

Appendix A. List of useful MATLAB functions

Here is a list of some useful MATLAB functions:

Function name	Purpose
zeros	Initialize a vector or matrix of 0's with specified dimensions.
ones	Initialize a vector or matrix of 1's with specified dimensions.
eye	Create an identity matrix with specified dimensions.
length	Get the number of components of a vector.
size	Get the number of elements in a specified dimension of a vector/matrix. Number of rows of a is <code>size(a,1)</code> , and number of columns of a is <code>size(a,2)</code> .
sort	Sort the elements in an array in ascending or descending order.
transpose, or '	Transpose a vector or matrix.
inv, or \	Compute the inverse of a matrix. When solving systems of linear equations, $A*x=b$, it is better (in terms of performance and numerical accuracy) to use the "backslash" operator, $x=A\backslash b$.
sum	Get the sum of the components of a vector/matrix.
prod	Get the product of the components of a vector/matrix.
sqrt	Get the square root of a variable.
exp	Get the exponential of a variable.
log	Get the natural logarithm of a variable.
sin, cos, tan	Get the trigonometric functions of a variable (in radians).
asin, acos, atan	Get the inverse trigonometric functions of a variable (in radians).
pi	Retrieve the π number.

For more detailed information about the inputs/outputs and example uses of these functions simply write them in the MATLAB's command window or in any script, right-click on them and select "Help on Selection".