

MATLAB basics for Computational Physics Course CS-201

Practice all the following commands and other important tasks discussed during the lectures 2 and 3.

1. LAB207: OS-Scientific Linux; Open the Command prompt of matlab.
2. Use it as calculator: 1+2; **sin(60)**; pi etc. Matlab's trigonometric functions are permanently set to radians mode.
3. Type "ans" to see the result.
4. Use scientific syntax for large numbers: e.g.: 1.11e15; 1.2e-2
5. The up-arrow key will display previous commands.
6. 2 important variables: matrix and strings.
7. a=25 [creates the variable a and assigns the value 25 to it]
8. try a=a+1
9. type a; see the result.
10. String variable: s='This is me'
11. Numbers in MATLAB are double precision. (15 digits of accuracy)
12. Try → **format long e**
13. Type a and see
14. Try the following:

format short % the default format
format long
format long e
format short e

15. To erase all the variables in the workspace, type **clear**.
16. One variable → clear a
17. The "Mat" in Matlab stands for matrix, and it treats all numeric variables as matrices.
18. For instance, Matlab thinks the number 2 is a 1x1 matrix:
N=2
size(N)
look at output
19. 1x4 row matrix using commas and braces
20. a=[1,2,3,4]
size(a)

21. 4x1 column matrix with semicolons and braces

22. `b=[1;2;3;4]`

`size(b)`

23. Store a 3x3 matrix;

`A=[1,2,3;4,5,6;7,8,9]`

`size(A)`

24. To access individual matrix elements;

`A(row,column)`

`A(3,3)`

25. Use of Colon(:) command → important to remember

To build large, evenly spaced arrays using the colon (:) command.

To build an array `x` of values starting at `x=0`, ending at `x=10`, and having a step size of

`dx= 0.5` type this:

`x=0:.5:10`

And if you leave the middle number out of this colon construction, like **this `t=0:20`** then Matlab assumes a step size of 1.

26. Selecting specific columns from a particular row.

`c=A(2,1:2)`

27. `b=A(1:end,3)`

28. very common to select all the row of a particular column

`b=A(:,3)`

29. `s='This is a string'`

`s(1:7)`

Matrix addition, multiplication, division very easy

30. `a=[0:10]; b=[0:2:20]; a+b`

31. `A=[1,2,3;4,5,6;7,8,9]`

`B=[3,2,1;6,4,5;8,7,9]`

`A+B`

`A-B`

32. `C=[1,2;2,3]`

`B=[1,2;2,3]`

`C*B`

what if C.*B

C^2 ; C^n

33. Divide individual elements from a matrix (treat it as scalars)

$a(1,2)/b(2,2)$

34. Complex Arithmetic

35. The variable “i” is the usual imaginary number. $I=(-1)^{1/2}$; so do not assign value to it

36. $a=1+2i$

$b=2-3i$

now try $a+b$ and other operations

37. `real(a+b)`; `imag(a+b)`

38. `exp(i*pi/4)` ; Eulers formula `exp(ix)`

39. [Matlab functions](#) → look it by yourself

40. [Length](#), [size](#), [floor](#), [trig functions](#)

41. **“clc” and “clear” difference**

Scripts or m-files

1. Containing sequences of Matlab commands to be executed over and over again.
2. When you run a script, the commands in the file are executed from top to bottom just as if you had typed them on the command screen. Before you can execute a script, you need to point Matlab's current folder to the place where your script is saved.
3. execute your script by typing the name of your file without the .m extension in the command window. For “test.m” only test
4. script name should not start with number
5. You should nearly always begin your scripts with the following two commands:
`clear;`
`close all;`

6. The close all command closes any figure windows that are open.

7. Any line in a script that ends with a semicolon will execute without printing to the screen. For example, add these two lines of code to your test script
`a=sin(5); b=cos(5)`. May result in slow execution.

