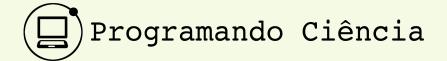


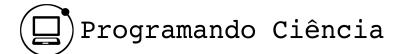
# MATLAB & GNU Octave reference guide

Alexandre de Siqueira



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# MATLAB & GNU Octave: reference guide<sup>1</sup>



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# **CONTENTS**

IN	TRO	DUCTION	1
1	BAS	SIC COMMANDS	2
	1.1	MATLAB and GNU Octave interfaces	2
		1.1.1 MATLAB graphical interface	2
		1.1.2 GNU Octave: graphical and text mode interfaces	3
	1.2	The prompt	4
	1.3	disp()	4
	1.4	input()	4
	1.5	help	4
	1.6	Basic operators	5
	1.7	factorial()	5
	1.8	abs()	5
	1.9	Trigonometric functions	6
	1.10	Inverse trigonometric functions	6
	1.11	Hyperbolic trigonometric functions	7
	1.12	Inverse hyperbolic trigonometric functions	7
	1.13	Exponential and logarithm	7
	1.14	Complex numbers	8
2	MA	TRICES AND VECTORS	9
	2.1	Vectors	9
	2.2	Vectors by increment	10
	2.3	linspace()	10
	2.4	logspace()	10
	2.5	transpose()	10
	2.6	Matrizes	11
	2.7	zeros()	11
	2.8	ones()	12

	2.9	eye()	12
	2.10	diag()	12
	2.11	rand()	12
	2.12	Operations	13
	2.13	Advanced functions	14
3	TW	O-DIMENSIONAL PLOTS	16
	3.1	plot()	16
	3.2	Labels	16
	3.3	legend()	17
	3.4	axis()	17
	3.5	grid/grid minor	18
	3.6	Options for lines	18
	3.7	Options for symbols	19
	3.8	Options for colors	19
	3.9	Arguments	20
	3.10	Several plots, one window	20
	3.11	Another types of plots available	21
4	THE	REE-DIMENSIONAL PLOTS	22
	4.1	plot3()	22
	4.2	meshgrid()	22
	4.3	Another types of plots available	23
5	SCR	IPTS AND FUNCTIONS	25
	5.1	Scripts	25
	5.2	Comments	25
	5.3	Block of comments	25
	5.4	Functions	26
6	FLO	W CONTROL	28
	6.1	Operators	28
	6.2	Comparison operators	28
	6.3	Boolean operators	29

REFERENCES			
6.6	Repetition structures	30	
6.5	Conditional structures	29	
6.4	Control structures	29	

#### INTRODUCTION

In this introduction to the Matlab programming language, you will see some mathematical functions, variables, plots of two and three dimensions, scripts, functions and flow control expressions. The course will be based on MATLAB and GNU Octave softwares. At the end of this course, you will know how to use the language to solve basic scientific problems and you will be able of searching answers to more elaborate questions.

MATLAB is a programming language and an interactive environment aimed to numerical calculus. It contains algorithms for matrix calculations, numerical analysis, data visualization, signal and image processing, computational finance, among several others.

GNU Octave is a high level language similar to Matlab, distributed under the GNU GPL license. It is capable of numerically solve linear and non-linear problems and have tools to visualization and manipulation of data.

The source codes of the examples presented on the course are available on GitHub. Happy coding!

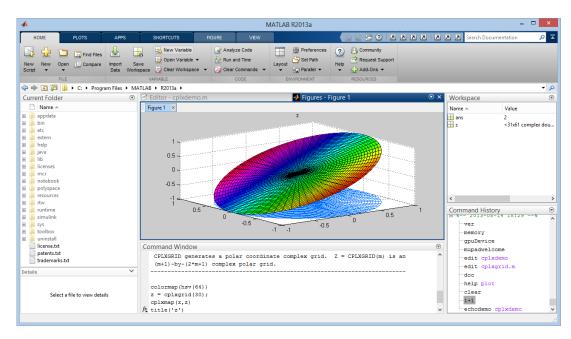
## **BASIC COMMANDS**

In this chapter we will see:

- MATLAB and GNU Octave interfaces;
- Ways to receive and show data, and how to ask help;
- Basic mathematical functions.

