# Working with MATLAB

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This document contains general directions for working with MATLAB this semester.

## Creating your m-file folder

1. If you do not already have an m-file folder, create a new folder on the Desktop. The name of the folder must be "`Wendy's m-files`", except of course that you should replace "`Wendy`" with a word or symbol that identifies you uniquely.
2. If you already have a ZIP disk with a folder of m-files, copy the folder onto the Desktop.
3. If you see somebody else's m-file folder on the Desktop, drag it to the trash and empty the trash. It would be a violation of the Honor Code to open the folder.
4. Start MATLAB and select `MATLAB Path` from the Windows menu. The Path is a list of directories MATLAB looks in to find m-files.
5. In the MATLAB Path window, use the file browser on the left to select your script folder, and then hit the `Append` button to add your folder to the path.
6. Close the MATLAB Path window.

## Creating m-files

1. To create a new m-file, select `New->M-file` from the `File` menu. A new window should appear. You can type MATLAB commands in this window.
2. To save the m-file, select `Save As` from the `File` menu. Give your file a name and make sure that it will go into your m-file folder.
3. Use the Finder to confirm that the new m-file is in your m-file folder.
4. In the MATLAB Command Window, type the name of the script (without the `.n` suffix). The commands in your script should execute.

## Printing m-files and figures

1. Before printing an m-file, clean it up. Remove defunct code and make sure that it is indented correctly.
2. Every m-file you write should contain a comment with your name and the number of the assignment you are working on.
3. To print the m-file, click on the m-file window and select `Print` from the `File` menu.
4. Before printing a figure, make sure that it has a title (see `help title`) that includes your name. Otherwise you will not be able to identify the printout.
5. To print the figure, click on the figure window and select `Print` from the `File` menu.

## Saving your m-file folder

1. When you are done working with MATLAB, make sure that you save the latest version of ann your m-files, and quit MATLAB. You might want to delete any m-files that you don't want to keep.

2. Copy the m-file folder back onto your ZIP disk.

3. Insert another ZIP disk and copy the m-file folder onto the second ZIP disk. This step is not optional! ZIP disks are, unfortunately, not very reliable. If ten people use a ZIP disk for a semester, the chance that one of them will experience a catastrophic loss of data is 73%.

   If all ten people keep two copies of their work on two separate disks, the probability of losing data due to disk failure drops to 0.0012%.

   If you lose work because of a ZIP disk failure, you will be very unhappy. If an assignment is late or incomplete because of a ZIP disk failure, and you do not have a backup copy, I will be harsh.

4. Once you have made TWO COPIES of your folder, drag it to the trash and empty the trash. This step is not optional! If I sit down at a Macintosh and find that you have left your folder on the Desktop, I will deduct 20% from the homework that you left lying around.