6.094Introduction to Programming in MATLAB

Lecture 1: Variables, Scripts, and Operations

Danilo Šćepanović

IAP 2010

Course Layout

Lectures

- ➤ 1: Variables, Scripts and Operations
- ➤ 2: Visualization and Programming
- ➤ 3: Solving Equations, Fitting
- ➤ 4: Images, Animations, Advanced Methods
- ➤ 5: Optional: Symbolic Math, Simulink

Course Layout

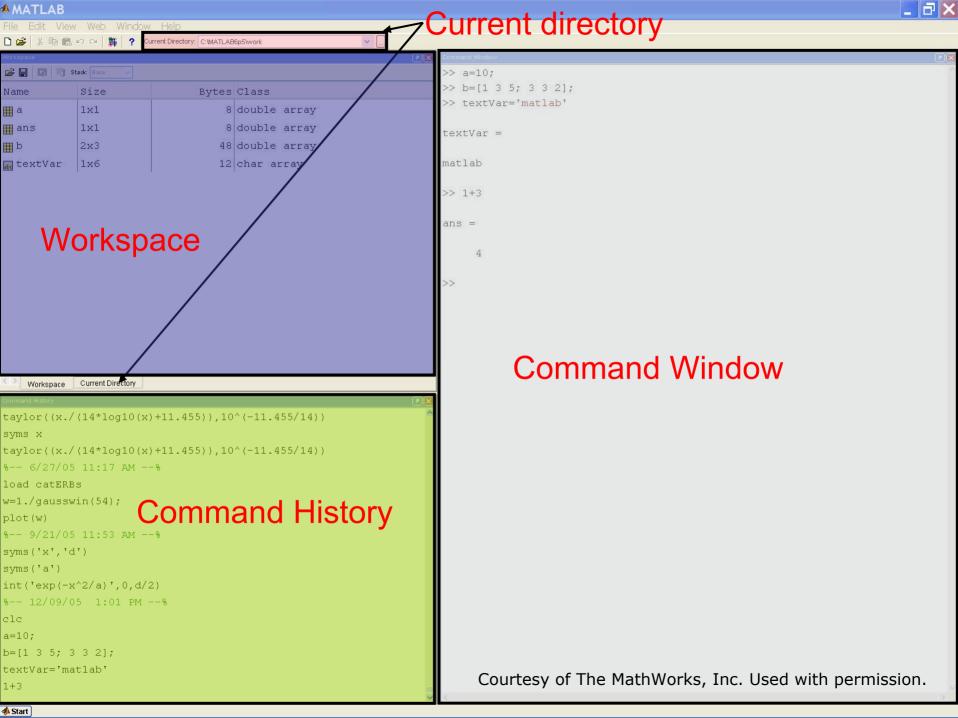
- Problem Sets / Office Hours
 - ➤ One per day, should take about 3 hours to do
 - > Submit doc or pdf (include code, figures)
 - > No set office hours but available by email
- Requirements for passing
 - > Attend all lectures
 - \triangleright Complete all problem sets $(-, \sqrt{, +)}$
- Prerequisites
 - > Basic familiarity with programming
 - Basic linear algebra, differential equations, and probability

Outline

- (1) Getting Started
- (2) Scripts
- (3) Making Variables
- (4) Manipulating Variables
- (5) Basic Plotting

Getting Started

- To get MATLAB Student Version for yourself
 - » https://msca.mit.edu/cgi-bin/matlab
 - ➤ Use VPN client to enable off-campus access
 - ➤ Note: MIT certificates are required
- Open up MATLAB for Windows
 - > Through the START Menu
- On Athena
 - » add matlab
 - » matlab &



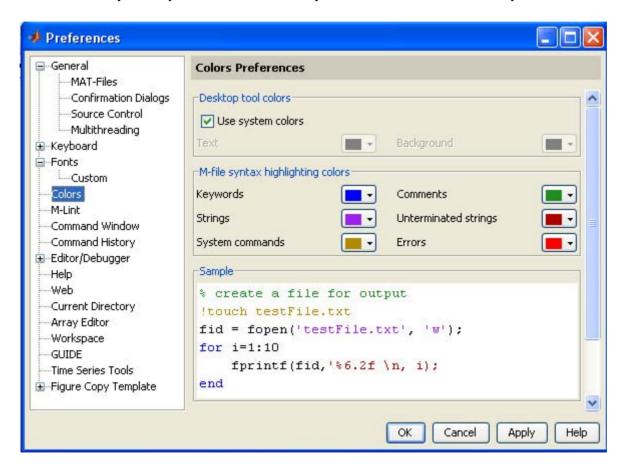
Making Folders

- Use folders to keep your programs organized
- To make a new folder, click the 'Browse' button next to 'Current Directory'