## 1.1 MATLAB and GNU Octave interfaces

## 1.1.1 MATLAB graphical interface



**Figure 1** – MathWorks MATLAB interface (https://goo.gl/H2HBhg).

#### 1.1.2 GNU Octave: graphical and text mode interfaces

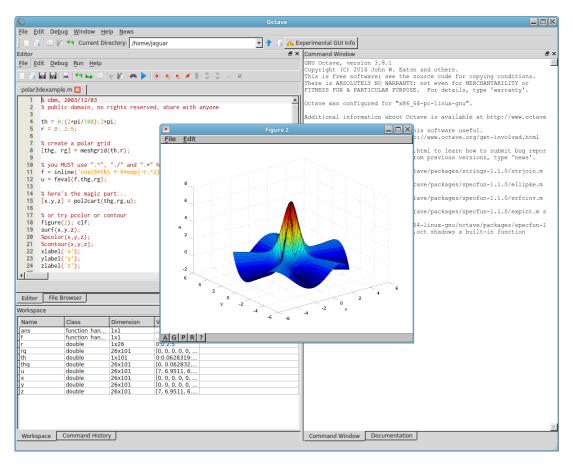


Figure 2 – GNU Octave graphical interface. The source code of the plot is available at http://goo.gl/W7liGB.

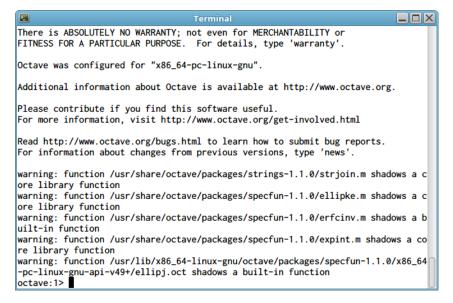


Figure 3 – GNU Octave running on text mode.

## 1.2 The prompt

Appears on Command Window. It is presented by two "higher than" symbols:

>>

# 1.3 disp()

Shows info on the screen.

#### Exemplo:

```
>> disp('Hey Freiberg! Here we are!');
```

# 1.4 input()

Gets information from the user.

**Example 1:** receiving characters.

```
>> your_name = input('Tell me your name, please: ', 's');
```

**Example 2:** receiving numbers.

```
>> your age = input('Now, tell me your age: ');
```

\* A semicolon omits the presentation of results.

## 1.5 help

Provides information about a command.

```
>> help disp;
>> help input;
```

## 1.6 Basic operators

• Root extraction (square root): sqrt()

#### **Examples:**

```
>> 2+4-10
>> 3*9
>> 100/(4*3)
>> sqrt(100)
>> 6^(4-2)
```

## 1.7 factorial()

Factorial of a natural number.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> factorial(4)
>> factorial(3)*9
>> 100/factorial(4*3)
```

## 1.8 abs()

Absolute value of a number.

```
>> abs(37)
>> abs(-37)
```

<sup>\*</sup> Use nthroot() for higher roots.

<sup>&</sup>gt;> nthroot(64,3)

<sup>\*</sup> Use parentheses to change the order of operations.

# 1.9 Trigonometric functions

	Radians	Degrees
• Sine:	sin()	sind()
• Cosine:	cos()	cosd()
• Tangent:	tan()	tand()
• Secant:	sec()	secd()
• Cosecant:	csc()	cscd()
• Cotangent:	cot()	cotd()

<sup>\*</sup> Pi is given by pi.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> sin(pi/6)+cos(0)
```

- >> sind(90)+cosd(0)
- >> sec(pi/4)\*cot(pi/4)
- >> secd(45)\*cotd(90)
- >> tan(csc(2\*pi/3))
- >> tand(csc(120))

# 1.10 Inverse trigonometric functions

	Radians	Degrees
• Arcsine:	asin()	asind()
• Arccosine:	acos()	acosd()
• Arctangent:	atan()	atand()
• Arcsecant:	asec()	asecd()
• Arccosecant:	acsc()	acscd()
• Arccotangent:	acot()	acotd()

