

MATLAB with Python

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1. Introduction

Engineers and scientists that I meet every day think about MATLAB & Python as MATLAB vs Python. The goal of this book is to prove to them that it is possible to think about it as MATLAB with Python.

Python recently became the most used programming language¹. It is general purpose by nature, and it is particularly used for scripting, web development and Artificial Intelligence (Machine Learning & Deep Learning).

MATLAB is mostly seen as a programming language for technical computing, and a development environment for engineers and scientists. But MATLAB also provides flexible two-way integration with many programming languages including Python.

MATLAB works with common python distributions. For this book I will be using Python 3.10 (downloaded on [Python.org](https://www.python.org)) and MATLAB 2023a.

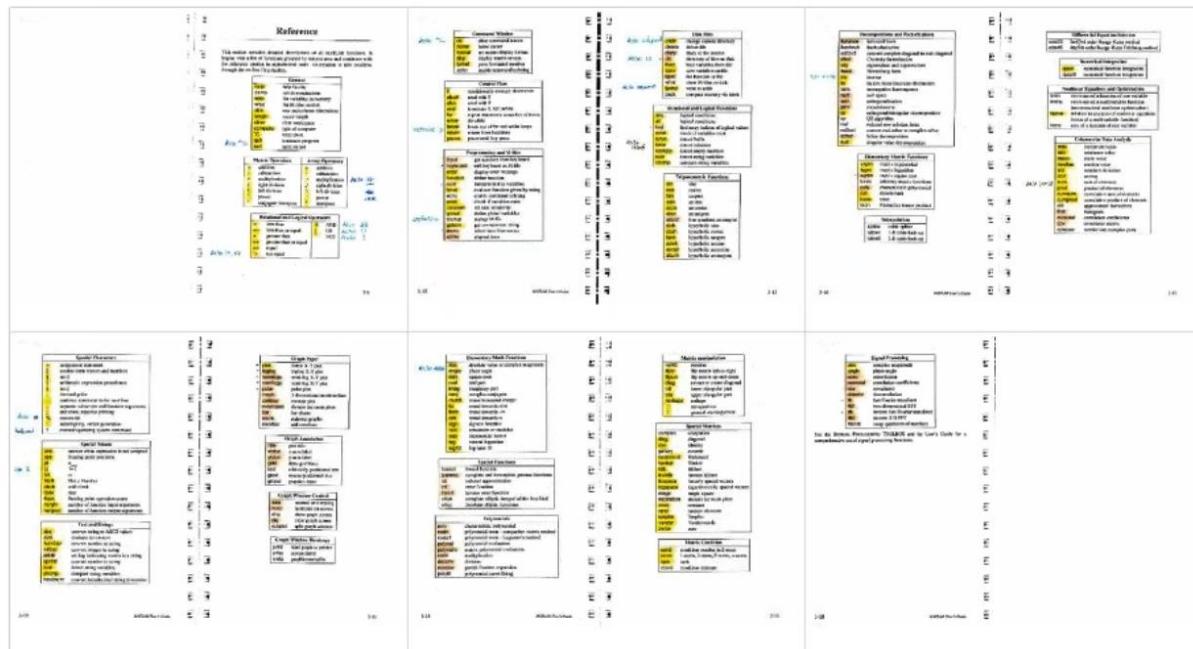
1.1. A brief history of scientific computing

1.1.1. The roots of numerical analysis

In the 1970s, Cleve Moler took actively part in the development of Fortran libraries called EISPACK² (to compute eigenvalues) and LINPACK³ (for linear algebra). As he was professor of Mathematics at the University of New Mexico, he wanted to make those libraries accessible to student while sparing them the need to write Fortran wrapper code, compile it, debug it, compile again, run, ...

So he created an interactive interpreter in Fortran for matrix computation, called MATLAB (short for MATrix LABoratory, nothing to do with the Matrix movie, that came out 30 years later). This first version was based on a few routines from EISPACK and LINPACK and only contained 80 functions.

This photo of a MATLAB manual at the time, shows the scope of the software in its early days.

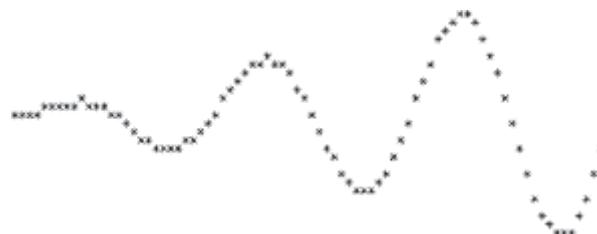


¹ Python ranking #1 in the TIOBE index in 2021: <https://www.tiobe.com/tiobe-index/>

² EISPACK – computes the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of matrices: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EISPACK>

³ LINPACK – Linear algebra package in Fortran: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LINPACK>

At that time MATLAB was not yet a programming language. It had no file extension (m-scripts), no toolboxes. The only available datatype was matrices. The graphic capabilities were asterisks drawn on the screen (not Astérix The Gaul).



In order to add a function, you had to modify the Fortran source code and recompile everything. So the source code was open, because it needed to be (open-source only appeared in the 80s, with Richard Stallman and the Free Software movement).

After a course on numerical analysis that Cleve Moler gave at Stanford University in California, an MIT trained engineer came to him: "I introduced myself to Cleve". This is the way Jack Little tells the story about their first encounter. Jack Little had anticipated the possible use of MATLAB on PC, and rewritten it in C. He knew, like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates that Personal Computing would win over the mainframe server business of IBM. He also added the ability to write program files to extend the capabilities of the software, and toolboxes that would become a well architected, modular and scalable business model. In 1984, he created the company (The) MathWorks to commercialize MATLAB.

Read more about the origins of MATLAB:

- A history of MATLAB – published in June 2020 - <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3386331>
- The Origins of MATLAB <https://www.mathworks.com/company/newsletters/articles/the-origins-of-matlab.html>
- Cleve's Corner – History of MATLAB Published by the ACM
<https://blogs.mathworks.com/cleve/2020/06/13/history-of-matlab-published-by-the-acm/>

1.1.2. In a parallel universe

In the 1980s, Guido van Rossum was working at the [Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica](#) (abbr. **CWI**; English: "National Research Institute for Mathematics and Computer Science") on a language called ABC.

"ABC was intended to be a programming language that could be taught to intelligent computer users who were not computer programmers or software developers in any sense. During the late 1970s, ABC's main designers taught traditional programming languages to such an audience. Their students included various scientists—from physicists to social scientists to linguists—who needed help using their very large computers. Although intelligent people in their own right, these students were surprised at certain limitations, restrictions, and arbitrary rules that programming languages had traditionally set out. Based on this user feedback, ABC's designers tried to develop a different language."

In 1986 Guido van Rossum moved to a different project at CWI, the Amoeba project. Amoeba was a distributed operating system. By the late 1980s, they realized that they needed a scripting language. With the freedom he was given inside this project, Guido van Rossum started his own "mini project".

In December 1989, Van Rossum had been looking for a "hobby" programming project that would keep [him] occupied during the week around Christmas" as his office was closed when he decided to write an interpreter for a "new scripting language [he] had been thinking about lately: a descendant of ABC that would appeal to Unix/C hackers". He attributes choosing the name "Python" to "being in a slightly irreverent mood (and a big fan of Monty Python's Flying Circus)".⁴

He wrote a simple virtual machine, a simple parser and a simple runtime. He created a basic syntax, using indentation for statement grouping. And he developed a small number of datatypes: dictionaries, lists, strings and numbers. Python was born. In Guido's opinion, his most innovative contribution to Python's success was making it easy to extend.

Main milestones of the Python language:

- 1991: Python 0.9.0 published to alt.sources by Guido Van Rossum
- 1994: Python 1.0. include functional programming (lambda's map, filter, reduce)
- 2000: Python 2.0 introduces list comprehension and garbage collection
- 2008: Python 3 fixes fundamental design flaws and is not backward compatible
- 2022: Python 2 is end of life, last version 2.7.18 released

Read more about Python:

- The Making of Python - A Conversation with Guido van Rossum, Part I
<https://www.artima.com/articles/the-making-of-python>
- Microsoft Q&A with Guido van Rossum, Inventor of Python
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYbNh3NS7jA>
- The Story of Python, by Its Creator, Guido van Rossum
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0Aq44Pze-w>
- Python history timeline infographics
<https://python.land/python-tutorial/python-history>

1.2. About the author

My name is Yann Debray, and I work for MathWorks, as a MATLAB Product Manager. You will probably think that I am biased, in that I am trying to sell you MATLAB. That's not wrong. But to better understand my motivations, you need to look a little deeper into my background.

I joined MathWorks in June 2020 (in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic). Prior to that, I spent 6 years working on a project called Scilab⁵. Scilab is an open-source alternative to MATLAB. This experience translates my appetite for open-source and scientific computing.