- Click the 'Make New Folder' button, and change the name of the folder. Do NOT use spaces in folder names. In the MATLAB folder, make two new folders: IAPMATLAB\day1
- Highlight the folder you just made and click 'OK'
- The current directory is now the folder you just created
- To see programs outside the current directory, they should be in the Path. Use File-> Set Path to add folders to the path

Customization

- File → Preferences
 - > Allows you personalize your MATLAB experience



MATLAB Basics

- MATLAB can be thought of as a super-powerful graphing calculator
 - > Remember the TI-83 from calculus?
 - With many more buttons (built-in functions)
- In addition it is a programming language
 - > MATLAB is an interpreted language, like Java
 - > Commands executed line by line

Help/Docs

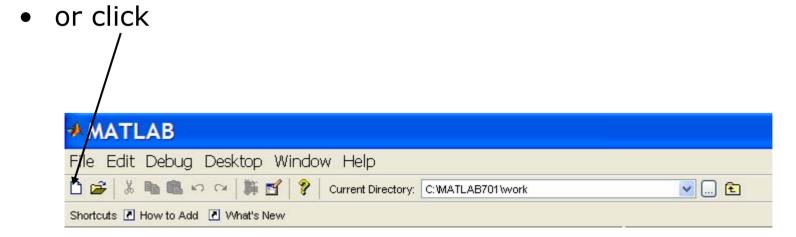
- help
 - ➤ The most important function for learning MATLAB on your own
- To get info on how to use a function:
 - » help sin
 - ➤ Help lists related functions at the bottom and links to the doc
- To get a nicer version of help with examples and easy-toread descriptions:
 - » doc sin
- To search for a function by specifying keywords:
 - » doc + Search tab

Outline

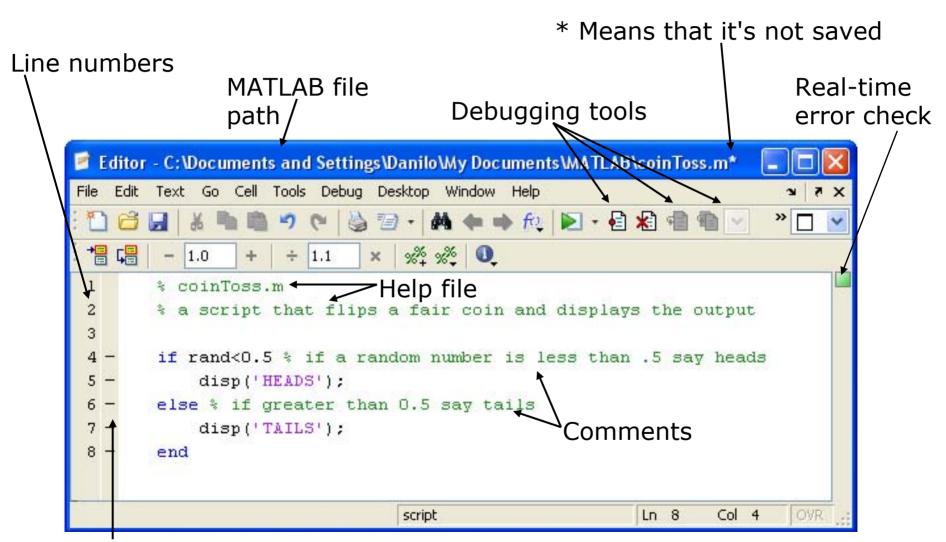
- (1) Getting Started
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Scripts: Overview

- Scripts are
 - > collection of commands executed in sequence
 - written in the MATLAB editor
 - saved as MATLAB files (.m extension)
- To create an MATLAB file from command-line
 - » edit helloWorld.m



Scripts: the Editor



Possible breakpoints

Courtesy of The MathWorks, Inc. Used with permission.

Scripts: Some Notes

COMMENT!

- > Anything following a % is seen as a comment
- > The first contiguous comment becomes the script's help file
- > Comment thoroughly to avoid wasting time later
- Note that scripts are somewhat static, since there is no input and no explicit output
- All variables created and modified in a script exist in the workspace even after it has stopped running

Exercise: Scripts

Make a helloworld script

When run, the script should display the following text:

Hello World!
I am going to learn MATLAB!