- $\gg$  asin(1/2)
- >> asind(1/2)
- >> sec(45)\*cot(90)
- >> secd(45)\*cotd(90)
- >> tan(csc(120))
- >> tand(csc(120))

## 1.11 Hyperbolic trigonometric functions

Hyperbolic sine: sinh()
 Hyperbolic cosine: cosh()
 Hyperbolic tangent: tanh()
 Hyperbolic secant: sech()
 Hyperbolic cosecant: csch()
 Hyperbolic cotangent: coth()

#### **Examples:**

```
>> sinh(pi/6)+cosh(pi/6)
>> tanh(2*pi)/csch(3*pi/2)
>> sech(coth(pi/4))
```

## 1.12 Inverse hyperbolic trigonometric functions

Hyperbolic arcsine: asinh()
 Hyperbolic arccosine: acosh()
 Hyperbolic arctangent: atanh()
 Hyperbolic arcsecant: asech()
 Hyperbolic arccosecant: acosh()
 Hyperbolic arccotangent: acoth()

#### **Examples:**

```
>> asinh(pi^3)
>> asech(pi/10)
>> acsch(pi/4)
```

## 1.13 Exponential and logarithm

Exponential: exp()
 Natural logarithm: log()
 Base 2 logarithm: log2()
 Base 10 logarithm: log10()

```
>> exp(10)
>> log(e)
>> log2(64)
>> log10(1000)
```

# 1.14 Complex numbers

Real part: real()
Imaginary part: imag()
Conjugate: conj()
Angle: angle()

\* The imaginary unit is given by i or j.

```
>> real(3+4i)
>> imag(3+4j)
>> conj(3+4i)
>> angle(3+4j)
```

## **MATRICES AND VECTORS**

In this chapter we will see:

- How to create vectors and matrices;
- Special matrices;
- Advanced operations and functions.

## 2.1 Vectors

Use brackets to create vectors.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> vector_1 = [1 2 3];
>> vector_2 = [sin(pi) cos(pi) 0];
>> vector_3 = [2^3, 6i, e^pi];
```

## \* Commas are optional.

Use parentheses to refer to an element of the vector.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> vector_1(1)
>> vector_2(3)
>> vector_3(end)
```

\* end points to the last element of the vector.

## 2.2 Vectors by increment

Use start point: step: end. If omitted, step receives 1.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> vector_inc1 = [1:10];
>> vector_inc2 = [-pi:0.1:pi];
>> vector_inc3 = 10:-0.1:1;
>> vector_inc4 = e^-pi:0.1:e^pi;
```

\* Brackets are optional.

## 2.3 linspace()

Linearly spaced vector. Arguments: start point, final point, quantity of points.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> vector_lin1 = linspace(0,50,100);
>> vector_lin2 = linspace(-25,25,90);
>> vector lin3 = linspace(-10,10,40);
```

\* To verify the larger length, use length(); the number of elements is given by numel().

## 2.4 logspace()

Logarithmically spaced vector. Arguments: start point, final point, quantity of points.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> vector_log1 = logspace(0,50,100);
>> vector_log2 = logspace(0,15,10);
>> vector_log3 = logspace(pi,10,40);
```

\* The arguments are received as 10  $^{\circ}$ arg, except when *final point* is equal to pi.

## 2.5 transpose()

Transposition of a vector.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> vector_1 = [1 2 3];
>> transpose(vetor_1)
>> vector_2 = [sin(pi) cos(pi) 0];
>> transpose(vetor_2)
>> vector_3 = [2^3, 6i, e^pi];
>> vector_3'
```

\* For real numbers, use also the "single quote".

## 2.6 Matrizes

Use brackets to create matrices. To define new lines, use the semicolon.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> matrix_1 = [1 2 3; 4 5 6];
>> matrix_2 = [sin(pi) 0 0; 0 cos(pi) 0; 0 0 tan(pi)];
>> matrix_3 = [2^3 sin(pi/3); 6i exp(10); e^pi tanh(10)];
```

\* To verify the size of rows and columns of a matrix, use size().

To refer to an element on a matrix, use parentheses and commas.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> matrix_1(1,2)
>> matrix_2(:,end)
>> matrix_3(2,:)
>> matrix_3(:,:)
```

\* Use colons to refer to an entire row or column.