My first professional encounter with numerical computing after college was in December 2013, when I met Claude Gomez⁶. He was the CEO of Scilab Enterprises back then, and the one who had turned Scilab from a research project to a company. The business model was inspired from Red Hat selling services around Linux.

⁴ Foreword for "Programming Python" Guido van Rossum (1996):

<https://www.python.org/doc/essays/foreword/>

⁵ Scilab: <https://scilab.org/>

⁶ Interview with Claude Gomez, former CEO of Scilab Enterprises: <https://www.d-booker.fr/content/81-interview-with-claude-gomez-ceo-of-scilab-enterprises-about-scilab-and-its-development>

I know very well the challenge of making open-source a sustainable model in scientific computing, and that is the reason why I believe in an equilibrium in the force, between open-source and proprietary software. Not every software can be free. Based on the expertise required in fields like simulation – requiring decades of investments – we will still observe entire markets of engineering software driven by intellectual property for the years to come.

1.3. Open-source vs Commercial

One of the early questions around this book was: *Do I commercialize it, or do I make it open-source?*

I had an idealized view of what it would mean to write a book. The fame and the glamour. But pragmatically, I know it is not going to sell a lot, as it is quite niche. My best estimate for a target audience is around 30% of the 5 million users of MATLAB, that may also be interested in Python.

Beyond my idealism on open-source, I felt like I needed concrete motivation to see this project through. Hence my initial idea to sell a hard copy of this book. But my dear colleague and good friend Mike Croucher advised me against what he calls “dead wood”. Hinting to the fact that the printed content would quickly become obsolete with every new version of MATLAB (twice a year).

Finally, I've decided that open-sourcing the content does not conflict with releasing a paid version of the book. In fact, when I buy technical books, I often decide for those who apply an open-source license.

1.4. Who is this book for?

If you recognize yourself in the following scenario, this book is for you:

You are an engineer or a researcher using MATLAB, and you are increasingly hearing about Python. This comes up particularly in subjects related to data science & artificial intelligence. When searching for code online, you might stumble on interesting scripts or packages written in Python. Or when working with colleagues that are using Python, you may be looking for ways to integrate their work:



I would like to **integrate Python code from the community or from my colleagues** in my MATLAB analysis

You are (or want to become) a Data Scientist, and you are working on scientific / engineering data (wireless, audio, video, radar/lidar, autonomous driving,...). You will probably be using Python for some of your daily operations related to data processing, but you may want to consider MATLAB for the engineering part of your AI workflow (especially if this intelligence will be integrated on embedded systems). If this part is covered by engineer colleagues, you might simply want to be able to run the models and scripts that they share with you:



Can I use MATLAB capabilities in my Python **Data Science & Artificial Intelligence** applications?

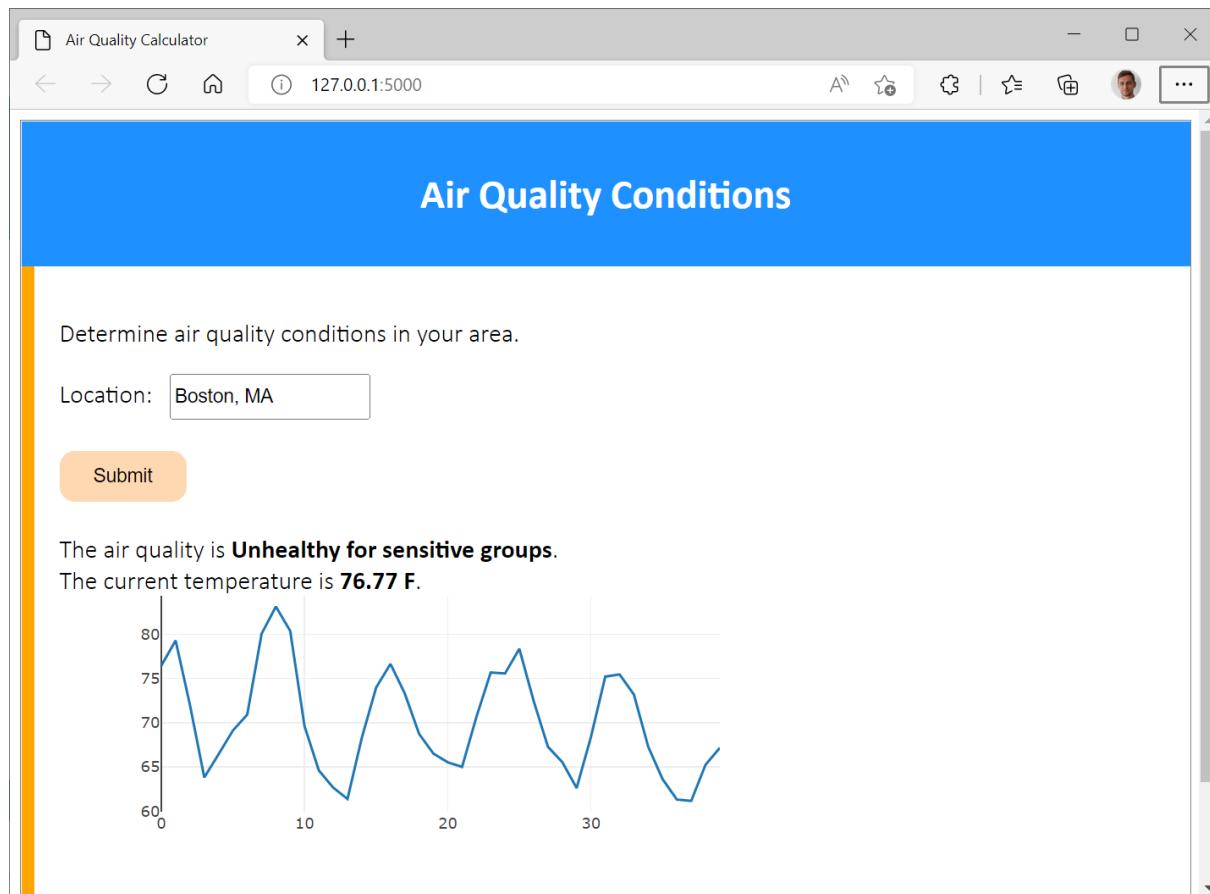
2. End-to-end project with MATLAB & Python

When I joined MathWorks, I met Heather. She had developed a really good demo to illustrate the use of MATLAB with Python. In this chapter, I'll show the **Weather Forecasting app** she developed. You can find the code on her GitHub repo: <https://github.com/hgorr/weather-matlab-python>

Start by retrieving the code by downloading a zip or cloning the repository:

```
!git clone https://github.com/hgorr/weather-matlab-python  
cd weather-matlab-python\
```

The resulting application will look like this:



We will work in steps to:

1. Call Heather's python code to retrieve the weather data
2. Integrate a MATLAB model predicting the air quality
3. Deploy the resulting application made out of MATLAB + Python

In this example we will be using data from a web service at openweathermap.org

OpenWeather global services

Weather forecasts, nowcasts and history in fast and elegant way

2 Billion Forecasts Per Day
2,500 new subscribers a day

2,600,000 customers
20+ weather APIs



In order to access live data, you will need to register⁷ to the free tier offering. You will then have the option to generate an API key: https://home.openweathermap.org/api_keys

The screenshot shows a web browser window for the OpenWeather website. The URL in the address bar is https://home.openweathermap.org/api_keys. The page has a dark header with the OpenWeather logo and navigation links like 'Get Started', 'API', 'Pricing', etc. A green 'Notice' bar at the top says 'API key was created successfully'. Below it, there's a message: 'You can generate as many API keys as needed for your subscription. We accumulate the total load from all of them.' A table allows generating a new key, with columns for 'Key' (a blurred placeholder), 'Name' (set to 'Default'), and 'Create key' (with a 'Generate' button).

This key will be necessary for each call of the web service. For instance, requesting the current weather⁸ will be performed by calling the following address:

`api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather?q={city name}&appid={API key}`

Save your API key in a text file called accessKey.txt.

```
% apikey = fileread("accessKey.txt");
```

Alternatively you can use the sample API key (as demonstrated in this script)

```
appid = 'b1b15e88fa797225412429c1c50c122a1';
```

2.1. Call Python from MATLAB

Heather has created a module called weather.py that reads from the web service and parses the JSON data it returns. Of course, we can do this in MATLAB, but let's use this module as an example of accessing data from Python.

