

MATLAB®

Quick Reference

Axis Control	
axes	Create axes in arbitrary positions
axis	Control axis scaling and appearance
box	Display axis border
grid	Control grid lines
hold	Hold current graph
rotate3d	Interactively rotate view of 3-D plot
subplot	Create axes in tiled positions
view	Set three-dimensional graph viewpoint specifications
zoom	Zoom in and out on 2-D plot

Lighting	
diffuse	Reflectance for a surface
lighting	Lighting mode
material	Material reflectance mode
specular	Specular reflectance
surf	Three-dimensional shaded surface with lighting
surfnorm	Surface normals

Type helpbrowser to find more information on available Handle Graphics® properties.

File Input/Output	
dlmread	Read/write ASCII delimited file
dlmwrite	
fopen	Open generic text or binary file
fprintf	Write to generic text file
fread	Read generic binary file
fscanf	Read generic text file
fwrite	Write to generic binary file
importdata	Load data from file
imread	Read/write image
imwrite	
load	Load MAT-file
save	Save variables to MAT-file
textread	Read formatted data from text file
uimport	Open Import Wizard to load data
wavread	Read/write Microsoft WAV-file
wavwrite	
xlread	Read/write spreadsheet file
xlwrite	
xlswread	Read data from Microsoft Excel file
fgc1	Read line from file, discard return

Programming	
eval	Evaluate string as MATLAB expression
function	Keyword to create function M-file, e.g., function[out1,out2]=myfile(in1,in2)
nargin	Number of input/output arguments to M-file
nargout	
pcode	Create pseudocode of M-file
profile viewer	Create profile report of your M-file's performance
varargin	Variable number of input/output arguments
varargout	
F10	Step through debugging

Sample Function M-File	
mystats.m	<pre>function [mean,size] = mystats(x) % Comments: This is the M-file help. % Type this test in an editor; save % as mystats.m. % Typing help mystats displays these % comments. % From the MATLAB command line, call % this function as % [mn,data_size] = mystats([1 2 3]) % Actual computations done below. if nargin == 1 mean = sum(x)/length(x) size = length(x) else error('Please enter input vector') end</pre>

Commonly Used Commands	
get	Obtain properties of a graphical object
set	Specify properties of a graphical object
propedit	Open the Property Editor for viewing and editing properties of graphical objects
demo	View listing of available demonstrations
guide	Open graphical user interface building tool
image	Display image
polyfit	Fit polynomial to data
sound	Play sound



In MATLAB, type doc functionname for more information on any of these functions, or type help for a complete list of available functions.

Operators and Special Characters	
+, -, *, /	Matrix math operators
./, ./	Array multiplication and division
^, ^	Matrix and array power
\	Left division or linear optimization
:	Create linearly spaced vectors (e.g., A=1:0.1:10, A(90:end))
()	Index into matrix (e.g., A(3,2) pulls the third row, second column of A), and enclosed function input arguments
[]	Create matrix (e.g., A = [1 2; 3 4], x=[1 2 3])
{ }	Create and index cell array
.	Decimal point, or in a variable, denotes a structure (e.g., user.Name = 'Paul')
...	Line continuation
,	Separate commands or elements in matrix
;	Denote new row in matrix definition, or at the end of command, suppress output (e.g., A=[1;3] or x=5;)
%	Comment
!	Call the operating system
'	Transpose, or quote for defining strings
.'	Nonconjugated transpose (for complex numbers)
=	Variable assignment
==	Equality
<,>,<=,>=	Relational operators
&,&,&~,xor	Logical AND, OR, NOT and XOR

Starting and Quitting MATLAB	
finish	MATLAB finish M-file
matlabrc	MATLAB startup M-file for system administrator or single-user system
quit	Terminate MATLAB
startup	MATLAB startup M-file for each user

Managing Commands and Functions	
addpath	Add/remove directories from MATLAB search path
rmpath	Clear the command line
clc	Show documentation for functions
doc	Open MATLAB Editor/Debugger
edit	Display help for MATLAB functions and M-files
help or helpwin	Find and display documentation
helpbrowser	Keyword search through M-file help
lookfor	Control MATLAB directory search path
path	List file
type	MATLAB version number
version	Directory of M-files, MAT-files, and MEX-files
what	Locate functions and files
which	

Managing Variables and the Workspace	
clear	Remove items from memory
disp	Display text or array
length	Length of vector
load	Retrieve variables from disk
pack	Consolidate workspace memory
save	Save workspace variables on disk
size	Array dimensions
who, whos	List directory of variables in memory

Elementary X-Y Graphs	
loglog	Log-log scale plot
plot	Linear plot
plotyy	Graphs with y tick labels on the left and right
polar	Polar coordinate plot
semilogx	Semi-log scale plot for x- and y-axes
semilogy	

LinSpec Arguments for plot	
Line Style	
-	Solid line (default)
- -	Dashed line
:	Dotted line
-.	Dash-dot line
Marker	
+	Plus sign
o	Circle
*	Asterisk
.	Point
x	Cross
s	Square
d	Diamond
^	Upward pointing triangle
v	Downward pointing triangle
>	Right pointing triangle
<	Left pointing triangle
p	Five-pointed star (pentagon)
h	Six-pointed star (hexagon)
Color	
r	Red
g	Green
b	Blue
c	Cyan
m	Magenta
y	Yellow
k	Black
w	White