# 2.7 zeros()

Matrix of zeroes.

```
>> mat_zero1 = zeros(2)
>> mat_zero2 = zeros(3)
>> mat_zero3 = zeros([3 2])
>> mat_zero4 = zeros(4,3)
```

\* Brackets are optional. If they are not used, it is mandatory to use the commas.

## 2.8 ones()

Matrix of ones.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> mat_one1 = ones(2)
>> mat_one2 = ones(3)
>> mat_one3 = ones([3 2])
>> mat_one4 = ones(4,3)
```

## 2.9 eye()

Identity matrix.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> mat_id1 = eye(2)

>> mat_id2 = eye(3)

>> mat_id3 = eye([3 2])

>> mat_id4 = eye(4,3)
```

## 2.10 diag()

Diagonal matrix, defined by an argument vector.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> mat_diag1 = diag([1 2 3])
>> mat_diag2 = diag(4,3)
>> mat_diag3 = diag([1 1],2)
>> mat_diag4 = diag([3 2 3],-1)
```

\* The argument in front of the vector indicates how many rows will be inserted *before* (negative number) or *after* (positive number) the diagonal.

## 2.11 rand()

Matrix with random numbers between zero and 1.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> mat_ran1 = rand(1,10)

>> mat_ran2 = rand(4,3)

>> mat_ran3 = rand('seed',1)

>> mat_ran4 = rand(3,2)
```

\* The argument 'seed',1 ensures that the same numbers can be generated again.

## 2.12 Operations

We will consider an element as a number, vector, or matrix. Valid operations, except for mathematical rules:

\* Power between elements does not accept vector/matrix \( \tau \) vector/matrix! **Example 1:** addition and subtraction.

```
>> vec_A = [2*pi -factorial(3) e];
>> vec_B = [factorial(4) pi/2 cos(pi)];
>> vec_A+vec_B
>> vec_A-vec_B
```

#### **Example 2:** multiplication.

```
>> mat_C = [sin(pi/6) cos(pi/6); cos(pi/6) sin(pi/6)];
>> mat_D = [sin(pi/3) cos(pi/3); cos(pi/3) sin(pi/3)];
>> 3.*mat_C
>> mat_C.*mat_D
>> mat_C*mat_D
>> vec_lin = [sin(pi/3) cos(pi/3) 0];
```

```
>> vec_col = [sin(pi/6); cos(pi/6); 0];
>> 10.*vec_col
>> vec_lin*vec_col
>> vec_col*vec_lin
  Example 3: division.
>> vec_E = [linspace(-1, -0.5, 3); linspace(-0.5, 0, 3); linspace(0, 0.5, 3)];
>> vec_E./0.1
>> 0.1./vec_E
>> mat_F = [1 2 3; 4 5 6; 7 8 9];
>> mat_F'/mat_F
  Example 4: power.
>> vec_G = [exp(3); factorial(3); sin(pi/6)]
>> vec_G.^3
>> 2.~vec_G
>> mat_H = [1 3; 5 7];
>> mat H^2
>> e^mat_H
```

## 2.13 Advanced functions

Related to Linear Algebra.

• Trace:	trace()
• Determinant:	<pre>det()</pre>
• Inverse matrix:	<pre>inv()</pre>
• Eigenvalues and eigenvectors:	eig()
• Solving linear systems:	$X = A \setminus B$ , for $A * X = B$ .

#### **Example 1:** trace.

```
>> trace(mat_C)
>> trace(mat_H')
```

#### **Example 2:** determinant.

```
>> det(mat_D)
>> det(mat_F)
```

```
%% vander(): Vandermonde matrix.
%% More in:
% http://mathworld.wolfram.com/VandermondeMatrix.html
% http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/vander.html
>> ent = 1:5;
>> mat_I = vander(ent);
>> det(mat_I)
```

#### **Example 3:** inverse matrix.

```
>> inv(mat_C)
>> inv(mat_D)
>> mat_J = [1 0 -3; 2 5 0; -2 8 -6];
>> inv(mat_J)
```

#### **Example 4:** eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

```
>> [avet, aval] = eig(mat_C)
>> aval = eig(mat_D)
>> [avet, aval] = eig(mat_I)
```

#### **Example 5:** linear systems.

```
>> A = [1 0; -2 3];
>> b = [3 -1]'
>> x = A\b
>> A*x
>> k = [-1 0 5]';
>> x2 = mat J\k
```

## TWO-DIMENSIONAL PLOTS

In this chapter we will see:

- Simple plots and customization options;
- Types of two-dimensional plots;
- How to plot several graphs in one window.