⁷ Register to OpenWeatherMap.org: https://home.openweathermap.org/users/sign_up

⁸ OpenWeatherMap current weather API: <https://openweathermap.org/current>

2.1.1. Check the Python installation

First connect to the Python environment using the `pyenv`⁹ command. For more details on how to set-up MATLAB and Python, look at the [next chapter](#). MATLAB can call python functions and create python objects from base Python, from packages you have installed and from your own Python code.

```
pyenv % Use pyversion for MATLAB versions before R2019b
```

```
ans =
  PythonEnvironment with properties:

    Version: "3.10"
    Executable: "C:\Users\ydebray\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python310\python.exe"
    Library: "C:\Users\ydebray\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python310\python310.dll"
    Home: "C:\Users\ydebray\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python310"
    Status: Loaded
    ExecutionMode: OutOfProcess
    ProcessID: "26388"
    ProcessName: "MATLABPyHost"
```

2.1.2. Call Python user-defined functions from MATLAB

Now let's see how to use my colleague's weather module. We will start by getting the data for today. The [get_current_weather](#) function in the weather module gets the current weather conditions in Json format. The [parse_current_json](#) function then returns that data as a python dictionary.

```
jsonData = py.weather.get_current_weather("London", "UK", appid, api='samples')
```

```
jsonData =
  Python dict with no properties.

  {'coord': {'lon': -0.13, 'lat': 51.51}, 'weather': [{}], 'base': 'stations', 'main': {
    'temp': 280.32, 'pressure': 1012, 'humidity': 81, 'temp_min': 279.15, 'temp_max': 281.15}, 'visibility': 10000, 'wind': {'speed': 4.1, 'deg': 80}, 'clouds': {'all': 90}, 'dt': 1485789600, 'sys': {'type': 1, 'id': 5091, 'message': 0.0103, 'country': 'GB', 'sunrise': 1485762037, 'sunset': 1485794875}, 'id': 2643743, 'name': 'London', 'cod': 200}
```

```
weatherData = py.weather.parse_current_json(jsonData)
```

```
weatherData =
  Python dict with no properties.

  {'temp': 280.32, 'pressure': 1012, 'humidity': 81, 'temp_min': 279.15, 'temp_max': 281.15, 'speed': 4.1, 'deg': 80, 'lon': -0.13, 'lat': 51.51, 'city': 'London', 'current_time': '2023-03-15 16:04:38.427888'}
```

2.1.3. Convert Python data to MATLAB data

Let's convert the Python dictionary¹⁰ into a MATLAB structure¹¹:

⁹ Change default environment of Python interpreter <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/pyenv.html>

¹⁰ Python Dictionary: <https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/datastructures.html#dictionaries>

¹¹ MATLAB Structure: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/struct.html>

```
data = struct(weatherData)
```

```
data = struct with fields:
    temp: 280.3200
    pressure: [1x1 py.int]
    humidity: [1x1 py.int]
    temp_min: 279.1500
    temp_max: 281.1500
    speed: 4.1000
    deg: [1x1 py.int]
    lon: -0.1300
    lat: 51.5100
    city: [1x6 py.str]
    current_time: [1x26 py.str]
```

Most of the data gets automatically converted. Only some fields did not find an obvious equivalent:

- `pressure` & `humidity` remain as a `py.int` object in MATLAB.
- `city` and `current_time` remain as a `py.str` object in MATLAB.

We can convert them explicitly using standard MATLAB functions like `double`¹², `string`¹³ and `datetime`¹⁴:

```
data.pressure = double(data.pressure);
data.humidity = double(data.humidity);
data.deg = double(data.deg);
data.city = string(data.city);
data.current_time = datetime(string(data.current_time))
```

```
data = struct with fields:
    temp: 280.3200
    pressure: 1012
    humidity: 81
    temp_min: 279.1500
    temp_max: 281.1500
    speed: 4.1000
    deg: 80
    lon: -0.1300
    lat: 51.5100
    city: "London"
    current_time: 15-Mar-2023 16:04:38
```

2.1.4. Convert Python lists to MATLAB matrices

Now let's call the `get_forecast` function which returns a series of predicted weather conditions over the next few days. We can see that the fields of the structure are returned as Python list¹⁵:

```
jsonData = py.weather.get_forecast('Muenchen', 'DE', appid, api='samples');
forecastData = py.weather.parse_forecast_json(jsonData);
forecast = struct(forecastData)
```

¹² Double-precision arrays: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/double.html>

¹³ Characters and Strings: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/characters-and-strings.html>

¹⁴ Dates and Time: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/date-and-time-operations.html>

¹⁵ Python List: <https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/datastructures.html#more-on-lists>

```
forecast = struct with fields:
  current_time: [1x36 py.list]
    temp: [1x36 py.list]
    deg: [1x36 py.list]
    speed: [1x36 py.list]
    humidity: [1x36 py.list]
    pressure: [1x36 py.list]
```

Lists containing only numeric data can be converted into doubles (since MATLAB R2022a):

```
forecast.temp = double(forecast.temp) - 273.15; % from Kelvin to Celsius
forecast.temp
```

```
ans = 1x36
13.5200    12.5100    3.9000   -0.3700    0.1910    2.4180    3.3280 ...
```

Lists containing text can be transformed to strings, and further processed into specific data types like datetime:

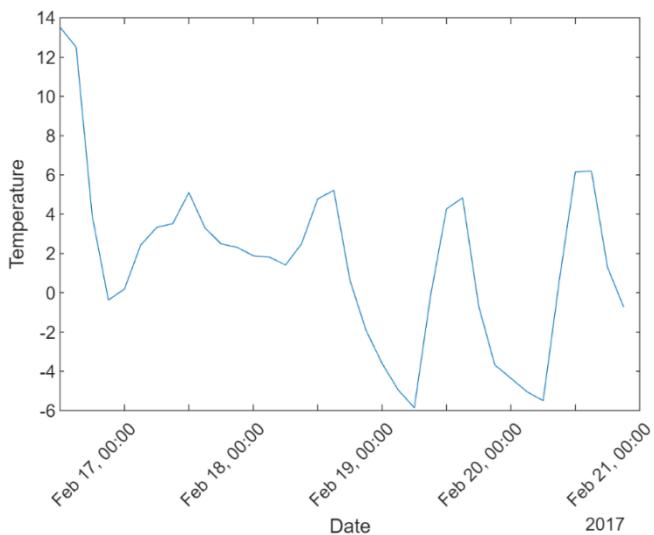
```
forecast.current_time = string(forecast.current_time);
forecast.current_time = datetime(forecast.current_time);
forecast.current_time
```

```
ans = 1x36 datetime
16-Feb-2017 12:00:00 16-Feb-2017 15:00:00 16-Feb-2017 18:00:00 16-Feb-2017
21:00: ...
```

Read more about mapping data between Python and MATLAB ([section 4.7](#))

2.1.5. Explore graphically the Python data imported in MATLAB

```
plot(forecast.current_time,forecast.temp)
xtickangle(45)
xlabel('Date')
ylabel('Temperature')
```



2.1.6. Call a Machine Learning model in MATLAB

Now let's suppose we have used some historical data to create a machine learning model that takes a set of weather conditions and returns a prediction of the air quality. My Python colleague wants to make use of my model in her Python code.

First, let's see how the air quality prediction works. There are three steps:

- Load the model from a .mat file
- Convert the current weather data from openweathermap.org to the format expected by the model
- Call the predict method of the model to get the expected air quality for that day

```
load airQualModel.mat model
 testData = prepData(data);
 airQuality = predict(model,testData)
```

```
airQuality = categorical
 Good
```

To give this to my colleague, I'm going to pack up these steps into a single function called [predictAirQuality](#):

```
function airQual = predictAirQual(data)
% PREDICTAIRQUAL Predict air quality, based on machine learning model
%
##function CompactClassificationEnsemble

% Convert data types
currentData = prepData(data);

% Load model
mdl = load("airQualModel.mat");
model = mdl.model;

% Determine air quality
airQual = predict(model,currentData);

% Convert data type for use in Python
airQual = char(airQual);

end
```

This function does the same three steps as above – loads the model, converts the data, and calls the model's predict method.

However, it has to do one other thing. The model returns a MATLAB categorical value which doesn't have a direct equivalent in Python, so we convert it to a character array.

Now that we have our MATLAB function that uses the air quality prediction model, let's see how to use it in Python.

2.2. Call MATLAB from Python

Here we will demonstrate calling MATLAB from Python inside of a simple Python shell (`>>>`).

