Scilab

Vachan Potluri
vachanpotluri@iitb.ac.in

Spring 2023

Introduction

What is `Scilab`?

A free alternative to `MATLAB`

What can it do?

1. Advanced calculator
2. Programming
3. Plotting, visualisation

Simple calculations

Try out these and see if they give expected results

```
1  2+3-4
2  4^2
3  4**4
4  6/4
5  2+(2^2-(1/2))
6  1e-3 + 1d-2
```

See what happens when you add a semicolon

```
6/4;
```

Variables

All calculations are stored by default in `ans`

```
6/4;
ans
```

You can specify a variable to store the value instead

```
pi_approx = 22/7;
```

And see its value later

```
pi_approx
disp(pi_approx)
```

Basics   Programming
○○●○○ ○○○○○ ○○○○   ○○○○○ ○○○
As a calculator

More on variables

Some useful pre-defined variables

```
1 %pi
2 %e
3 %i
4 %t
5 %f
6 %inf
7 %nan
8 %eps
```

Pre-defined functions

See if the outputs of these lines are as expected

```
 1  abs(-2)
 2  min(3,4,5)
 3  max(-2,-3,-4)
 4  sin(%pi/2)
 5  cos(%pi)
 6  tan(%pi/4)
 7  asin(1)/(%pi/2)
 8  exp(2)/%e^2
 9  log10(100)
10  log(%e)
```

Auto-completion: hit TAB

Other Scilab windows

▶ Variable Browser
  • Only lists user-defined variables
  • To list all variables:

  ```
  whos
  ```

  • You can delete all or specific user-defined variables

  ```
  pi_approx = 22/7;
  disp(pi_approx)
  clear pi_approx
  disp(pi_approx)
  ```

▶ Command History
  • Execute an old command by double clicking
  • Can also navigate using ↑ and ↓ keys
  • Clear screen using clc

▶ File Browser
  • Useful when working with multiple files

Basic matrix creation

Wrap inside `[]` , use `,` and `;` to separate columns and rows

```
x = [1,2,3]
y = [4;5;6;7]
A = [1,0;0,1]
```

Scilab will warn you if the dimensions are inconsistent

```
B = [1,2,3;4,5]
```

Adding `'` will transpose the matrix

```
B = [1,2,3;4,5,6];
B'
```

You can fill matrices with pre-existing matrices

```
row1 = [1,2,3,4];
row2 = [5,6,7,8];
M = [row1;row2]
```

Special functions for matrix creation

Creating ranges

```
i = 1:10
j = 1:2:10
x = 0:0.1:1
y = linspace(0,1,25)
```

Some useful commands for creating dummy matrices of required size

```
A = zeros(2,2)
B = ones(3,2)
M = eye(3,3)
```

Can you make sense of this result?

```
M = [[zeros(1,2);ones(1,2);eye(2,2)],ones(4,1)]
```

Matrix operations

Scalar operations affect all elements
of matrices

```
A = eye(3,3);
A*2
A/4
A+5
```

Scilab automatically figures out
matrix operations too

```
B = 2*ones(3,3)
A+B
A*B
B^2
```

Special element wise operations

```
A.*B
A.^B
A./B
A.^2
```

How is `A^2` different from `A.^2` ?

Matrix functions

Most Scilab functions can operate element-wise on matrices

```
A = %pi/2*[0,1;2,3];
sin(A)
```

Some special functions for matrices

```
length(A)
size(A)
sum(A)
det(A)
inv(A)
trace(A)
```

Matrix indexing

Access elements using `(row,col)`

```
A = eye(3,3);
A(1,2) = 2;
A
```

A single index can also be used:
increments column-wise

```
A(4)
```

Extract rows and columns using `:`

```
A(:,2)
A(1,:)
```

Special symbol `$`

```
A($,3)
```

Arrays can also be used to access
and modify

```
A([1,2],2)
A(4,:) = [10,20,30]
```

See if this makes sense

```
A = eye(4,4);
j = [2,4];
A(1,j) = j
A([7,8]) = 50
A($,$) = -1
B = [9,10;j];
A(B) = 100
```

Strings

Wrap in `""` or `''`

```
fname = "Vachan";
lname = 'Potluri';
fname + lname
```

Function `string` converts variables to strings

```
A = eye(2,2)
string(A)
```

Saving and loading data

`Scilab` has a working directory

```
pwd
```

Working directory can be changed from File Browser (and also using `cd` or `chdir`)

Function `save` saves user-defined variables to a file in working directory

```
x = 1.5;
A = [1,2;3,4]
save("data.dat")
```

These variables can be loaded for use later

```
listvarinfile("data.dat")
load("data.dat")
```

Accessing help

Scilab's built-in help functionality is very useful

```
help
help save
```

Exercises[1]

