

How to present experiment figures in academic paper or course project based on Matlab?

1. Do not rely on color to distinguish curves (they are indistinguishable in black-white printout).
2. Use different line styles to distinguish curves (Matlab provides four line styles: solid, dashed, dotted, dash-dotted).
3. Use markers on some curves for further distinguishing. In Matlab, plot(X, Y, 'b-o'); use different markers for different curves.
4. Make sure your “useful” curves occupy most of the figure’s drawing area. You need to manually change X or Y axis range in many cases to do that.
5. Make sure your figure’s font (label, legend, axis values) are large enough to be readable in your report or paper. Make sure curves are thick enough to be readable.
6. The curves should not be covered by, e.g., legend.
7. In your report or paper, put some explanation words in figure’s caption.
8. On one figure, try not put more than 4 curves on it.