The first step is to use the engine API to start a MATLAB running in the background for Python to communicate with (we will assume here that you have installed it already – else check [section 3.8](#)).

```
>>> import matlab.engine  
>>> m = matlab.engine.start_matlab()
```

Once the MATLAB is running, we can call any MATLAB function on the path.

```
>>> m.sqrt(42.0)  
6.48074069840786
```

We need to access the key from the txt file:

```
>>> with open("accessKey.txt") as f:  
...     apikey = f.read()
```

Now we can use the `get_current_weather` and the `parse_current_json` functions from the `weather` module just like we did in MATLAB to get the current weather conditions.

```
>>> import weather  
>>> json_data = weather.get_current_weather("Boston", "US", apikey)  
>>> data = weather.parse_current_json(json_data)  
>>> data  
  
{'temp': 62.64, 'feels_like': 61.9, 'temp_min': 58.57, 'temp_max': 65.08,  
'pressure': 1018, 'humidity': 70, 'speed': 15.01, 'deg': 335, 'gust': 32.01,  
'lon': -71.0598, 'lat': 42.3584, 'city': 'Boston', 'current_time': '2022-05-23  
11:28:54.833306'}
```

Then we can call the MATLAB function `predictAirQuality` to get the predicted result.

```
>>> aq = m.predictAirQuality(data)  
>>> aq
```

Good

The last step is to shutdown the MATLAB started by the engine API at the beginning of our notebook.

```
>>> m.exit()
```

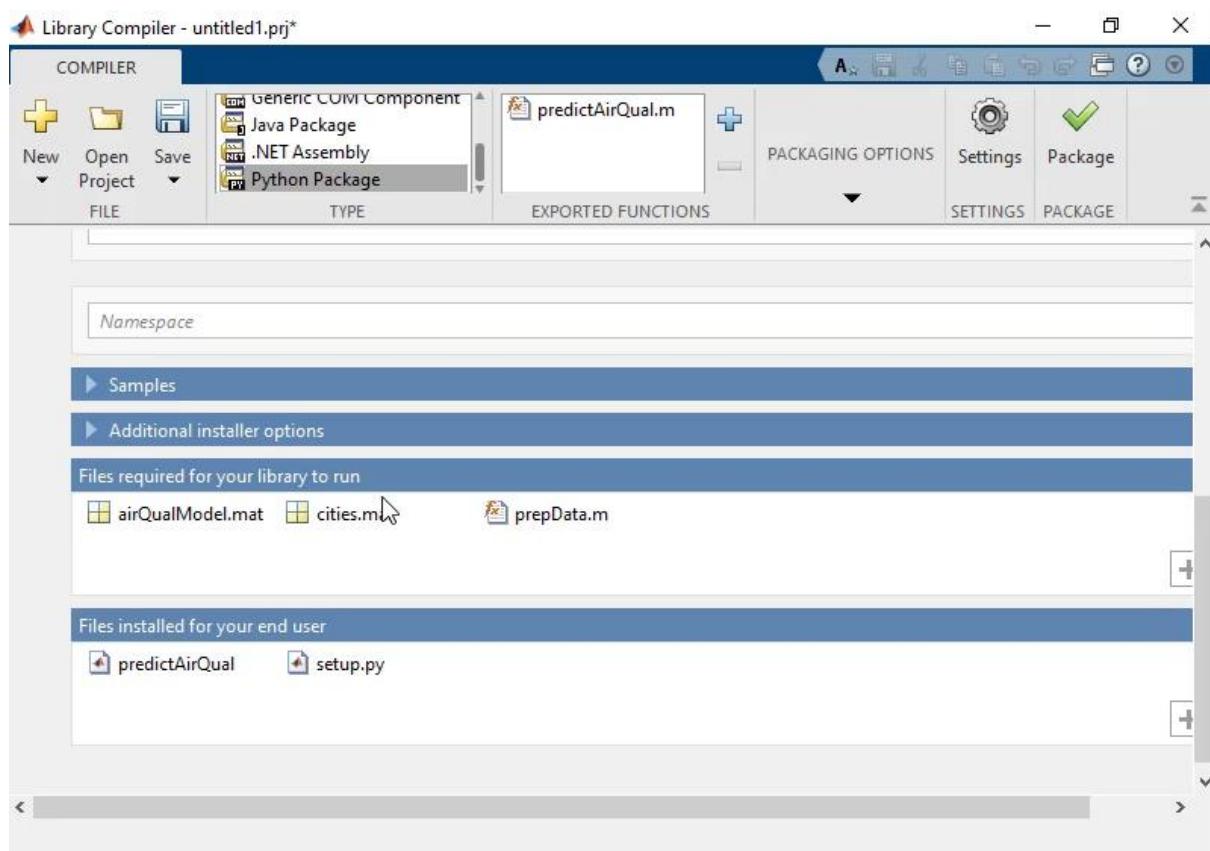
However, your Python colleague might not have access to MATLAB. The next two sections will target this use case.

2.3. Generate a Python package from a set of MATLAB functions

For this, you will need to use a dedicated toolbox called MATLAB Compiler SDK¹⁶. You can select the Library Compiler in the Apps ribbon, or enter in the Command Window (`libraryCompiler`):

¹⁶ MATLAB Compiler SDK: https://www.mathworks.com/help/compiler_sdk/

MATLAB with Python



Simply select the MATLAB function(s) that you want to turn them into Python functions. The dependencies will be automatically added to the Python package (in this case, the Air Quality Model, the list of cities, and the pre-processing function).

This packages the files we need and creates a *setup.py* and *readme.txt* file with instructions for the Python steps. To learn more on how to set-up the generated package read the [section 7.1](#).

Then we need to import and initialize the package and can call the functions, like so:

```
>>> import AirQual  
>>> aq = AirQual.initialize()  
>>> result = aq.predictAirQual()
```

When we're finished, wrap things up by terminating the process:

```
>>> aq.terminate()
```

We can go one step further in sharing the MATLAB functionality to be used as a web service (and potentially accessed by many users at once). In this case, MATLAB Production Server¹⁷ can be used for load balancing and the MATLAB code can be accessed through a RESTful API¹⁸ or Python client¹⁹.

¹⁷ MATLAB Production Server: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/mps/>

¹⁸ Create client programs using the RESTful API:
<https://www.mathworks.com/help/mps/restful-api-and-json.html>

¹⁹ Create a MATLAB Production Server Python Client:
<https://www.mathworks.com/help/mps/python/create-a-matlab-production-server-python-client.html>

3. Set-up MATLAB and Python

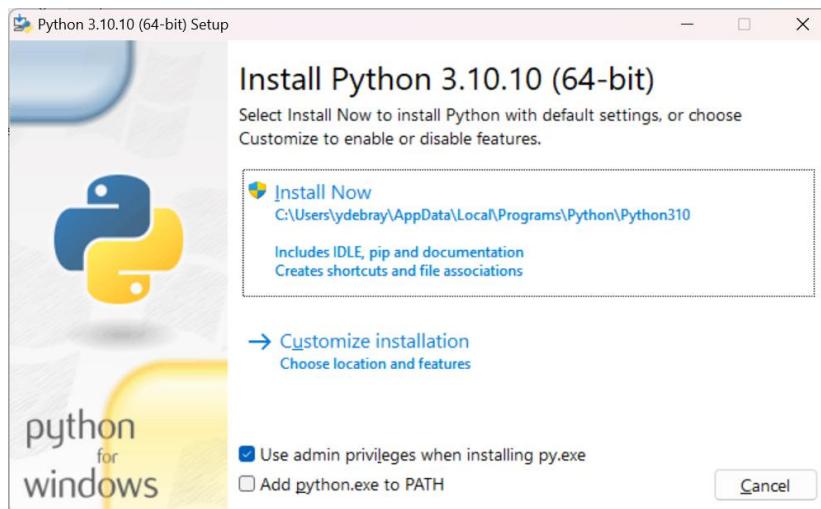
3.1. Install Python

You can simply go to www.python.org/downloads and select a version of Python compatible with your MATLAB version²⁰. For instance, this is the list of versions compatible with the latest releases:

MATLAB Version	Compatible Versions of Python 2	Compatible Versions of Python 3
R2023a	2.7	3.9, 3.10
R2022b	2.7	3.8, 3.9, 3.10
R2022a	2.7	3.8, 3.9
R2021b	2.7	3.7, 3.8, 3.9

3.1.1. Install Python on Windows

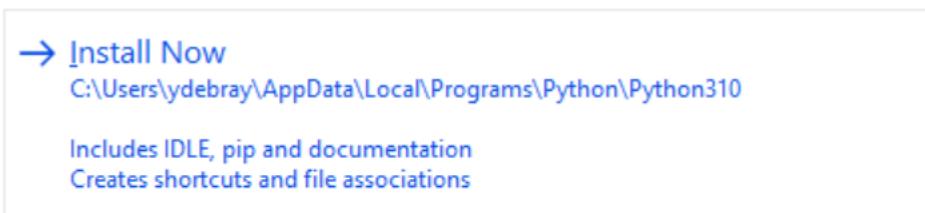
If you are running on Windows, download the Windows installer (64-bit)²¹: the file [python-3.10.10-amd64.exe](https://www.python.org/ftp/python/3.10.10/python-3.10.10-amd64.exe) is only 28Mo. Just run this executable (you can uncheck the admin privileges):



By default, the checkbox “Add python.exe to PATH” isn’t checked. I would advise you to select it (Otherwise, you will have to add Python to your PATH manually):



Select “→ Install Now”:



It should only take about a minute to get everything installed on your machine.

