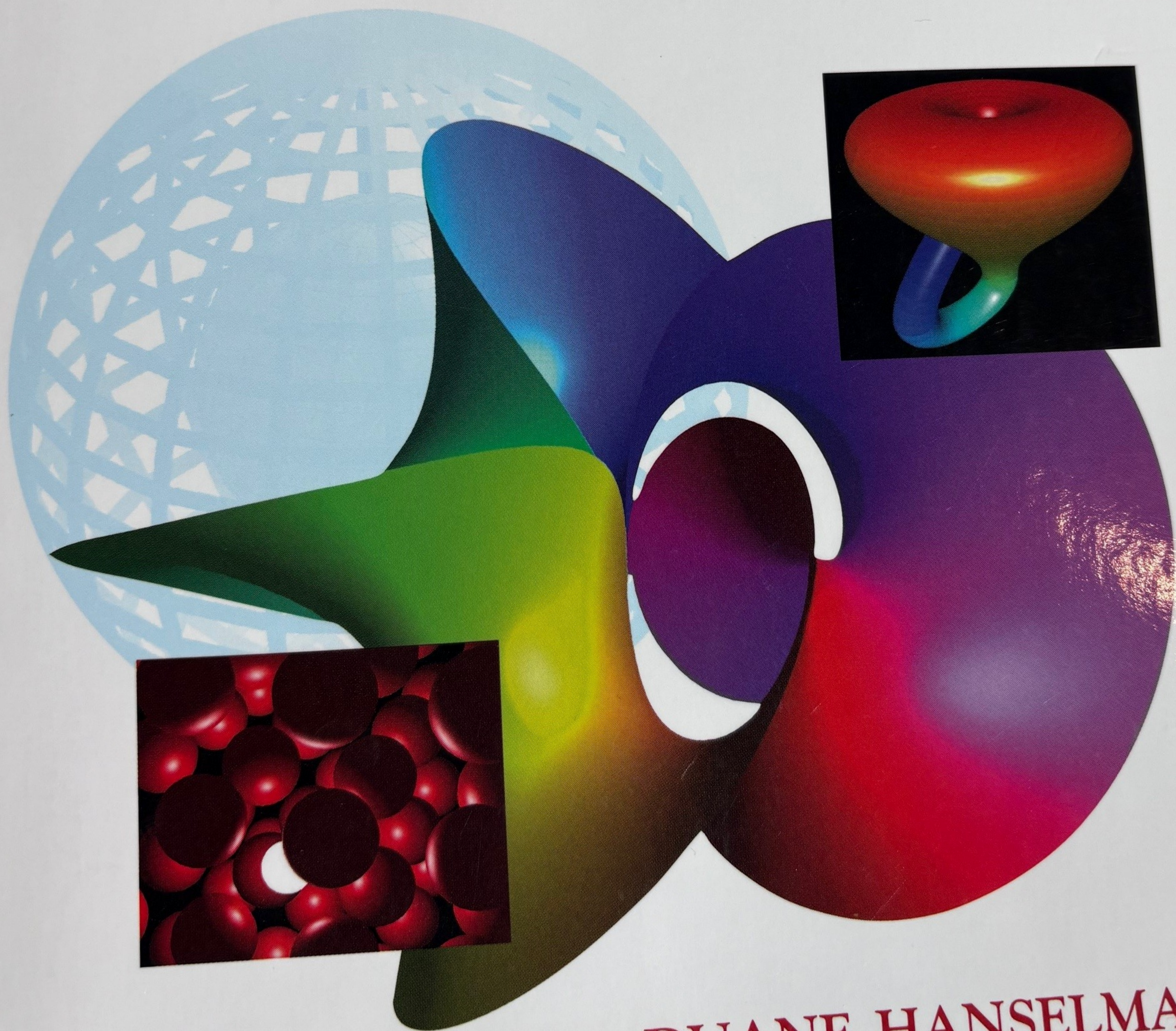


Mastering MATLAB[®] 5

A Comprehensive Tutorial and Reference



DUANE HANSELMAN
BRUCE LITTLEFIELD



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Script M-files

For simple problems, entering your requests at the MATLAB prompt in the *Command* window is fast and efficient. However, as the number of commands increases or in the case when you wish to change the value of one or more variables and reevaluate a number of commands, typing at the MATLAB prompt quickly becomes tedious. MATLAB provides a logical solution to this problem. It allows you to place MATLAB commands in a simple text file and then tell MATLAB to open the file and evaluate commands exactly as it would if you had typed them at the MATLAB prompt. These files are called *script files* or simply *M-files*. The term “script” symbolizes the fact that MATLAB simply reads from the script found in the file. The term “M-file” recognizes the fact that script file names must end with the extension `' .m '` (e.g., `example1.m`).

To create a script M-file on a Macintosh or PC, choose **New** from the **File** menu and select **M-file**. This procedure brings up a text editor window where you enter MATLAB commands. On workstation platforms, it is common to open another *terminal* window and run your favorite text editor for creating and modifying M-files in that window. The following script M-file shows the commands from an example considered earlier.

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by James B. Dabney and Thomas L. Harman

ISBN 0-13-243767-8

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