

## LabVIEW Documentation and Help Resources

### Context Help

When you move the cursor over objects on the front panel or block diagram, the **Context Help** window displays basic information about each object. Select **Help»Show Context Help** to display the **Context Help** window.

### LabVIEW Help

Includes reference information for each palette, menu, tool, dialog box, and built-in VI or function. The *LabVIEW Help* also includes step-by-step instructions for using LabVIEW features. Select **Help»VI, Function, & How-To Help** to access the *LabVIEW Help*.

### LabVIEW Bookshelf

Contains links to all the LabVIEW documentation in electronic format. Use the [LabVIEW Bookshelf](#) to search PDF versions of all the LabVIEW manuals and Application Notes. Select **Help»Search the LabVIEW Bookshelf** to access the [LabVIEW Bookshelf](#).

## LabVIEW Examples

LabVIEW includes hundreds of example VIs you can use and incorporate into your own VIs. You can modify an example to fit your application, or you can copy and paste from one or more examples into your own VI. Browse or search the example VIs by selecting **Help»Find Examples**.

## LabVIEW Web Resources

Includes a list of links to online National Instruments resources. Select **Help»Web Resources** to access the LabVIEW resources at [ni.com](http://ni.com). Resources available to you include the following:

### Products and Services

- Upgrades
- Training courses
- Seminars and user groups

### Solutions

- Systems integrators
- Customer solutions

### Support

- LabVIEW support
- Manuals

### NI Developer Zone

- Discussion forums
- Example code

## Keyboard Shortcuts

Refer to the *LabVIEW Help* to access this list of keyboard shortcuts.

### Object/Movement

<b>Shift-click</b> <b>↑↓→← (arrow keys)</b> <b>Shift-↑↓→←</b> <b>Shift-click (drag)</b>	Selects multiple objects; adds object to current selection. Moves selected objects one pixel at a time. Moves selected objects several pixels at a time. Moves selected objects in one axis.
<b>Ctrl-click (drag)</b> <b>Ctrl-Shift-click (drag)</b>	Duplicates selected object. Duplicates selected object and moves it in one axis.
<b>Shift-resize</b> <b>Ctrl-resize</b>	Resizes selected object while maintaining aspect ratio. Resizes selected object while maintaining center point.
<b>Ctrl-drag a rectangle</b>	Inserts more working space on the front panel or block diagram.
<b>Ctrl-A</b> <b>Ctrl-D</b>	Performs last alignment operation on objects. Performs last distribution operation on objects.
<b>Double-click open space</b>	Places free label on the front panel or block diagram if automatic tool selection is enabled.
<b>Ctrl-mouse wheel</b>	Scrolls through subdiagrams of a Case, Event, and Stacked Sequence structure.

### Navigating the LabVIEW Environment

<b>Ctrl-E</b> <b>Ctrl-#</b>	Displays block diagram or front panel. Enables or disables alignment grid. On French keyboards, press the <Ctrl-#> keys.
<b>Ctrl-/</b> <b>Ctrl-T</b>	Maximizes and restores window. Tiles front panel and block diagram windows.
<b>Ctrl-F</b> <b>Ctrl-G</b>	Finds objects or text. Searches VIs for next instance of object or text.
<b>Ctrl-Shift-G</b>	Searches VIs for previous instance of object or text.
<b>Ctrl-Shift-F</b>	Displays <b>Search Results</b> window.
<b>Ctrl-Tab</b> <b>Ctrl-Shift-Tab</b>	Cycles through LabVIEW windows. Cycles backward through LabVIEW windows.
<b>Ctrl-I</b>	Displays <b>VI Properties</b> dialog box.
<b>Ctrl-L</b>	Displays <b>Error list</b> window.
<b>Ctrl-Y</b>	Displays <b>History</b> window.
<b>Ctrl-D</b> <b>Ctrl-A</b> <b>Enter *</b>	Redraws <b>Hierarchy</b> window. Shows all VIs in <b>Hierarchy</b> window. Finds next node that matches the search string.
<b>Shift-Enter *</b>	Finds previous node that matches the search string.

\* After initiating a search by typing in **Hierarchy** window

### Debugging

<b>Ctrl-↓</b>	Steps into node.
<b>Ctrl-→</b>	Steps over node.
<b>Ctrl-↑</b>	Steps out of node.

### File Operations

<b>Ctrl-N</b>	Creates new VI.
<b>Ctrl-O</b>	Opens existing VI.
<b>Ctrl-W</b>	Closes VI.
<b>Ctrl-S</b>	Saves VI.
<b>Ctrl-P</b>	Prints the window.
<b>Ctrl-Q</b>	Quits LabVIEW.

### Basic Editing

<b>Ctrl-Z</b>	Undoes last action.
<b>Ctrl-Shift-Z</b>	Redoes last action.
<b>Ctrl-X</b>	Cuts an object.
<b>Ctrl-C</b>	Copies an object.
<b>Ctrl-V</b>	Pastes an object.

### Help

<b>Ctrl-H</b>	Displays <b>Context Help</b> window.
<b>Ctrl-Shift-L</b>	Locks <b>Context Help</b> window.
<b>Ctrl-? or F1</b>	Displays <i>LabVIEW Help</i> .



**Note** The <Ctrl> key in these shortcuts corresponds to the (Mac OS) <Option> or <Command> key, (Sun) <Meta> key, or (Linux) <Alt> key.