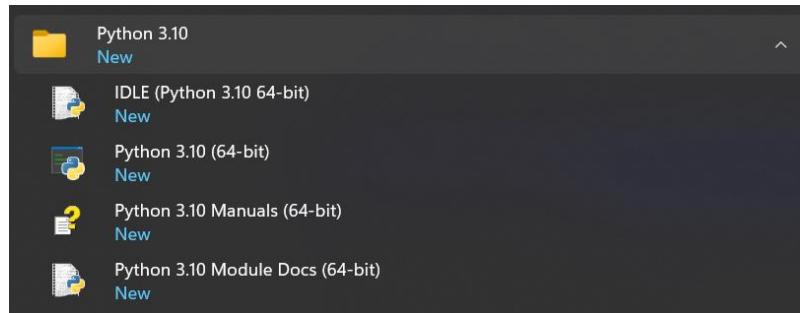
²⁰ Versions of Python Compatible with MATLAB Products by Release:

<https://www.mathworks.com/support/requirements/python-compatibility.html>

²¹ Windows installer (64-bit): <https://www.python.org/ftp/python/3.10.10/python-3.10.10-amd64.exe>

MATLAB with Python

The following applications have been installed and are accessible from your Start menu:



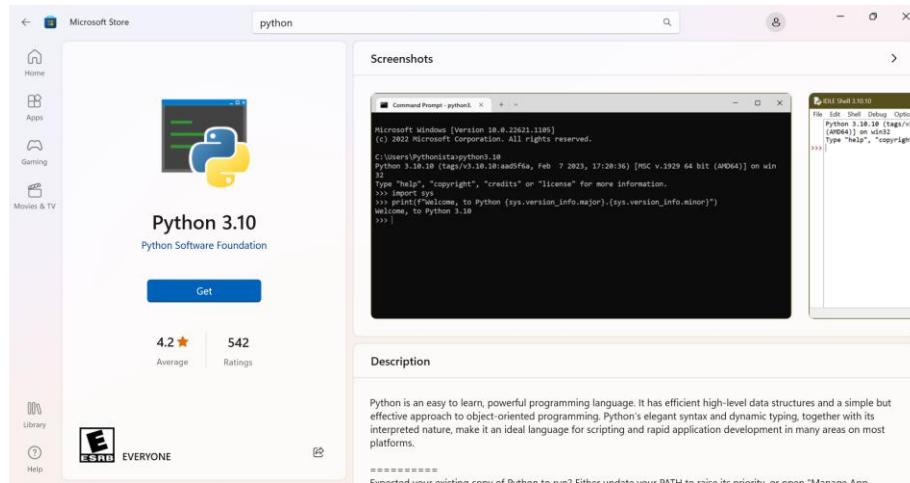
To check that you have Python installed and available to your PATH, open a command prompt:

```
C:\Users\ydebray>where python
C:\Users\ydebray\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python310\python.exe
C:\Users\ydebray\AppData\Local\Microsoft\WindowsApps\python.exe
```

If you have several versions of Python installed, it will return each of them, in the order listed in your PATH, plus the last one that isn't actually installed:

```
C:\Users\ydebray\AppData\Local\Microsoft\WindowsApps\python.exe
```

This is a link to a version packaged on the Microsoft Store. If you run it, you'll be redirected to the Store:



3.2. Install Anaconda or other Python distribution

With the previous version installed, you only have the base Python language. No numerical packages, or Development Environment (unlike MATLAB that ships all of those features by default). To get a set of curated data science packages pre-installed, you can download a distribution, like Anaconda:

Be aware of the fact that you now need to comply with Anaconda's terms of services²² (since September 2020): You can only use the open-source Anaconda Distribution²³ professionally for free if you are not part of an organization with more than 200 employees. Otherwise, you will need to buy a license of Anaconda Professional²⁴.

²² Anaconda's terms of services: <https://www.anaconda.com/terms-of-service>

²³ open-source Anaconda Distribution: <https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution>

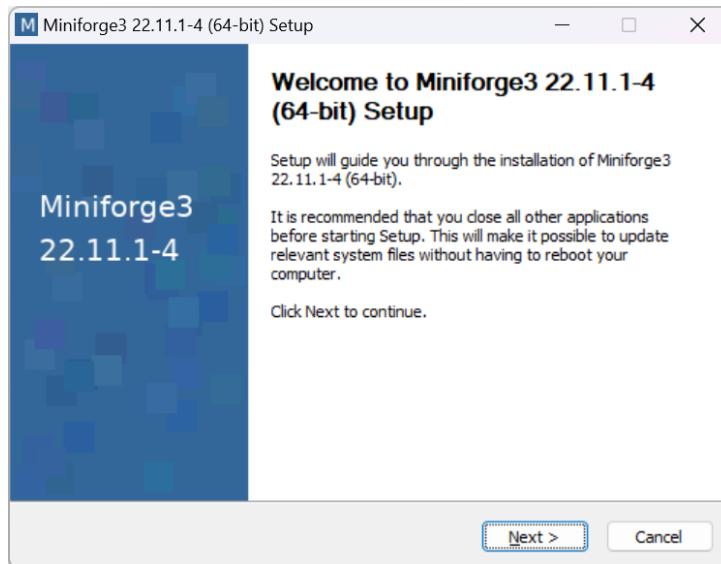
²⁴ Anaconda Professional license: <https://www.anaconda.com/products/professional>

If you are searching for an alternative distribution to Anaconda, I would recommend WinPython²⁵ on Windows. If you are running on Linux, I believe you don't need a distribution and can manage packages yourself.

3.2.1. Install Miniconda from conda-forge

Conda-forge²⁶ provides installers of the conda²⁷ package manager that point by default to the community channel, to remain in compliance with the terms of use of the Anaconda repo, even for "commercial activities".

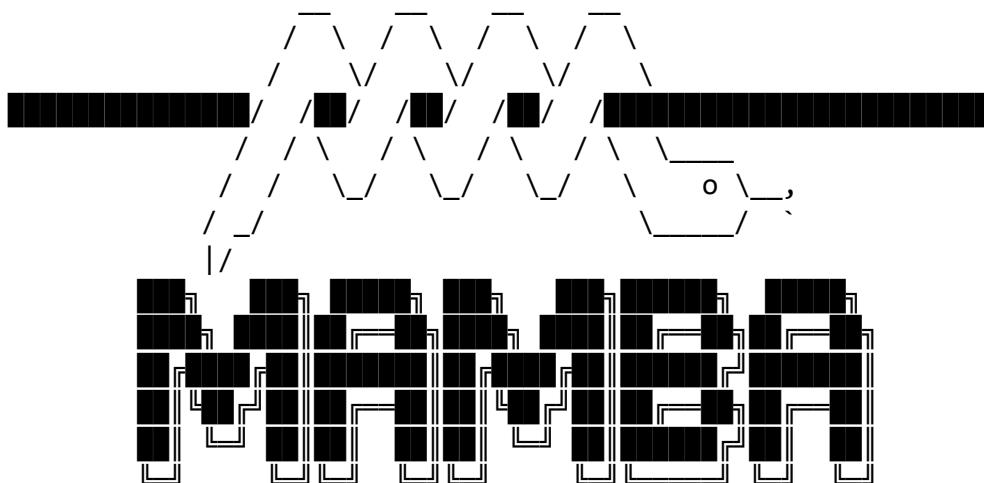
Download and run the installer of miniforge (55 MB):



3.2.2. Install Micromamba for minimal footprint

micromamba²⁸ is a 4 MB pure-C++ drop-in replacement for the conda package manager. Unlike pip or conda, it is not written in Python, so you don't need to get Python to get it, and it can retrieve python:

```
(base) $ mamba install python
```



²⁵ WinPython: <https://winpython.github.io/>

²⁶ Conda-forge: <https://conda-forge.org/>

²⁷ Miniconda installer from Conda-forge: <https://github.com/conda-forge/miniforge>

²⁸ Micromamba doc: <https://mamba.readthedocs.io/> - on Linux : curl micro.mamba.pm/install.sh | bash

mamba (1.1.0) supported by @QuantStack

GitHub: <https://github.com/mamba-org/mamba>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/QuantStack>



Looking for: ['python']