# 3.1 plot()

The swiss army knife for two-dimensional plots.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> x = linspace(-pi,pi,250);
>> plot(x,-x.^2)
>> plot(x,exp(x).*sec(x))
```

## 3.2 Labels

Title: title()X axis: xlabel()Y axis: ylabel()

```
>> x = -2:0.1:2;
>> plot(x,x.^2)
```

```
>> title('2D plot.')
>> xlabel('x')
>> ylabel('x^2')
```

# 3.3 legend()

Legends. Their location is given by the argument 'location':

Above:

\* Right: 'northeast'

\* Center: 'north'

\* Left: 'northwest'

• Center:

\* Right: 'east'

\* Left: 'west'

Below:

\* Right: 'southeast'

\* Center: 'south'

\* Left: 'southwest'

#### **Examples:**

```
>> x = -2:0.1:2;
>> plot(x,x.^2)
>> legend('x^2','location','northeast')
>> legend('boxoff')
>> figure;
>> plot(x,x.^3)
>> legend('x^3','location','southwest')
```

\* legend('boxoff') removes the legend box, while legend('boxon') restores it; figure opens a new Figure window.

The text position related to the legend can be changed using legend('left') and legend('right').

## 3.4 axis()

Sets the area where the plot is presented.

```
>> x = linspace(-5,5,250);
>> plot(x,1./x)
>> axis([-2 2 -2 2])
```

\* There is also axis('off'), which removes the plot axes. To reactivate the axes, use axis('on').

# 3.5 grid/grid minor

Inserts major and minor grids. Remove them with grid off).

#### Example:

```
>> x = linspace(-5,5,250);
>> plot(x,1./x)
>> grid on
>> grid minor on
>> grid off
```

# 3.6 Options for lines

Solid: '-'
 Dots: ':'
 Dashes: '--'
 Dashes and dots: '--'

```
>> x = -2:0.1:2;

>> plot(x,-x.^2,'--')

>> plot(x,sec(x),'-.')

>> plot(x,1./x,':')
```

#### Options for symbols 3.7

• Ball: , , ,

• Cross: 'x'

• Star: ,\*,

• Hexagram: 'n,

• Diamond: 'd'

• More: , + ,

• Pentagram: 'n,

• Dot: · . ·

• Square: 's'

• Triangle pointing:

\* Down: v,

\* Up: , <sub>\(\)</sub> ,

\* Right: '>'

\* Left: ,<,

#### **Examples:**

```
>> x = -5:0.1:5;
```

>> plot(x,-1./x,'d')

>> plot(x,-x.^2,'\*')

>> plot(x,sec(x),'o')

#### Options for colors 3.8

• Blue: 'n,

• Yellow: 'y'

• White: 'w'

• Cyan: ,c,

• Magenta: 'n,

• Green:

g'

• Red: 'n,

#### Example:

```
>> x = -5:0.1:5;
```

>> plot(x,-1./x,'y')

>> plot(x,-x.^2,'c')

>> plot(x,sec(x),'r')

\* You can use options for lines/symbols and colors together: '\*r', '-.g'.

## 3.9 Arguments

The corresponding value is separated from the argument by a comma.

Line width: 'linewidth'Symbol color: 'markerfacecolor'

• Symbol size: 'markersize'

#### **Example:**

```
>> x = -5:0.1:5;
>> plot(x,-1./x,'linewidth',3)
>> plot(x,-x.^2,'*','markerfacecolor','r')
>> plot(x,sec(x),'d','markersize',3)
```

## 3.10 Several plots, one window

```
• Same area:
```

```
* plot(): plot(x1,y1,'arg1',x2,y2,'arg2',...)
```

\* hold: hold on / hold off

• Different areas:

\* subplot(): subplot(lin,col,pos)

#### **Example 1:** using plot().