## Tools and Palettes

<b>Ctrl Shift</b>	Switches to next most useful tool.
<b>Ctrl-Shift over open space</b>	Switches to Positioning tool.
<b>Spacebar *</b>	Switches to Scrolling tool.
<b>Spacebar *</b>	Toggles between two most common tools.
<b>Shift-Tab *</b>	Enables automatic tool selection.
<b>Tab *</b>	Cycles through tools if you disabled automatic tool selection by clicking the <b>Automatic Tool Selection</b> button. Otherwise, enables automatic tool selection.
<b>↑↓→←</b>	Navigates temporary <b>Controls</b> and <b>Functions</b> palettes.
<b>Enter</b>	Navigates into temporary palette.
<b>Esc</b>	Navigates out of temporary palette.

\* If automatic tool selection is disabled

## SubVIs

<b>Double-click subVI</b>	Displays subVI front panel.
<b>Ctrl-double-click subVI</b>	Displays subVI block diagram.
<b>Drag VI icon to block diagram</b>	Places that VI as a subVI on the block diagram.
<b>Shift-drag VI icon to block diagram</b>	Places that VI as a subVI on the block diagram with constants wired for controls that have non-default values.
<b>Ctrl-right-click block diagram and select VI</b>	Opens front panel of that VI from the <b>Functions</b> palette.

## Execution

<b>Ctrl-R</b>	Runs VI.
<b>Ctrl-. *</b>	Aborts VI.
<b>Ctrl-M</b>	Changes to run or edit mode.
<b>Ctrl-Run button</b>	Recompiles current VI.
<b>Ctrl-Shift-Run button</b>	Recompiles all VIs in memory.
<b>Ctrl-↓ *</b>	Moves key focus inside an array or cluster.
<b>Ctrl-↑ *</b>	Moves key focus outside an array or cluster.
<b>Tab *</b>	Navigates the controls or indicators according to tabbing order.
<b>Shift-Tab *</b>	Navigates backward through the controls or indicators.

\* While VI is running

## Wiring

<b>Ctrl-B</b>	Removes all broken wires.
<b>Esc, right-click, or click terminal</b>	Cancels a wire you started.
<b>Single-click wire</b>	Selects one segment.
<b>Double-click wire</b>	Selects a branch.
<b>Triple-click wire</b>	Selects entire wire.
<b>A</b>	Disables automatic wire routing temporarily.
<b>Double-click (while wiring) spacebar</b>	Tacks down wire without connecting it.
	Toggles automatic wiring while moving objects.
<b>Shift-click</b>	Undoes last point where you set a wire.
<b>Ctrl-click input on function with two inputs</b>	Switches the two input wires.
<b>spacebar</b>	Switches the direction of a wire between horizontal and vertical.

## Text

<b>Double-click</b>	Selects single word in string.
<b>Triple-click</b>	Selects entire string.
<b>Ctrl-→</b>	Moves forward in string by one word.
<b>Ctrl-←</b>	Moves backward in string by one word.
<b>Home</b>	Moves to beginning of current line in string.
<b>End</b>	Moves to end of current line in string.
<b>Ctrl-Home</b>	Moves to beginning of entire string.
<b>Ctrl-End</b>	Moves to end of entire string.
<b>Shift-Enter</b>	Adds new items when entering items in enumerated type controls and constants, ring controls and constants, or Case structures.
<b>Esc</b>	Cancels current edit in a string.
<b>Ctrl-Enter</b>	Ends text entry.
<b>Ctrl=</b>	Increases current font size.
<b>Ctrl-</b>	Decreases current font size.
<b>Ctrl-0</b>	Displays <b>Font</b> dialog box.
<b>Ctrl-1 *</b>	Displays Application font.
<b>Ctrl-2 *</b>	Displays System font.
<b>Ctrl-3 *</b>	Displays Dialog font.
<b>Ctrl-4 *</b>	Displays current font.

\* In **Font** dialog box

## Editing, Execution, and Debugging Tools



**Show Context Help Window**—Displays the **Context Help** window.



**Run**—Runs the VI.



**Broken Run**—Indicates that the VI contains errors. Click the button to list errors.



**Run Continuously**—Runs the VI until you abort or pause it.



**Abort Execution**—Stops the VI immediately.



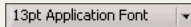
**Pause**—Pauses or resumes a running VI.



**Align Objects**—Aligns objects along axes.



**Distribute Objects**—Spaces objects evenly.



**Text Settings**—Changes the attributes of text in the VI.



**Resize Objects**—Resizes multiple front panel objects to the same size.



**Reorder**—Reorders objects if they overlap, including moving forward and moving backward.



**Highlight Execution**—Shows the flow of data through the block diagram.



**Step Into**—Steps into a node, which blinks when ready to execute.



**Step Over**—Executes a node and pauses at the next node.



**Step Out**—Steps out of a node and continues to the next node.



**Breakpoint Tool**—Sets breakpoints on nodes to pause execution.



**Probe Tool**—Creates probes on wires to display intermediate values in a running VI.



**Call Chain**—Lists all the callers from the top-level VI to the opened subVI.

## Terminal Data Types

### Signed Integers

8-bit	
16-bit	
32-bit	

### Unsigned Integers

8-bit	
16-bit	
32-bit	

### Floating-Point

Single	
Double	
Extended	

### Complex Floating-Point

Single	
Double	
Extended	

### Boolean

(FALSE)

### String

(empty string)

### Path

(<Not A Path>)

### Reference number



### Enumerated type



### Cluster

Numeric	
Mixed data	

### Array

1D	
2D	



### Waveform



### Digital waveform



### Digital



### I/O name



### Time stamp



### Dynamic



### Picture



### Variant



**Note** Default values appear in ( ).