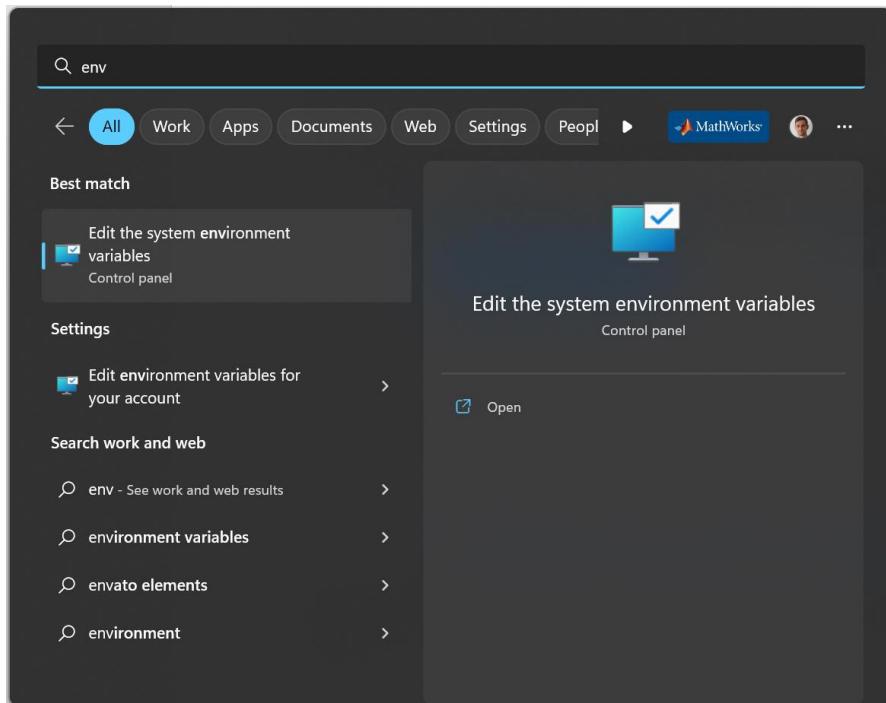
conda-forge/noarch	11.6MB @ 3.6MB/s
3.7s	
conda-forge/linux-64	30.3MB @ 3.7MB/s
9.4s	

3.3. Manage your PATH

When you have several versions of Python installed, the command `python --version` returns the version that is higher up in your PATH. To check which version of Python is used by default:

```
C:\Users\ydebray>python --version  
Python 3.10.10
```

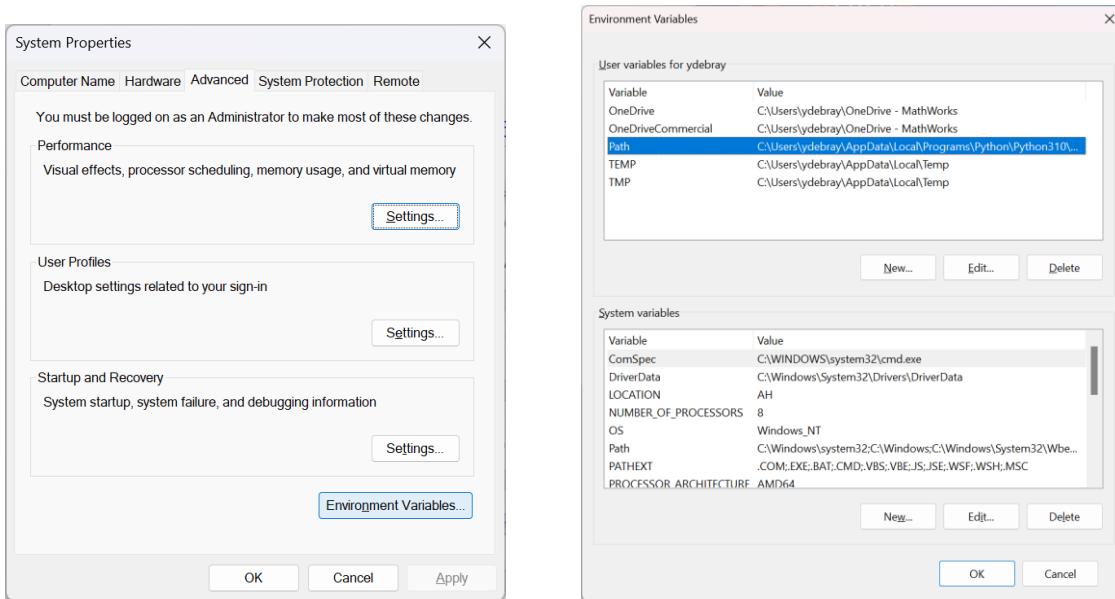
To change this, you will need to modify your PATH²⁹



You can edit your PATH in **environment variables**, by tipping “path” in the search bar of your Windows start menu. Select the Path in the user variables (it will be written on top of the system variables):

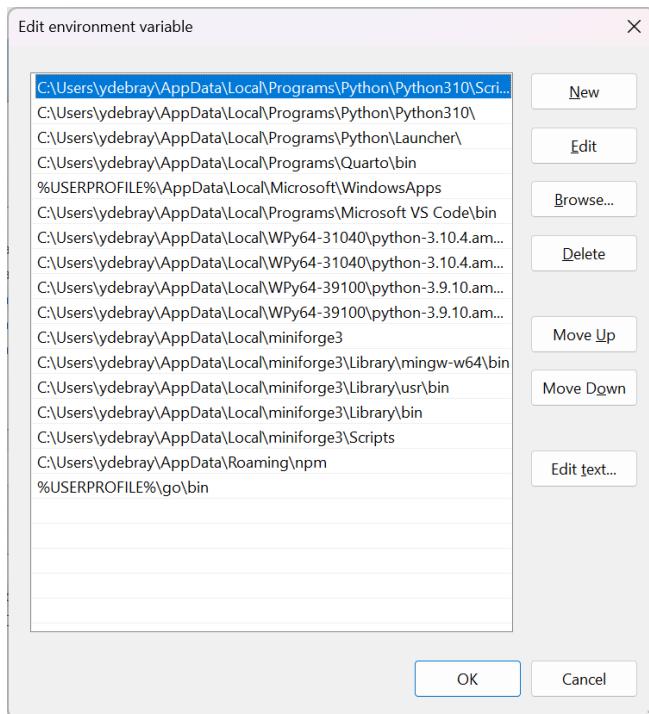
²⁹ PATH: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PATH_\(variable\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PATH_(variable))

MATLAB with Python



You can modify the order in which each version of Python is listed in the PATH. And in order to access pip (the Python default package manager), make sure to also list the Script folder in the PATH:

C:\Users\ydebray\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python310\Scripts



3.4. Install additional Python packages

In order to retrieve additional packages from the Python Package Index³⁰, use the pip command:

C:\Users\ydebray>pip install pandas

³⁰ Python Package Index (PyPI) <https://pypi.org/>

This will for instance install the famous pandas³¹ package. It will also automatically retrieve its dependencies (in this case numpy, python-dateutil, pytz).

You can check if a package is installed by calling the method `pip show`. It will show information about this package:

```
C:\Users\ydebray>pip show pandas
Name: pandas
Version: 1.3.3
Summary: Powerful data structures for data analysis, time series, and
statistics
Home-page: https://pandas.pydata.org
Author: The Pandas Development Team
Author-email: pandas-dev@python.org
License: BSD-3-Clause
Location: c:\users\ydebray\appdata\local\programs\python\python39\lib\site-
packages
Requires: numpy, python-dateutil, pytz
Required-by: streamlit, altair
```

To upgrade a package previously installed with a new version:

```
C:\Users\ydebray>pip install --upgrade pandas
```

3.5. Set up a Python virtual environment

If you have different projects leveraging different versions of the same package, or if you want a way to replicate your production environment in a clean space, use Python virtual environment³². It's a type of virtualization at the language level (like Virtual Machine at the Machine level, or Docker container at the Operating System level). This is the default way (shipped with base Python) to create a virtual environment called `env`:

```
C:\Users\ydebray>python -m venv env
```

You then need to activate it

- On Windows:

```
C:\Users\ydebray>.\env\Scripts\activate
```

- On Linux:

```
$ source env/bin/activate
```

Once you've done that you can install the libraries you want, for instance from a list of requirements:

```
C:\Users\ydebray>pip install -r requirements.txt
```

3.6. Set up a Python Development Environment

Once you've installed Python and the relevant packages for scientific computing, you still don't quite have the same experience as with the MATLAB Integrated Development Environment (IDE).

³¹ Pandas <https://pandas.pydata.org>

³² Python virtual environment: <https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/venv.html>

Two key open-source technologies are taking a stab at reshaping the tech computing landscape:

- Jupyter Notebooks
- Visual Studio Code

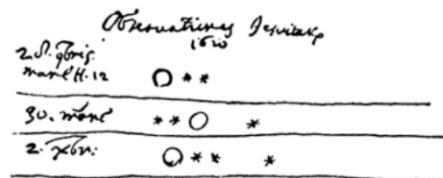
They are redefining the way *Languages* and *Development environments* are interacting. Based on open standards for interactive computing first with Jupyter. Adding richer interaction for multiple languages in the IDE, with the VS Code Language Server Protocol.

3.6.1. Jupyter Notebooks

Jupyter Notebooks have become over the years, one of the most used and appreciated data science tools. They combine text (as Markdown), code, and output (numerical and graphical). Notebooks help data scientist to communicate goals, methods and results. It can be seen as an executable form of textbook or scientific paper.



Jupyter stands for Julia, Python and R, but it is also an homage to Galileo's notebooks recording the discovery of the moons of Jupiter. Those notebooks were probably one of the first instance of open science, data-and-narrative papers. When Galileo published the Sidereal Messenger in 1610 (one of the first scientific paper), he actually published his observations with code and data. It was a log of the dates and the states of the night. There was data and metadata, and there was a narrative.