 Hint: use disp to display strings. Strings are written between single quotes, like 'This is a string'

Exercise: Scripts

Make a helloworld script

When run, the script should display the following text:

```
Hello World!
I am going to learn MATLAB!
```

- **Hint:** use **disp** to display strings. Strings are written between single quotes, like 'This is a string'
- Open the editor and save a script as helloWorld.m. This is an easy script, containing two lines of code:

```
» % helloWorld.m
» % my first hello world program in MATLAB

» disp('Hello World!');
» disp('I am going to learn MATLAB!');
```

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Variable Types

- MATLAB is a weakly typed language
 - ➤ No need to initialize variables!
- MATLAB supports various types, the most often used are

- Most variables you'll deal with will be vectors or matrices of doubles or chars
- Other types are also supported: complex, symbolic, 16-bit and 8 bit integers, etc. You will be exposed to all these types through the homework

Naming variables

- To create a variable, simply assign a value to a name:
 - » var1=3.14
 - » myString='hello world'
- Variable names
 - first character must be a LETTER
 - after that, any combination of letters, numbers and _
 - CASE SENSITIVE! (var1 is different from Var1)
- Built-in variables. Don't use these names!
 - > i and j can be used to indicate complex numbers
 - ▶pi has the value 3.1415926...
 - ans stores the last unassigned value (like on a calculator)
 - > Inf and -Inf are positive and negative infinity
 - NaN represents 'Not a Number'

Scalars

A variable can be given a value explicitly

```
» a = 10

> shows up in workspace!
```

Or as a function of explicit values and existing variables

```
 c = 1.3*45-2*a
```

To suppress output, end the line with a semicolon

```
\gg cooldude = 13/3;
```

Arrays

- Like other programming languages, arrays are an important part of MATLAB
- Two types of arrays
 - (1) matrix of numbers (either double or complex)
 - (2) cell array of objects (more advanced data structure)

MATLAB makes vectors easy!
That's its power!



Row Vectors

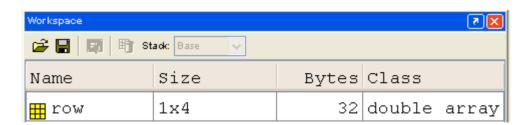
Row vector: comma or space separated values between brackets

```
» row = [1 2 5.4 -6.6]
» row = [1, 2, 5.4, -6.6];
```

• Command window: >> row=[1 2 5.4 -6.6]

1.0000 2.0000 5.4000 -6.6000

Workspace:



Column Vectors

 Column vector: semicolon separated values between brackets

```
 > column = [4;2;7;4]
```

• Command window: >> column=[4;2;7;4]

column =

4
2
7

Workspace:



size & length

- You can tell the difference between a row and a column vector by:
 - ➤ Looking in the workspace
 - > Displaying the variable in the command window
 - ➤ Using the size function

To get a vector's length, use the length function

Matrices

Make matrices like vectors

• Element by element

»
$$a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

» $a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

By concatenating vectors or matrices (dimension matters)

```
» a = [1 2];

» b = [3 4];

» c = [5;6];

» d = [a;b];

» e = [d c];

» f = [[e e];[a b a]];

» str = ['Hello, I am ' 'John'];

> Strings are character vectors
```

save/clear/load

- Use save to save variables to a file
 - » save myFile a b
 - > saves variables a and b to the file myfile.mat
 - > myfile.mat file is saved in the current directory
 - > Default working directory is
 - » \MATLAB
 - Make sure you're in the desired folder when saving files. Right now, we should be in:
 - » MATLAB\IAPMATLAB\day1
- Use clear to remove variables from environment
 - » clear a b
 - ▶ look at workspace, the variables a and b are gone
- Use load to load variable bindings into the environment
 - » load myFile
 - look at workspace, the variables a and b are back
- Can do the same for entire environment
 - » save myenv; clear all; load myenv;

Get and save the current date and time

- Create a variable start using the function clock
- What is the size of start? Is it a row or column?
- What does start contain? See help clock
- Convert the vector start to a string. Use the function datestr and name the new variable startString
- Save start and startString into a mat file named startTime

Get and save the current date and time

- Create a variable start using the function clock
- What is the size of start? Is it a row or column?
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```
» help clock

» start=clock;

» size(start)

» help datestr

» startString=datestr(start);

» save startTime start startString
```

Read in and display the current date and time

- In helloWorld.m, read in the variables you just saved using load
- Display the following text:
 I started learning MATLAB on *start date and time*
- Hint: use the disp command again, and remember that strings are just vectors of characters so you can join two strings by making a row vector with the two strings as subvectors.

Read in and display the current date and time

- In helloWorld.m, read in the variables you just saved using load
- Display the following text:
 I started learning MATLAB on *start date and time*
- Hint: use the disp command again, and remember that strings are just vectors of characters so you can join two strings by making a row vector with the two strings as subvectors.

