

1.5 ELEMENTARY MATH BUILT-IN FUNCTIONS

In addition to basic arithmetic operations, expressions in MATLAB can include functions. MATLAB has a very large library of built-in functions. A function has a name and an argument in parentheses. For example, the function that calculates the square root of a number is `sqrt(x)`. Its name is `sqrt`, and the argument is `x`. When the function is used, the argument can be a number, a variable that has been assigned a numerical value (explained in Section 1.6), or a computable expression that can be made up of numbers and/or variables. Functions can also be included in arguments, as well as in expressions. Tutorial 1-2 shows examples of using the function `sqrt(x)` when MATLAB is used as a calculator with scalars.

Tutorial 1-2: Using the `sqrt` built-in function.

```
>> sqrt(64)
ans =
    8
>> sqrt(50+14*3)
ans =
    9.5917
>> sqrt(54+9*sqrt(100))
ans =
    12
>> (15+600/4)/sqrt(121)
ans =
    15
>>
```

Argument is a number.

Argument is an expression.

Argument includes a function.

Function is included in an expression.

Some commonly used elementary MATLAB mathematical built-in functions are given in Tables 1-3 through 1-5. A complete list of functions organized by category can be found in the Help Window.

Table 1-3: Elementary math functions

Function	Description	Example
<code>sqrt(x)</code>	Square root.	<pre>>> sqrt(81) ans = 9</pre>
<code>nthroot(x,n)</code>	Real n th root of a real number x . (If x is negative n must be an odd integer.)	<pre>>> nthroot(80,5) ans = 2.4022</pre>
<code>exp(x)</code>	Exponential (e^x).	<pre>>> exp(5) ans = 148.4132</pre>

Table 1-3: Elementary math functions (Continued)

Function	Description	Example
<code>abs(x)</code>	Absolute value.	<pre>>> abs(-24) ans = 24</pre>
<code>log(x)</code>	Natural logarithm. Base e logarithm (\ln).	<pre>>> log(1000) ans = 6.9078</pre>
<code>log10(x)</code>	Base 10 logarithm.	<pre>>> log10(1000) ans = 3.0000</pre>
<code>factorial(x)</code>	The factorial function $x!$ (x must be a positive integer.)	<pre>>> factorial(5) ans = 120</pre>

Table 1-4: Trigonometric math functions

Function	Description	Example
<code>sin(x)</code> <code>sind(x)</code>	Sine of angle x (x in radians). Sine of angle x (x in degrees).	<pre>>> sin(pi/6) ans = 0.5000</pre>
<code>cos(x)</code> <code>cosd(x)</code>	Cosine of angle x (x in radians). Cosine of angle x (x in degrees).	<pre>>> cosd(30) ans = 0.8660</pre>
<code>tan(x)</code> <code>tand(x)</code>	Tangent of angle x (x in radians). Tangent of angle x (x in degrees).	<pre>>> tan(pi/6) ans = 0.5774</pre>
<code>cot(x)</code> <code>cotd(x)</code>	Cotangent of angle x (x in radians). Cotangent of angle x (x in degrees).	<pre>>> cotd(30) ans = 1.7321</pre>

The inverse trigonometric functions are `asin(x)`, `acos(x)`, `atan(x)`, `acot(x)` for the angle in radians; and `asind(x)`, `acosd(x)`, `atand(x)`, `acotd(x)` for the angle in degrees. The hyperbolic trigonometric functions are `sinh(x)`, `cosh(x)`, `tanh(x)`, and `coth(x)`. Table 1-4 uses `pi`, which is equal to π (see Section 1.6.3).

Table 1-5: Rounding functions

Function	Description	Example
<code>round(x)</code>	Round to the nearest integer.	<pre>>> round(17/5) ans = 3</pre>