8. To have a script request and assign a value to the variable N from the keyboard, put the command

`N=input(' Enter a value for N - ')`

in your script and run it again. Note that Matlab is asking for input in the Command Window. If you enter a single number, like 2.7, then N will be a scalar variable. If you enter an array, like this: [1,2,3,4,5], then N will be an array. If you enter a matrix, like this:

[1,2,3;4,5,6;7,8,9], then N will be a 3x3 matrix.

And if you don't want the variable you have entered to echo on the screen, end the input command line with a semicolon.

9. For Output

`fprintf(' N =%g \n',500)`

Add Comments

Document your scripts by including comment lines that begin with %, like this:

1. `% This is a comment line`

Wrap Long Lines

2. Make your code more readable by continuing long program lines onto successive

3. lines by using the ... syntax, like this

4. `a=sin(x)*exp(-y) + sqrt(b^2-4*a*c)/2/a + c1*d3 +...`
`log(z) + sqrt(b);`

Entering a Matrix

When matrices become large the comma and semicolon way of entering them is awkward. A more visual way to type large matrices in a script is to use spaces in place of the commas and to press the Enter key at the end of each row in place of the semicolons, like this:

```
A = [ 1 2 3 4
      5 6 7 8
      9 10 11 12
     13 14 15 16]
```

Breakpoints and Stepping for debugging

It is very helpful in this debugging process to watch what the script does as it runs, and to help you do this Matlab comes with two important features: breakpoints and stepping. Try and practice this.

Pause:

A pause command in a script causes execution to stop temporarily. To continue just hit Enter.

You can also give pause a time argument like this

```
pause(.2)
```

which will cause the script to pause for 0.2 seconds, then continue.

Write some arbitrary snippet to understand the following:

Loops and Logic

```
for n=1:N  
% Put code here  
End
```

Logic command

```
if a>0  
c=1 % If a is positive set c to 1  
else  
c=0 %if a is 0 or negative, set c to zero  
end
```

While loop

```
while term > 1e-10 % loop until term drops below 1e-10  
n=n+1; % add 1 to n so that it will count: 2,3,4,5,...  
term=1/n^2; % calculate the next term to add  
s=s+term; % add 1/n^2 to s until the condition is met  
end % end of the loop
```

Plotting (only basic is given here; Explore more by yourself)

Linear plots; x vs y

We need arrays and plot command

To build an array x of x -values starting at $x \in 0$, ending at $x \in 10$, and having a step size of

.01 type this:

```
x=0:.01:10;
```

```
y=sin(5*x);
```

```
length(x)
```

```
length(y)
```

```
plot(x,y);
```

Controlling the Axes

Matlab chooses the axes to fit the functions that you are plotting. You can override this choice by specifying your own axes, like this:

```
axis([0 10 -1.3 1.3])
```

Or, if you want to specify just the x -range or the y -range, you can use xlim:

```
plot(x,y)
```

```
xlim([0 10])
```

Logarithmic Plots (assignment)

Plot appearance; line color; labeling

```
xlabel('Distance (m)')
```

3-D Line Plots

Matlab will draw three-dimensional curves in space with the plot3 command.

Do a spiral on the surface of a sphere; spherical to rectangular coordinates as shown in the class.

Multiplot

You may want to put one graph in figure window 1, a second plot in figure window 2, etc for better analysis. To do so, put the Matlab command figure before each plot command, like this

```
x=0:.01:20;  
f1=sin(x);  
f2=cos(x)./(1+x.^2);  
figure  
plot(x,f1)  
figure  
plot(x,f2)
```

Subplots

put multiple plots in the same figure, but on separate axes.
The command to produce plots like this is subplot, and the syntax is

subplot(rows,columns,plot number)

```
subplot(2,1,1)  
plot(x,f1)  
subplot(2,1,2)  
plot(x,f2)
```

zoom

what is default viewpoints

Practice the following assignment as discussed during the lectures.

1. Calculation of first derivative and the second derivate of a function using numerical approximation and comparison with known results.

Important to understand the effect of initial conditions, and other numerical parameters on the above problem.