```
» load startTime

» disp(['I started learning MATLAB on ' ...
startString]);
```

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Basic Scalar Operations

Arithmetic operations (+,-,*,/)

```
» 7/45
» (1+i)*(2+i)
» 1 / 0
» 0 / 0
```

Exponentiation (^)

```
» 4<sup>2</sup>
» (3+4*j)<sup>2</sup>
```

Complicated expressions, use parentheses

```
» ((2+3)*3)^0.1
```

Multiplication is NOT implicit given parentheses

```
\gg 3(1+0.7) gives an error
```

To clear command window

```
» clc
```

Built-in Functions

- MATLAB has an **enormous** library of built-in functions
- Call using parentheses passing parameter to function

```
>> sqrt(2)
>> log(2), log10(0.23)
>> cos(1.2), atan(-.8)
>> exp(2+4*i)
>> round(1.4), floor(3.3), ceil(4.23)
>> angle(i); abs(1+i);
```

Exercise: Scalars

You will learn MATLAB at an exponential rate! Add the following to your helloWorld script:

- Your learning time constant is 1.5 days. Calculate the number of seconds in 1.5 days and name this variable tau
- This class lasts 5 days. Calculate the number of seconds in 5 days and name this variable endofclass
- This equation describes your knowledge as a function of time t:

$$k = 1 - e^{-t/\tau}$$

- How well will you know MATLAB at endOfClass? Name this variable knowledgeAtEnd. (use exp)
- Using the value of knowledgeAtEnd, display the phrase:

At the end of 6.094, I will know X% of MATLAB

Hint: to convert a number to a string, use num2str

Exercise: Scalars

```
» secPerDay=60*60*24;

» tau=1.5*secPerDay;

» endOfClass=5*secPerDay

» knowledgeAtEnd=1-exp(-endOfClass/tau);

» disp(['At the end of 6.094, I will know ' ...
num2str(knowledgeAtEnd*100) '% of MATLAB'])
```

Transpose

 The transpose operators turns a column vector into a row vector and vice versa

```
» a = [1 2 3 4+i]
» transpose(a)
» a'
» a.'
```

- The 'gives the Hermitian-transpose, i.e. transposes and conjugates all complex numbers
- For vectors of real numbers . ' and ' give same result

Addition and Subtraction

 Addition and subtraction are element-wise; sizes must match (unless one is a scalar):

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 12 & 3 & 32 & -11 \\
 + [2 & 11 & -30 & 32] \\
 \hline
 = [14 & 14 & 2 & 21]
 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 1 \\ -10 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 13 \\ 33 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 2 \\ -23 \\ -33 \end{bmatrix}$$

The following would give an error

```
 > c = row + column
```

Use the transpose to make sizes compatible

```
» c = row' + column
» c = row + column'
```

Can sum up or multiply elements of vector

```
» s=sum(row);
» p=prod(row);
```

Element-Wise Functions

All the functions that work on scalars also work on vectors

- If in doubt, check a function's help file to see if it handles vectors elementwise
- Operators (* / ^) have two modes of operation
 - > element-wise
 - > standard

Operators: element-wise

To do element-wise operations, use the dot: . (.*, ./, .^).
 BOTH dimensions must match (unless one is scalar)!