Jupyter is a project that spun off in 2014³³ from IPython. IPython stands for Interactive Python and was created in 2001 by Fernando Perez. He drew his inspiration from Maple and Mathematica that both had notebook environments. He really liked the Python language, but he felt limited by the interactive prompt to do scientific computing. So he wrote a python startup file to provide the ability to hold state and capture previous results for reuse, and adding some nice features like loading the Numeric library and Gnuplot. 'ipython-0.0.1'³⁴ was born, a mere 259 lines to be loaded as \$PYTHONSTARTUP.

Around 2006, the IPython project took some inspiration from another open-source project called Sage³⁵. The Sage Notebook was taking the route of using the filesystem for notebook operations. You couldn't meaningfully list files with 'ls' or move around the filesystem by changing directory with 'cd'. Sage would execute your code in hidden directories with each cell actually being a separate subdirectory.

In 2010, the architecture of IPython evolved by separating the notebook front-end from the kernel executing Python code, and communicating between the two with the ZeroMQ protocol³⁶. This design enabled the development of a Qt client, a Visual Studio extension, and finally a web frontend.

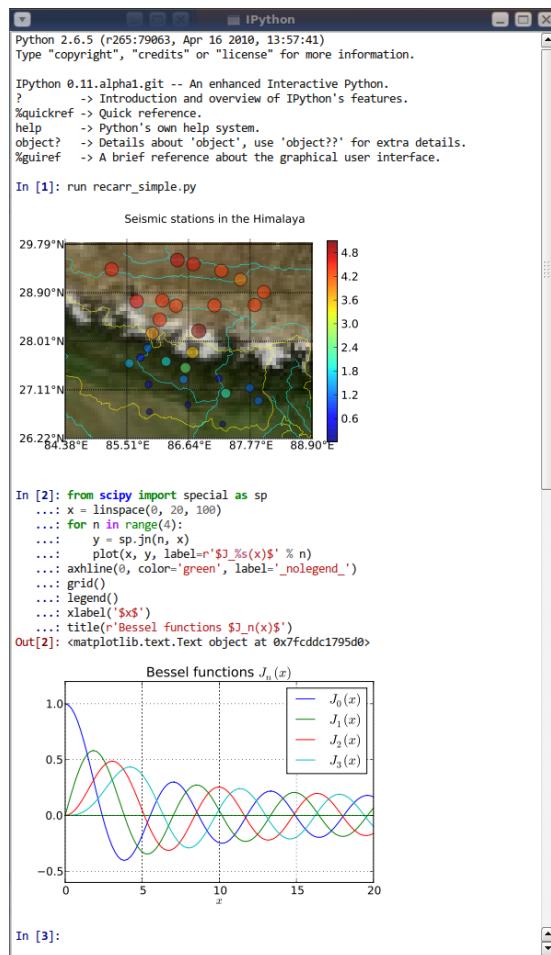
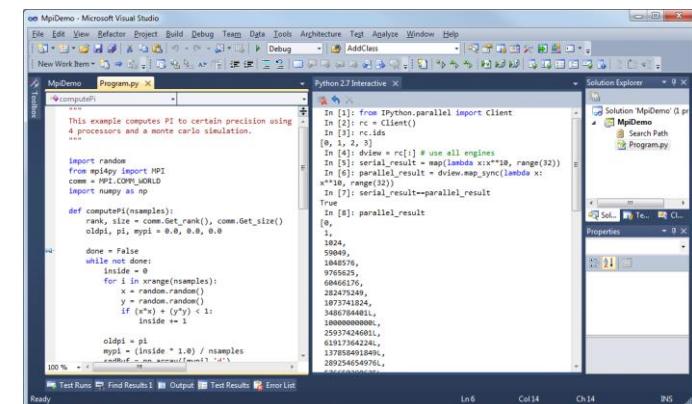
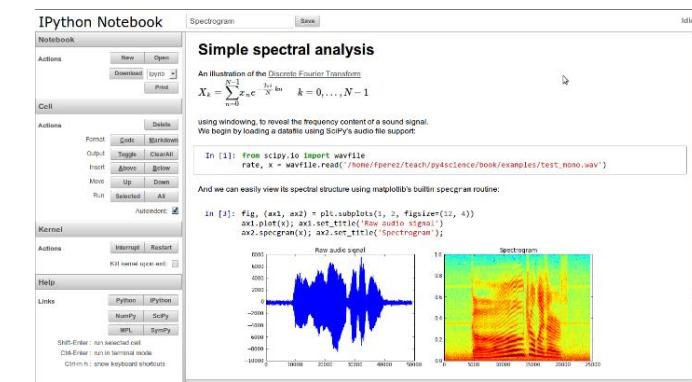
³³ Launch of Project Jupyter at SciPy 2014: <https://speakerdeck.com/fperez/project-jupyter>

³⁴ ipython-0.0.1 - <https://gist.github.com/fperez/1579699>

³⁵ SageMath mathematics software system licensed under the GPL: <https://www.sagemath.org/>

³⁶ ZeroMQ Protocol: <https://zeromq.org/>

MATLAB with Python

The image shows three screenshots of scientific computing environments:

- IPython Notebook:** A screenshot of the IPython Notebook interface. It displays a map titled "Seismic stations in the Himalaya" with red dots representing stations. Below the map is a plot of Bessel functions $J_0(x)$, $J_1(x)$, $J_2(x)$, and $J_3(x)$ against x . The x-axis ranges from 0 to 20, and the y-axis ranges from -0.5 to 1.0.
- Microsoft Visual Studio:** A screenshot of the Microsoft Visual Studio IDE. It shows a Python file named "Program.py" containing MPI code for calculating pi. The code uses MPI's `COMM_WORLD` and `MAP` functions. The output window shows the result of the computation.
- Jupyter Notebook:** A screenshot of the Jupyter Notebook interface. It shows a cell titled "Simple spectral analysis" illustrating the Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) with a plot of a raw audio signal and its corresponding spectrogram.

IPython gave turn to Jupyter, to become language agnostic. Jupyter supports execution environments (aka kernels) in several dozen languages among which are Julia, R, Haskell, Ruby, and of course Python (via the IPython kernel)... and MATLAB³⁷ (via a kernel maintained by the community and building on the MATLAB Engine for Python).

To summarize, Jupyter provides 3 key *components* to the modern scientific computing stack:



Some of the testimonies of the pervasive success of Jupyter in data science are the development of additional capabilities from the ecosystem:

- Running Notebooks on Google Colab
- Render Notebooks on GitHub

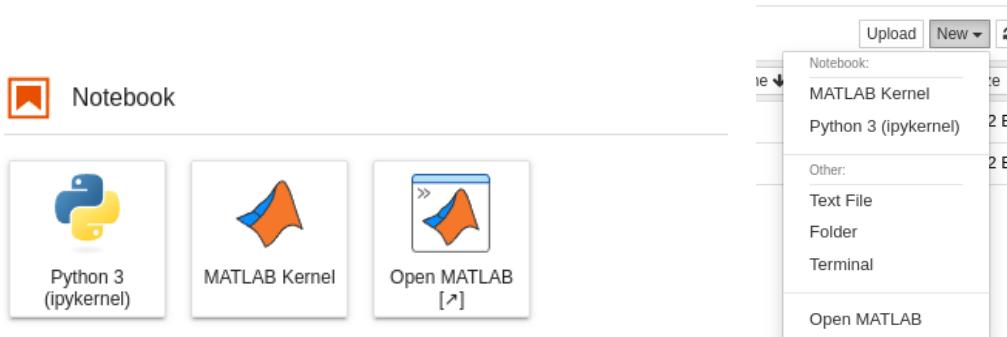
³⁷ MATLAB Kernel for Jupyter developed by the community: https://github.com/Calysto/matlab_kernel

Read more on Jupyter:

- The scientific paper is obsolete, by James Somers – The Atlantic – APRIL 5, 2018
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/04/the-scientific-paper-is-obsolete/556676/>
- The IPython notebook: a historical retrospective
<http://blog.fperez.org/2012/01/ipython-notebook-historical.html>
- A Brief History of Jupyter Notebooks
<https://ep2020.europython.eu/media/conference/slides/7UBMYed-a-brief-history-of-jupyter-notebooks.pdf>
- The First Notebook War - Martin Skarzynski
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QR7gR3njNWw>

3.6.2. MATLAB Integration for Jupyter

MathWorks has released an official kernel for Jupyter in January 2023. In addition to this, you also have a way to integrate the MATLAB full environment as an app inside of a JupyterHub server installation. You can find this app easier in the 'New' menu, or if you are using JupyterLab, as an icon in the launcher:



To find out more about the MATLAB Integration for Jupyter:

