

<u>Command</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
<code>clear x y z</code>	Removes only variables <code>x</code> , <code>y</code> , and <code>z</code> from the memory.
<code>who</code>	Displays a list of the variables currently in the memory.
<code>whos</code>	Displays a list of the variables currently in the memory and their sizes together with information about their bytes and class (see Section 4.1).

## 1.8 SCRIPT FILES

So far all the commands were typed in the Command Window and were executed when the **Enter** key was pressed. Although every MATLAB command can be executed in this way, using the Command Window to execute a series of commands—especially if they are related to each other (a program)—is not convenient and may be difficult or even impossible. The commands in the Command Window cannot be saved and executed again. In addition, the Command Window is not interactive. This means that every time the **Enter** key is pressed only the last command is executed, and everything executed before is unchanged. If a change or a correction is needed in a command that was previously executed and the result of this command is used in commands that follow, all the commands have to be entered and executed again.

A different (better) way of executing commands with MATLAB is first to create a file with a list of commands (program), save it, and then run (execute) the file. When the file runs, the commands it contains are executed in the order that they are listed. If needed, the commands in the file can be corrected or changed and the file can be saved and run again. Files that are used for this purpose are called script files.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This section covers only the minimum required in order to run simple programs. This will allow the student to use script files when practicing the material that is presented in this and the next two chapters (instead of typing repeatedly in the Command Window). Script files are considered again in Chapter 4, where many additional topics that are essential for understanding MATLAB and writing programs in script file are covered.

### 1.8.1 Notes About Script Files

- A script file is a sequence of MATLAB commands, also called a program.
- When a script file runs (is executed), MATLAB executes the commands in the order they are written, just as if they were typed in the Command Window.
- When a script file has a command that generates an output (e.g., assignment of a