```
» a=[1 2 3];b=[4;2;1];
» a.*b, a./b, a.^b → all errors
» a.*b', a./b', a.^(b') → all valid
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot * \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = ERROR$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot * \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$3 \times 1 \cdot * 3 \times 1 = 3 \times 1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot * \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$3 \times 3.* 3 \times 3 = 3 \times 3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} . ^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1^2 & 2^2 \\ 3^2 & 4^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Can be any dimension

Operators: standard

- Multiplication can be done in a standard way or element-wise
- Standard multiplication (*) is either a dot-product or an outerproduct
 - Remember from linear algebra: inner dimensions must MATCH!!
- Standard exponentiation (^) can only be done on square matrices or scalars
- Left and right division (/ \) is same as multiplying by inverse
 - > Our recommendation: just multiply by inverse (more on this later)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 11$$
$$1 \times 3 * 3 \times 1 = 1 \times 1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} ^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
Must be square to do powers

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 11$$

$$1 \times 3 * 3 \times 1 = 1 \times 1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} ^{\wedge} 2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 9 \\ 6 & 12 & 18 \\ 9 & 18 & 27 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$3 \times 3 * 3 \times 3 = 3 \times 3$$

Calculate how many seconds elapsed since the start of class

- In helloWorld.m, make variables called secPerMin,
 secPerHour, secPerDay, secPerMonth (assume 30.5 days per month), and secPerYear (12 months in year), which have the number of seconds in each time period.
- Assemble a row vector called secondConversion that has elements in this order: secPerYear, secPerMonth, secPerDay, secPerHour, secPerMinute, 1.
- Make a currentTime vector by using clock
- Compute elapsedTime by subtracting currentTime from start
- Compute t (the elapsed time in seconds) by taking the dot product of secondConversion and elapsedTime (transpose one of them to get the dimensions right)

```
» secPerMin=60;
» secPerHour=60*secPerMin;
» secPerDay=24*secPerHour;
» secPerMonth=30.5*secPerDay;
» secPerYear=12*secPerMonth;
» secondConversion=[secPerYear secPerMonth ...
 secPerDay secPerHour secPerMin 1];
» currentTime=clock;
» elapsedTime=currentTime-start;
» t=secondConversion*elapsedTime';
```

Display the current state of your knowledge

 Calculate currentKnowledge using the same relationship as before, and the t we just calculated:

$$k = 1 - e^{-t/\tau}$$

Display the following text:

At this time, I know X% of MATLAB

Display the current state of your knowledge

 Calculate currentKnowledge using the same relationship as before, and the t we just calculated:

$$k = 1 - e^{-t/\tau}$$

Display the following text:

At this time, I know X% of MATLAB

```
» currentKnowledge=1-exp(-t/tau);
» disp(['At this time, I know ' ...
num2str(currentKnowledge*100) '% of MATLAB']);
```

Automatic Initialization

Initialize a vector of ones, zeros, or random numbers

row vector of NaNs (useful for representing uninitialized variables)

```
The general function call is:

var=zeros(M,N);

Number of rows Number of columns
```

Automatic Initialization

- To initialize a linear vector of values use linspace
 - » a=linspace(0,10,5)
 - > starts at 0, ends at 10 (inclusive), 5 values
- Can also use colon operator (:)
 - b=0:2:10
 - > starts at 0, increments by 2, and ends at or before 10
 - > increment can be decimal or negative
 - > c=1:5
 - > if increment isn't specified, default is 1
- To initialize logarithmically spaced values use logspace
 - > similar to linspace, but see help

Exercise: Vector Functions

Calculate your learning trajectory

- In helloWorld.m, make a linear time vector tvec that has 10,000 samples between 0 and endofclass
- Calculate the value of your knowledge (call it knowledgeVec) at each of these time points using the same equation as before:

$$k = 1 - e^{-t/\tau}$$

Exercise: Vector Functions

Calculate your learning trajectory

- In helloWorld.m, make a linear time vector tvec that has 10,000 samples between 0 and endofclass
- Calculate the value of your knowledge (call it knowledgeVec) at each of these time points using the same equation as before:

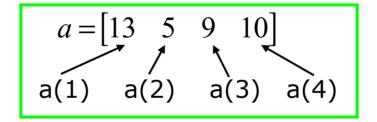
$$k = 1 - e^{-t/\tau}$$

```
» tVec = linspace(0,endOfClass,10000);
```

» knowledgeVec=1-exp(-tVec/tau);

Vector Indexing

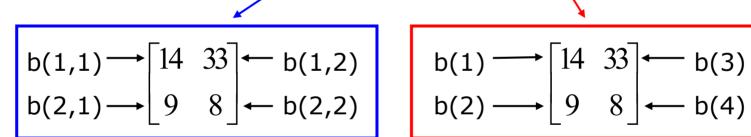
- MATLAB indexing starts with 1, not 0
 - > We will not respond to any emails where this is the problem.
- a(n) returns the nth element



 The index argument can be a vector. In this case, each element is looked up individually, and returned as a vector of the same size as the index vector.