```
>> x = -5:0.05:5;
>> plot(x,-1./x,x,-x.^2,x,exp(x),x,sec(x))
```

#### **Example 2:** using hold.

```
>> x = -5:0.05:5;
>> hold on;
>> plot(x,-1./x)
>> plot(x,-x.^2)
>> plot(x,exp(x))
>> plot(x,sec(x))
>> hold off;
```

\* Use hold all instead of hold on; then, the arguments of the previous plot will be different from the next plot.

#### **Example 3:** using subplot().

```
>> x = -5:0.05:5;
>> subplot(221)
>> plot(x,-1./x)
>> subplot(222)
>> plot(x,-x.^2)
>> subplot(223)
>> plot(x,exp(x))
>> subplot(224)
>> plot(x,sec(x))
```

## 3.11 Another types of plots available

• Bars:	bar()
• Dispersion:	scatter()
• Stairs:	stairs()
<ul><li>Histogram:</li></ul>	hist()
• Discrete points:	stem()
• Pie:	pie()

#### **Examples:**

\* Each type of graphic have several specific options. For more information, check http://goo.gl/TRzJmK and http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/2-and-3d-plots.html.

## THREE-DIMENSIONAL PLOTS

In this chapter we will see:

- Types of three-dimensional plots.
- How to use vectors to obtain meshs.
- \* All customizations seen on chapter 3 are suitable with 3D plots. Besides, a new label is available for the Z axis: zlabel().

# 4.1 plot3()

The swiss army knife for three-dimensional plots.

#### **Examples:**

```
>> x = -2*pi:0.1:2*pi;
>> plot3(x,sin(exp(x)))
>> plot3(x,sin(x).^2,cos(x),x,cos(x).^2,sin(x));
>> figure;
>> y = 1:0.1:e;
>> plot3(y,y.^2,exp(y),y,y.^3,log(y));
```

# 4.2 meshgrid()

Returns a two-dimensional matrix (grid or mesh), created by copying a vector several times.

```
>> x1 = [1 2 3 4 5];
>> meshgrid(x1)
>> y1 = [5 4 3 2 1];
>> [xx1, yy1] = meshgrid(x1,y1)
>> x2 = y2 = 0:0.1:pi;
>> [xx2, yy2] = meshgrid(x2,y2)
```

## 4.3 Another types of plots available

```
Contours: contour()
Filled contours: contourf()
Dispersion: scatter3()
Mesh: mesh()
Mesh with contours on X & Y plane: meshc()
Surface: surf()
Surface with contours on X & Y plane: surfc()
```

#### **Example 1:** contour and filled contour.

```
>> linx1 = 0:0.1:10;
>> contour(linx1'*linx1)
>> contourf(linx1'*linx1)
>> liny1 = -10:0.1:10;
>> contour(linx1'*-liny1)
>> contourf(linx1'*-liny1)
```

#### **Example 2:** dispersion.

```
>> randx1 = rand(1,100);
>> randy1 = rand(1,100);
>> randz1 = randx1+randy1;
>> scatter3(randx1,randy1,randz1,'filled')
>> randz2 = rand(1,numel(linx1));
>> scatter3(linx1,liny1,randz2)
```

#### **Example 3:** mesh and mesh with contours.

```
>> linx2 = liny2 = -pi:0.1:pi;
>> [xx, yy] = meshgrid(linx2,liny2);
>> mesh(xx,yy,xx.^2+yy.^2)
```

```
>> meshc(xx,yy,xx.^2+yy.^2)
>> contourf(xx,yy,xx.^2+yy.^2)
>> figure;
>> mesh(xx,yy,sin(xx)+cos(yy))
>> meshc(xx,yy,sin(xx)+cos(yy))
>> contourf(xx,yy,sin(xx)+cos(yy))
```

#### **Example 4:** surface and surface with contours.

