linear algebra problems with a small number of variables).

The MATLAB sections of Math 250 use the same textbook and syllabus as the regular sections of Math 250. In addition to homework assignments, quizzes, and exams, you will carry out linear algebra calculations using MATLAB in one of the Rutgers computer labs (or on your own computer, if you buy a copy of the Student Edition of MATLAB). You will create a printed writeups of your MATLAB sessions to hand in for grading. **NO PROGRAMMING KNOWLEDGE OF MATLAB IS REQUIRED.**

The MATLAB software package is installed on PC's in all the Rutgers public computer labs (in ARC, Loree, College Avenue, Livingston). Students in the School of Engineering can also use MATLAB in the DSV Lab (Eng B-125/127).

If you want to install MATLAB on your personal computer, the Student Edition (for Windows, Linux or Macintosh) can be purchased directly from the publisher, MathWorks, Inc. by going to their website: www.mathworks.com. It includes documentation and tutorials. Links to MATLAB tutorials and related web sites can be found on the course web page.

Exams, Homework, and Grades: There will be two midterm exams and a final exam (all exams will be closed book). There will be six MATLAB assignments. Each section will have quizzes and graded homework, as determined by the instructor. Your final course grade will be determined on the following 600-point basis:

each midterm exam: 100 points

each MATLAB assignment (required part): 25 points

quizzes and homework: 50 points

final exam: 200 points

NOTE: Each MATLAB assignment has an optional question involving an application of Linear Algebra. These optional questions add up to a maximum of 60 points over the term (more than half the points on one midterm exam).