**Introduction**

What Is MATLAB?

MATLAB is a high-performance language for technical computing. It integrates computation, visualization, and programming in an easy-to-use environment where problems and solutions are expressed in familiar mathematical notation. Typical uses include:

* Math and computation
* Algorithm development
* Modeling, simulation, and prototyping
* Data analysis, exploration, and visualization
* Scientific and engineering graphics
* Application development, including Graphical User Interface building

MATLAB is an interactive system whose basic data element is an array that does not require dimensioning. This allows you to solve many technical computing problems, especially those with matrix and vector formulations, in a fraction of the time it would take to write a program in a scalar noninteractive language such as C or Fortran.

The name MATLAB stands for matrix laboratory. MATLAB was originally written to provide easy access to matrix software developed by the LINPACK and EISPACK projects, which together represent the state-of-the-art in software for matrix computation.

MATLAB has evolved over a period of years with input from many users. In university environments, it is the standard instructional tool for introductory and advanced courses in mathematics, engineering, and science. In industry, MATLAB is the tool of choice for high-productivity research, development, and analysis.

MATLAB features a family of application-specific solutions called toolboxes. Very important to most users of MATLAB, toolboxes allow you to *learn* and *apply* specialized technology. Toolboxes are comprehensive collections of MATLAB functions (M-files) that extend the MATLAB environment to solve particular classes of problems. Areas in which toolboxes are available include signal processing, control systems, neural networks, fuzzy logic, wavelets, simulation, and many others.

The MATLAB System

The MATLAB system consists of five main parts:

**The MATLAB language.**

This is a high-level matrix/array language with control flow statements, functions, data structures, input/output, and object-oriented programming features. It allows both "programming in the small" to rapidly create quick and dirty throw-away programs, and "programming in the large" to create complete large and complex application programs.

**The MATLAB working environment.**

This is the set of tools and facilities that you work with as the MATLAB user or programmer. It includes facilities for managing the variables in your workspace and importing and exporting data. It also includes tools for developing, managing, debugging, and profiling M-files, MATLAB's applications.

**Handle Graphics.**

This is the MATLAB graphics system. It includes high-level commands for two-dimensional and three-dimensional data visualization, image processing, animation, and presentation graphics. It also includes low-level commands that allow you to fully customize the appearance of graphics as well as to build complete Graphical User Interfaces on your MATLAB applications.

**The MATLAB mathematical function library.**

This is a vast collection of computational algorithms ranging from elementary functions like sum, sine, cosine, and complex arithmetic, to more sophisticated functions like matrix inverse, matrix eigenvalues, Bessel functions, and fast Fourier transforms.

**The MATLAB Application Program Interface (API).**

This is a library that allows you to write C and Fortran programs that interact with MATLAB. It include facilities for calling routines from MATLAB (dynamic linking), calling MATLAB as a computational engine, and for reading and writing MAT-files.

**Mechanical engineers** need **MATLAB**® for scrutiny of problems in control systems, **mechanical** vibrations, basic **engineering** mechanics, electrical circuits, statics and dynamics and numerical methods. It is **used** to model and simulate physical problems in the field of chemical **engineering**.

Electrical Engineers are associated with design of complex systems. This involves rigorous mathematical calculations and analysis with manual approach being a nasty one.

This is the point where the terrific computational capability of MATLAB and Simulink Modelling comes handy.

MATLAB can be used-

* **As a calculator:** Any calculation can be done with the help of MATLAB (some of which are not even possible with the help of latest CASIO Calculator)
  + For ex- If we solve the Load flow solution problem with the help of Newton- Raphson method, sometime order of matrix is 5 or even more depending on Bus. we can’t calculate the inverse of the matrix of order more than 4 with the help of calculator.
  + we can do any calculation of Algebra, Matrix, Calculus, any order of differential equation and many more.