

A Matlab Cheat-sheet

Basics:

`save 'file.mat'` save variables to *file.mat*
`load 'file.mat'` load variables from *file.mat*
`diary on` record input/output to file *diary*
`diary off` stop recording
`whos` list all variables currently defined
`clear` delete/undefine all variables
`help command` quick help on a given *command*
`doc command` extensive help on a given *command*

Defining/changing variables:

`x = 3` define variable *x* to be 3
`x = [1 2 3]` set *x* to the 1×3 row-vector (1,2,3)
`x = [1 2 3];` same, but don't echo *x* to output
`x = [1;2;3]` set *x* to the 3×1 column-vector (1,2,3)
`A = [1 2 3 4; 5 6 7 8; 9 10 11 12];`
 set *A* to the 3×4 matrix with rows 1,2,3,4 etc.
`x(2) = 7` change *x* from (1,2,3) to (1,7,3)
`A(2,1) = 0` change $A_{2,1}$ from 5 to 0

Arithmetic and functions of numbers:

`3*4, 7+4, 2-6` multiply, add, subtract, and divide numbers
`3^7, 3^(8+2i)` compute 3 to the 7th power, or 3 to the $8+2i$ power
`sqrt(-5)` compute the square root of -5
`exp(12)` compute e^{12}
`log(3), log10(100)` compute the natural log (ln) and base-10 log (\log_{10})
`abs(-5)` compute the absolute value |-5|
`sin(5*pi/3)` compute the sine of $5\pi/3$
`besselj(2,6)` compute the Bessel function $J_2(6)$

Arithmetic and functions of vectors and matrices:

`x * 3` multiply every element of *x* by 3
`x + 2` add 2 to every element of *x*
`x + y` element-wise addition of two vectors *x* and *y*
`A * y` product of a matrix *A* and a vector *y*
`A * B` product of two matrices *A* and *B*
`x * y` not allowed if *x* and *y* are two column vectors!
`x .* y` element-wise product of vectors *x* and *y*
`A^3` the square matrix *A* to the 3rd power
`x^3` not allowed if *x* is not a square matrix!
`x.^3` every element of *x* is taken to the 3rd power
`1:6` a row vector steps from 1 to 6 ([1,2,3,4,5,6])
`1:0.3:2` increases and steps of 0.3 until get up to 2 ([1, 1.3, 1.6, 1.9])
`cos(x)` the cosine of every element of *x*
`abs(A)` the absolute value of every element of *A* `exp(A)` e to the power of every element of *A*
`sqrt(A)` the square root of every element of *A*
`expm(A)` the matrix exponential e^A
`sqrtn(A)` the matrix whose square is *A*

Transposes and dot products:

`x.', A.'` the transposes of *x* and *A*
`x', A'` the complex-conjugate of the transposes of *x* and *A*
`x' * y` the dot (inner) product of two *column* vectors *x* and *y*

Constructing a few simple matrices:

`rand(12,4)` a 12×4 matrix with uniform random numbers in [0,1)
`randn(12,4)` a 12×4 matrix with Gaussian random (center 0, variance 1)
`zeros(12,4)` a 12×4 matrix of zeros
`ones(12,4)` a 12×4 matrix of ones
`eye(5)` a 5×5 identity matrix *I* ("eye")
`eye(12,4)` a 12×4 matrix whose first 4 rows are the 4×4 identity
`linspace(1.2, 4.7, 100)` row vector of 100 equally-spaced numbers from 1.2 to 4.7
`7:15` row vector of 7,8,9,...,14,15
`1:0.3:2` increases and steps of 0.3 until get up to 2 ([1, 1.3, 1.6, 1.9])
`diag(x)` matrix whose diagonal is the entries of *x* (and other elements = 0)

Portions of matrices and vectors:

`x(2:12)` the 2nd to the 12th elements of *x*
`x(2:end)` the 2nd to the last elements of *x*
`x(1:3:end)` every third element of *x*, from 1st to the last
`x(:)` all the elements of *x*
`A(5,:)` the row vector of every element in the 5th row of *A*
`A(5,1:3)` the row vector of the first 3 elements in the 5th row of *A*
`A(:,2)` the column vector of every element in the 2nd column of *A*
`diag(A)` column vector of the diagonal elements of *A*

Solving linear equations:

`A \ b` for *A* a matrix and *b* a column vector, the solution *x* to $Ax=b$
`inv(A)` the inverse matrix A^{-1}
`[L,U,P] = lu(A)` the LU factorization $PA=LU$
`eig(A)` the eigenvalues of *A*
`[V,D] = eig(A)` the columns of *V* are the eigenvectors of *A*, and the diagonals `diag(D)` are the eigenvalues of *A*

Plotting:

`plot(y)` plot *y* as the *y* axis, with 1,2,3,... as the *x* axis
`plot(x,y)` plot *y* versus *x* (must have same length)
`plot(x,A)` plot columns of *A* versus *x* (must have same # rows)
`loglog(x,y)` plot *y* versus *x* on a log-log scale
`semilogx(x,y)` plot *y* versus *x* with *x* on a log scale
`semilogy(x,y)` plot *y* versus *x* with *y* on a log scale
`fplot(@(x) ...expression..., [a,b])` plot some expression in *x* from *x*=*a* to *x*=*b*
`axis equal` force the *x* and *y* axes of the current plot to be scaled equally
`title('A Title')` add a title *A* Title at the top of the plot
`xlabel('blah')` label the *x* axis as *blah*
`ylabel('blah')` label the *y* axis as *blah*
`legend('foo', 'bar')` label 2 curves in the plot *foo* and *bar*
`grid` include a grid in the plot
`figure` open up a new figure window

`dot(x,y), sum(x.*y)` ...two other ways to write the dot product
`x * y'` the *outer* product of two *column* vectors *x* and *y*