```
>> surf(xx,yy,xx.^2+yy.^2)
>> surfc(xx,yy,xx.^2+yy.^2)
>> figure;
>> surf(xx,yy,sin(xx)+cos(yy))
>> surfc(xx,yy,sin(xx)+cos(yy))
```

\* Each type of plot have several specific options. For more information, check http://goo.gl/Uc82oi and http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/2-and-3d-plots.html.

## **SCRIPTS AND FUNCTIONS**

In this chapter we will see:

- How to create scripts and functions.
- How to comment code.

# 5.1 Scripts

A file with the '.m' extension which contains code.

## 5.2 Comments

Code or text line not executed, indicated by %.

#### **Example:**

```
\% this line is not executed by the interpreter. \% nor this.
```

## 5.3 Block of comments

Several lines of text or code not executed, started by %{ and finished by %}.

```
%{
   all these lines will not be executed:
   - not this.
```

```
- not this too.
- nor this.
- not even this.
%}
```

## 5.4 Functions

A piece of code which receives and returns variables.

Basic form:

```
function [out1,out2,out3,...] = nome_func(in1,in2,in3,...)
    command_block;
end
```

**Example 1:** função quadraticdelta().

\* Variables created inside the function are *local*, and they are known only at the body of the function!

```
Example 2: function cubicdelta().
```

-4\*vala\*valc^3-27\*vala^2\*vald^2;

end

\* Ellipses indicates that the command continues on the next line.

Example 3: função infocone().

## **FLOW CONTROL**

In this chapter we will see:

- Boolean and relational operators.
- Flow control: conditional and repetition structures.

# 6.1 Operators

Operators indicate a relationship between elements. They return 1 when true, and zero when false.

# 6.2 Comparison operators

• Equal: ==

• Different: =

• Less than: <

• Less or equal: <=

• Greater than: >

• Greater or equal: >=

#### **Examples:**

$$>>$$
 a = 2^2

$$>> b = 3^2$$

>> a < 4

```
>> sqrt(9) <= b
>> a > 10.^b
>> factorial(a) >= b
```

# 6.3 Boolean operators

• AND: &&
• OR: ||
• EXCLUSIVE OR: xor()
• NOT: ~

#### **Examples:**

```
>> a = 2^2; b = 3^2;

>> (a+5 == b) && (~a != b)

>> xor(a.^2 == b.^2, 3 > 2)

>> ~(~a || ~b)
```

# 6.4 Control structures

Coordinates the program execution.

## 6.5 Conditional structures

• if:

```
if(condition)
    commands1;
elseif
    commands2;
else
    commands3;
```

#### • switch:

```
switch(condition)
    case (case1)
    commands1;
```

```
case (case2)
        commands2;
    case (case3)
        commands3;
    (...)
    otherwise
        commandsn;
end
      Example 1: if.
lower = 21;
higher = 80;
age = input('Type your age: ');
if age < lower</pre>
    disp('Do not drink kid!');
elseif age > higher
    disp('Do not drive sir!');
else
    disp('You can do everything dude! Except for drive and drink!')
end
      Example 2: switch.
idade = input('Type your age: ');
switch idade
    case num2cell([0:17])
        disp('Do not drink kid!');
    case num2cell([70:100])
        disp('Do not drive sir!');
    otherwise
        disp('You can do everything dude! Except for drive and drink!')
end
      Repetition structures
6.6
      • for:
for (var = interval)
    commands;
end
```

#### • while:

end

```
while (condition)
    commands;
end

    Example 1: for.

fibo = ones(1, 20);
for term = 3:numel(ones)
    fibo(term) = fibo(term-1) + fibo(term-2);
end

    Example 2: while.

term = 100;
total = 0;
iter = 1;
while (iter != term)
    total = total + (1/(iter.^2)) % equivalent to (pi^2)/6
    iter++
```

#### **REFERENCES**

Keep learning my friend.

• MATLAB documentation:

http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/index.html

• MATLAB extension packages:

http://www.mathworks.com/help/

• GNU Octave documentation:

http://www.gnu.org/software/octave/doc/interpreter/

• GNU Octave extension packages:

http://octave.sourceforge.net/

• Questions about MATLAB and Octave on StackOverflow:

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/matlab

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/octave

# About the author

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