

# Math 241, Spring 2026 — Homework 0

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Due January 29 at 5:00 pm

**Instructions.** This introductory problem set is partly to get you familiar with the class structure and technological tools. I know it's fast to have homework due right away, so thanks for jumping in! Part of this homework will include a Gradescope submission.

**Problem 1.** Please respond to the [start of semester survey](#) on Moodle.

**Problem 2.** Bookmark the [class web page](#) and read the syllabus there.

**Problem 3.** Download our class textbook in [pdf](#) form or purchase a paper copy.

**Problem 4.** Read these [guidelines for writing homework solutions](#).

**Problem 5.** We will use [Gradescope](#) for homework submissions. If you haven't used it before, you should make an account with your MHC email address and read this [short tutorial](#) on submitting assignments. Your account should be linked to our course automatically but you might need the entry code **V4EWDJ**. Please let me know if you have trouble.

**Problem 6.** MATLAB is a piece of software useful in various areas of mathematics due to many convenient built in functions and easy to write script files. In our class we will use it to gain intuition for dynamical systems qualitatively and numerically.

1. Go to the [Get started with MATLAB](#) LITS article and install MATLAB on your personal computer. Please make sure to install MATLAB on your computer rather than use MATLAB Online. The default options on the most recent version are fine to use.
2. Download the [iterator.m](#) script file from our class web page and open it with MATLAB.
3. Try pressing the Run button at the top of the MATLAB window. You will probably get a message asking you to change the current MATLAB folder. Please accept this change. If the script runs properly, you should see a list of numbers in the Command Window at the bottom of the MATLAB window. These are the first few values in the orbit of a given seed under iteration by a given map.

**Problem 7.** Write up solutions to the problems from the [day 1 worksheet](#) and submit them on Gradescope. We might end up discussing answers to some of these in class, but I want you to write up solutions to all of them. Here are three important technical details: (1) write up solutions on a separate page or pages of paper or a handwriting app on a tablet, (2) make sure to match pages to problems when doing the Gradescope submission, and (3) instead of regular pictures from your phone, submit a pdf made with the Gradescope iOS or Android app, a scanning app on your phone, a scanner on campus, or a handwriting app on a tablet that so that it's easier for me to read.