> **Exercise**
>
> The pressure drop Δp required for a flow rate Q in a pipe of diameter D is
>
> $$\Delta p = 4.52 \frac{Q^{1.85}}{C^{1.7} D^{4.87}}$$
>
> Find Δp for these combinations of flow rates and diameters:
>
> ▶ $Q = 50,\ 100,\ 200,$ 400 and 1000
>
> ▶ $D = 0.5,\ 1,\ 1,\ 2$ and 4
>
> Use $C = 2.5$ for all cases

> **Exercise**
>
> A magic square is a matrix in which all rows, columns and diagonals sum to same number.
>
> ❶ Generate a magic square of size 10
>
> ❷ Verify that all rows and columns sum up to the same value
>
> Hint: search `Scilab` help for the function `testmatrix`, and use the `sum` function

---

[1]Amos Gilat. *MATLAB: An Introduction with Applications*. 6th ed. Wiley, 2017.

SciNotes: built-in editor

- ► Console is only useful for short calculations

- ► A single file containing all commands is useful for large calculations

- ► `Scilab` can do this through "scripts" or "executables"

- ► `SciNotes` is `Scilab`'s builtin-in GUI for handling scripts

- ► Customary to save such files with `.sce` extension

- ► Comments being with `//`, or can be wrapped with `/* */`

```
// this is a single line comment
/* this is a
   multi-line comment */
```

Conditional statements

Can you make sense of this?

```
x=6;
reminder = modulo(x,3);

if reminder==0 then
    disp("3 divides x")
elseif reminder==1 then
    disp("x leaves reminder 1 when divided by 3")
else
    disp("x leaves reminder 2 when divided by 3")
end
```

Hint: look at help for function `modulo`

Logical expressions generally use
==, ~=, <, <=, >, >=, &&, ||, %t, %f

Loops

```
1  array = 1:10;
2  value = 5;
3
4  for a=array
5      if value==a then
6          disp("Value exists in
           ↪array");
7          break;
8      end
9  end
```

What does `break` statement do?

Scilab always loops over columns

```
1  array=[1;2;3]
2  i=1;
3  for a=array
4      disp("Element " + string(i)
       ↪+ ":")
5      disp(a)
6      i = i+1;
7  end
```

Functions

```
function [Tf,Tk] = centigradeToFarenhietKelvin(Tc)
    Tf = Tc*9/5 + 32;
    Tk = Tc + 273;
endfunction


[Tf,Tk] = centigradeToFarenhietKelvin(37);
disp(Tf)
disp(Tk)
```

Here `Tf` and `Tk` are the "return" values; `Tc` is the parameter

Can also have multiple parameters

```
function s = sum(a,b)
    s = a+b;
endfunction
disp(sum(1,2));
```

Exercises

Exercise

Write a function to calculate the cross product of two 3d vectors

```
function v = cross_product(v1,v2)

    // fill this

endfunction
```

Exercise

Write a function that takes in an array and a value, and returns the indices where the value occurs in an array.

Example: for `array=[1,2,1,4,5,2]` and `value=2`, the function should return `[2,6]` (since `array(2)=array(6)=value`)

```
function indices = multiple_find(array,value)

    // fill this

endfunction
```

Working with multiple files

▶ Many times we use different user-written functions to accomplish our task

▶ Having them all in a single file makes it hard to read and debug

▶ Splitting the script into multiple files is preferable
  - One for each function
  - One main file

▶ How to access content from another file?

my_function_file.sce

```
function y=my_function(x)
    // do something
endfunction
```

main.sce

```
// 'include' the file
exec("my_function_file.sce",-1);
// use the function
result=my_function(2.5);
```

Exercises

Exercise

1. Recall the `cross_product()` function you have written previously. Save it in a file `cross_product.sce`

2. Write a file `vector_norm.sce` which contains a function `vector_norm()` to calculate the length (norm) of a 3d vector

3. Now in the file `triangle_area.sce`, write a function to calculate the area of an arbitrarily oriented triangle with points p_1, p_2 and p_3

```
function area = triangle_area(p1, p2, p3)
    // fill this
endfunction
```

Hint: The area of a triangle is half the magnitude of cross product of any of its two sides

Exercise

We will calculate π approximately here

1. Write a function `get_random_point()` which generates a random point in a 2d square $x \in [0, 1]$, $y \in [0, 1]$
   Hint: Use the `rand` function of Scilab

2. Now write a function `inside_circle()` which takes any point and returns a boolean value saying whether or not the point lies inside the unit circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$

3. Now write a function `approximate_pi()` that takes N is an parameter and does the following
   - Generate N random points
   - Find out how many of these points (say N_i) lie inside the unit circle
   - Return the value N_i/N

$$\frac{N_i}{N} \to \frac{\pi}{4} \text{ as } N \to \infty$$
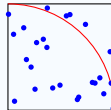
This is called as a Monte-Carlo simulation