

Line-Goto/From Tool

May 2016



McMaster Centre for Software Certification (McSCert)

1 Introduction

The Line-Goto/From tool is used to convert signal lines to goto/from blocks, as well as goto/from blocks to signal lines.

The tool aims to assist software development activities by automating frequently performed actions by developers when creating, modifying, or maintaining models. The use of goto/from blocks or signal lines helps to increase readability where appropriate. In models with many signal line crossings, converting some signal lines to goto/from blocks will help in decluttering the model. Conversely, using signal lines for straightforward connections, instead of goto/from blocks, will allow developers to more easily follow the visual data flow.

2 How to Use the Tool

2.1 Prerequisites

Please ensure the following, before using the tool:

- Use Matlab/Simulink 2011b or newer.
- The tool is present in your MATLAB path. If it is not, go to **File > Set Path...**, press **Add with Subfolders**, and select the **McMaster_Tools** folder. Restart MATLAB after doing so.
- The model is open.

2.2 Getting Started

The tool can be used via the Simulink Context Menu, which can be viewed by right-clicking in a model. The following options can be available, depending on what is selected in the model (as shown in Figure 1).

- *Goto/From to Line* – Available when one or more goto/from blocks are selected.
- *Line to Goto/From* – Available when one or more signal lines are selected.

Goto/From to Line

Selecting one or more goto/from blocks and then selecting **Goto/From to Line** from the Context Menu will convert the selected blocks to signal line connections. Multiple blocks can be selected by either dragging the cursor over several blocks, or by pressing shift and then selecting blocks.

Goto/from blocks with global or scoped visibilities, i.e. those with corresponding blocks outside of the current subsystem, will not be converted.

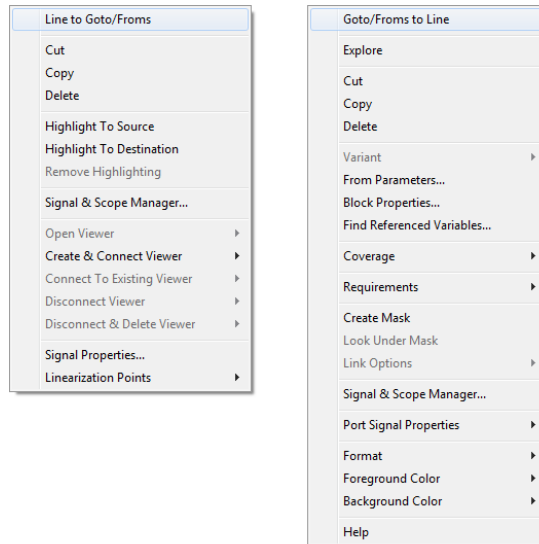


Figure 1: How the tool will appear in the Simulink Context Menu



Figure 2: Tool dialog window prompting for the goto/from name

Line to Goto/From

Selecting one or more signal lines and then selecting **Line to Goto/From** from the Context Menu will convert the selected signal lines to goto/from connections. If a signal line has a name which is a valid variable name, it will automatically be used as the goto/from tag. If the line has no name or it is an invalid variable name, the user will be prompted to provide one through a GUI, shown in Figure 2.

If the tag for the goto/from is not a valid variable name, the user will be prompted to provide another name. If the tag corresponds to existing goto/from blocks which are within scope, that is, they will conflict, the user will be prompted to provide another name.

Multiple signal lines can be selected by either dragging the cursor over several signal lines, or by pressing shift and then selecting signal lines.

Note: For Matlab 2011b Simulink, it is not possible to directly right-click on multiple signal lines. To overcome this, you must also select one of the source blocks of a selected signal line, and perform the right-click on this block.

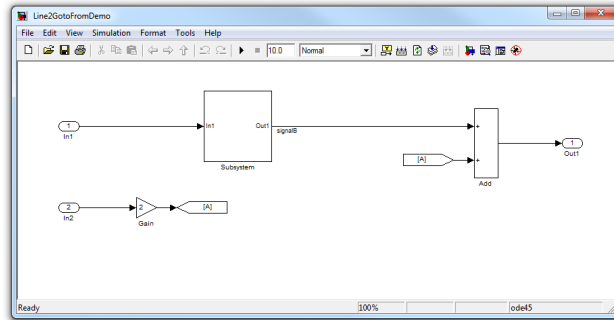


Figure 3: Line-Goto/From demo model

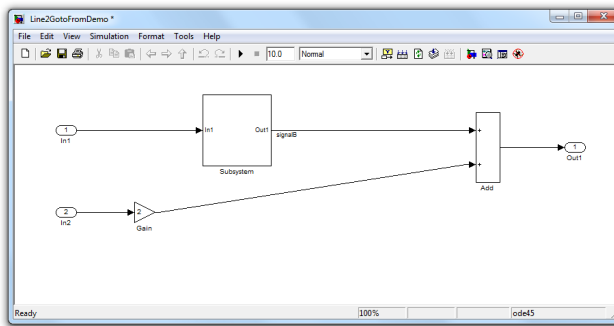


Figure 4: Resulting model after Goto/From to Line transformation on goto/from block A

Errors

Any errors or warnings during tool use will be visible in the Matlab Command Window.

3 Example

Use the command `Line2GotoFromDemo` in the Simulink command window to open the example model, shown in Figure 3. There is a goto/from block in this example with tag A. To transform it into a signal line connection, right-click on either the goto block, from block, or both, and select the **Goto/From to Line** option. The resulting model is given in Figure 4. Likewise, to transform the line named `signalB` to a goto/from block connection, right-click on the signal line and select the **Line to Goto/From** option. The resulting model is given in Figure 5.

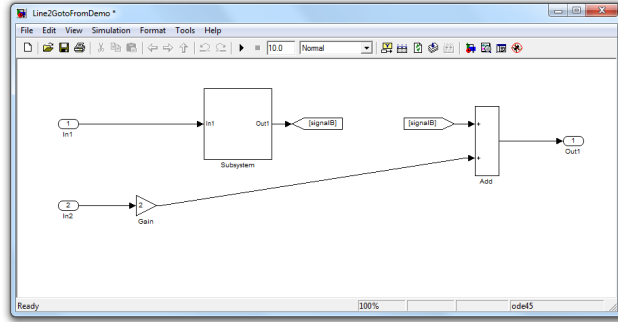


Figure 5: Resulting model after `Line` to `Goto/From` transformation on `signalB`

4 Matlab Commands

The tool can also be used via the Matlab command line, with the following functions.

Function	<code>goto2Line</code>
Syntax	<code>goto2Line(address, blocks)</code>
Description	Converts selected local goto/from block connections into signal lines.
Input Arguments	<i>address</i> : Path of where the goto/from blocks reside in the model. <i>blocks</i> : Cell array of goto/from block names to convert.

Example: The following command transforms the goto/from blocks with tag `A`, named `From0`, into a signal line connection in model `Line2GotoFromDemo`. The resulting model is shown as Figure 4.

```
goto2Line('Line2GotoFromDemo', {'test2/From0'})
```

Function	<code>line2Goto</code>
Syntax	<code>line2Goto(address, line, tag)</code>
Description	Converts a signal line into a goto/from connection.
Input Arguments	<i>address</i> : Path of where the signal line resides in the model. <i>line</i> : Handle of the signal line to convert. <i>tag</i> : String to be used as the goto/from tag.

Example: The following command transforms the signal line named `signalB`, with line handle given as variable `lh`, into a goto/from block connection in model `Line2GotoFromDemo`. The resulting model is shown as Figure 5.

```
goto2Line('Line2GotoFromDemo', lh, 'signalB')
```