Matrix Indexing

- Matrices can be indexed in two ways
 - > using subscripts (row and column)
 - > using linear indices (as if matrix is a vector)
- Matrix indexing: subscripts or linear indices



$$b(1) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 33 \end{bmatrix} \longleftarrow b(3)$$

$$b(2) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \longleftarrow b(4)$$

Picking submatrices

```
\rightarrow A = rand(5) % shorthand for 5x5 matrix
```

- » A(1:3,1:2) % specify contiguous submatrix
- » A([1 5 3], [1 4]) % specify rows and columns

Advanced Indexing 1

To select rows or columns of a matrix, use the :

$$c = \begin{bmatrix} 12 & 5 \\ -2 & 13 \end{bmatrix}$$

Advanced Indexing 2

 MATLAB contains functions to help you find desired values within a vector or matrix

```
  vec = [5 3 1 9 7]
```

To get the minimum value and its index:

```
» [minVal,minInd] = min(vec);

> max works the same way
```

To find any the indices of specific values or ranges

```
» ind = find(vec == 9);
» ind = find(vec > 2 & vec < 6);

> find expressions can be very complex, more on this later
```

 To convert between subscripts and indices, use ind2sub, and sub2ind. Look up help to see how to use them.

Exercise: Indexing

When will you know 50% of MATLAB?

- First, find the index where knowledgeVec is closest to 0.5. Mathematically, what you want is the index where the value of |knowledgeVec 0.5| is at a minimum (use abs and min).
- Next, use that index to look up the corresponding time in tvec and name this time halfTime.
- Finally, display the string: I will know half of MATLAB after X days Convert halfTime to days by using secPerDay

Exercise: Indexing

When will you know 50% of MATLAB?

- First, find the index where knowledgeVec is closest to 0.5. Mathematically, what you want is the index where the value of |knowledgeVec 0.5| is at a minimum (use abs and min).
- Next, use that index to look up the corresponding time in tvec and name this time halfTime.
- Finally, display the string: I will know half of MATLAB after X days Convert halfTime to days by using secPerDay

```
» [val,ind] = min(abs(knowledgeVec-0.5));

» halfTime = tVec(ind);

» disp(['I will know half of MATLAB after ' ...
num2str(halfTime/secPerDay) ' days']);
```

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Did everyone sign in?

Plotting

• Example

```
» x=linspace(0,4*pi,10);
» y=sin(x);
```

Plot values against their index

```
» plot(y);
```

Usually we want to plot y versus x

```
» plot(x,y);
```

MATLAB makes visualizing data fun and easy!



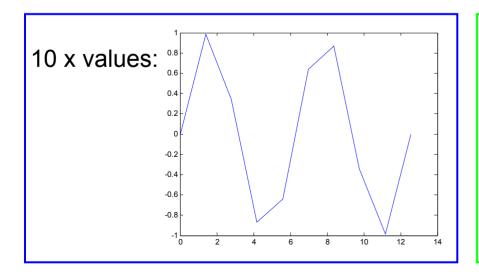
What does plot do?

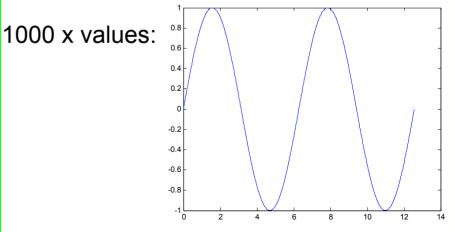
- plot generates dots at each (x,y) pair and then connects the dots with a line
- To make plot of a function look smoother, evaluate at more points

```
» x=linspace(0,4*pi,1000);
» plot(x,sin(x));
```

x and y vectors must be same size or else you'll get an error

```
» plot([1 2], [1 2 3])
> error!!
```





Exercise: Plotting

Plot the learning trajectory

- In helloWorld.m, open a new figure (use figure)
- Plot the knowledge trajectory using tvec and knowledgevec. When plotting, convert tvec to days by using secPerDay
- Zoom in on the plot to verify that halfTime was calculated correctly

Exercise: Plotting

Plot the learning trajectory

- In helloWorld.m, open a new figure (use figure)
- Plot the knowledge trajectory using tvec and knowledgevec. When plotting, convert tvec to days by using secPerDay
- Zoom in on the plot to verify that halfTime was calculated correctly

```
» figure
» plot(tVec/secPerDay, knowledgeVec);
```

End of Lecture 1

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Hope that wasn't too much!!



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