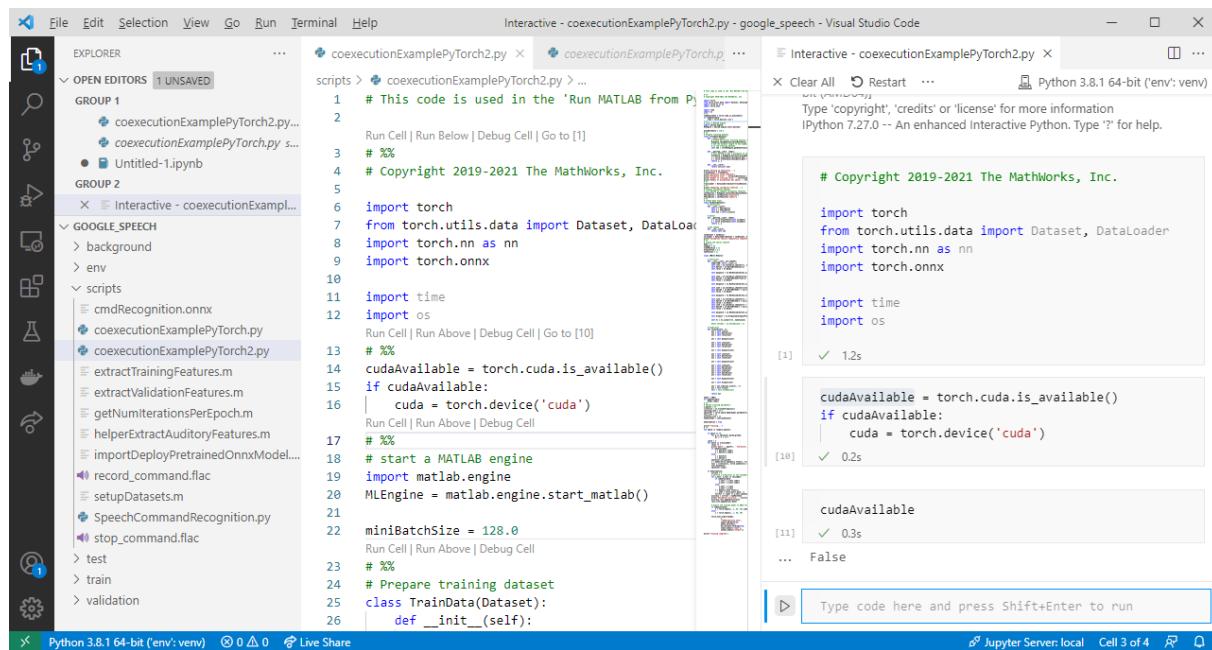
- <https://github.com/mathworks/jupyter-matlab-proxy>
- <https://www.mathworks.com/products/reference-architectures/jupyter.html>
- <https://blogs.mathworks.com/matlab/2023/01/30/official-mathworks-matlab-kernel-for-jupyter-released/>

3.6.3. Visual Studio Code

I adopted VS Code when I discovered that it was supporting Jupyter/IPython Notebook ipynb files.

As any other Integrated Development Environment, VS Code supports writing scripts and executing them in several languages (Python, Javascript, ...)

MATLAB with Python



The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Code interface with two tabs open: 'coexecutionExamplePyTorch2.py' and 'coexecutionExamplePyTorch2.ipynb'. The left sidebar shows project files under 'GROUP 1' and 'GROUP 2', including 'coexecutionExamplePyTorch2.py', 'coexecutionExamplePyTorch2.ipynb', and 'Untitled-1.ipynb'. The right pane displays the code for 'coexecutionExamplePyTorch2.py'. The code imports torch, torch.utils.data, torch.nn, and torch.onnx, and includes logic to check for CUDA availability and start a MATLAB engine. The code editor has several code cells, some of which have been run, showing execution times (e.g., 1.2s, 0.2s, 0.3s). A status bar at the bottom indicates 'Python 3.8.1 64-bit (env: venv)'.

The big difference with the Eclipse³⁸ approach to componentization is the web standards adopted³⁹. This enables to have richer interactions between the development tool and the language server.

And since it is all based on web technologies, you can access a web version at vscode.dev. Unlike for web languages like HTML/JS, this does not enable the execution of Python as it would require an interpreter running in the browser, or a server to connect to. Some hacks exist based on Pyodide⁴⁰ (a port of Python to WebAssembly).

3.7. Connect MATLAB to Python

You can connect your MATLAB session to Python using the [pyenv](#) command since 2019b. Before that, use [pyversion](#) (introduced in 2014b).

If you have multiple Python versions installed, you can specify which version to use, either with:

```
>> pyenv('Version','3.8')
```

or

```
>> pyenv('Version','C:\Users\ydebray\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python38\python.exe')
```

This is also the way to connect to Python virtual environments:

```
>> pyenv('Version','env\Scripts\python.exe')
```

In your project folder, where you created your virtual environment called env, you simply need to point to the Python executable that is contained in the Scripts subfolder.

Execution Mode:

³⁸ Eclipse IDE, famous for JAVA development: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eclipse_\(software\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eclipse_(software))

³⁹ Language Server Protocol: <https://microsoft.github.io/language-server-protocol/overviews/lsp/overview/>

⁴⁰ Pyodide: <https://pyodide.org/en/stable/index.html>

By default, Python runs in the same process as MATLAB. On the plus side, it means that you don't have overhead for inter-process data exchange between the two systems. But it also means that if Python encounters an error and crashes, then MATLAB crashes as well. This can happen when MATLAB uses different versions of the same library than a given package. For this reason, the *Out-of-Process* execution mode has been introduced⁴¹:

```
>> pyenv("ExecutionMode","OutOfProcess")
```

Setup Tips:

- Ensure all code is on path (both on the MATLAB and Python side⁴²)
- Check environment settings, depending on how you set up Python
- In Out-of-Process Execution, you can terminate the Python process⁴³

3.8. Install the MATLAB Engine for Python

Since the MATLAB Engine for Python has been added to the Python Package Index⁴⁴ (mid-April 2022), you can simply install it with the pip command:

```
C:\Users\ydebray>pip install matlabengine
```

Before that and for release prior to MATLAB R2022a, you had to install it manually⁴⁵:

```
cd "matlabroot\extern\engines\python"  
python setup.py install
```

On Linux, you need to make sure that the default install location of MATLAB by calling `matlabroot` in a MATLAB Command Window. By default, Linux installs MATLAB at:

```
/usr/local/MATLAB/R2023a
```

⁴¹ Out-of-Process Execution of Python Functionality:

https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_external/out-of-process-execution-of-python-functionality.html

⁴² Add a script to the Python path: <https://github.com/hgorr/matlab-with-python/blob/master/setUpPyPath.m>

⁴³ Terminate process associated with Python interpreter:

<https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/pythonenvironment.terminate.html>

⁴⁴ MATLAB Engine for Python on PyPI: <https://pypi.org/project/matlabengine/>

⁴⁵ Install MATLAB Engine for Python: https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_external/install-the-matlab-engine-for-python.html

4. Call Python from MATLAB

Why would you want to call Python from MATLAB. There could be a number of reasons.

First, as a single user. You might want to grab features available in Python. For instance, specialized libraries in fields like AI: Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn or XGBoost, Deep-Learning with TensorFlow or PyTorch, Reinforcement Learning with OpenAI Gym, ...

Second, if you are working with colleagues that developed Python functions, that you would like to leverage as a MATLAB user, without the need to recode.

Third, if you are deploying your MATLAB Application in a Python-based environment, where some of the services, for instance for data access like in the case of the weather app from the first chapter, are written in Python.

4.1. Execute Python statements and files in MATLAB

Since R2021b, you can run Python statements directly from MATLAB with [pyrun](#). This is convenient to simply run short snippets of Python code, without having to wrap it into a script.

```
pyrun("l = [1,2,3]")
pyrun("print(l)")
```

[1, 2, 3]

As you can see, the pyrun function is stateful, in that it maintains the variable defined in previous calls. You can retrieve the Python variable on the MATLAB side by entering it as a second argument:

```
pyrun("l2 = [k^2 for k in l]","l2")
```

```
ans =
Python list with values:

[3, 0, 1]

Use string, double or cell function to convert to a MATLAB array.
```

You can retrieve the list of variables defined in the local scope with the function [dir\(\)](#):

```
D = pyrun("d = dir()", "d")
```

```
D =
Python list with values:

['__builtins__', '__name__', 'l', 'l2']

Use string, double or cell function to convert to a MATLAB array.
```

If it feels more convenient to paste your Python code snippet into a script, you can use [pyrunfile](#).

4.2. Execute Python code in a MATLAB Live Task

Since MATLAB 2022a, you can develop your own custom live tasks. So, in mid-2021, we started prototyping a Python live task with Lucas Garcia. The truth is: I made a first crappy version, and Lucas turned it into something awesome (Lucas should get all the credits for this). Based on this Minimal Viable Product, we engaged with the development teams, both of the

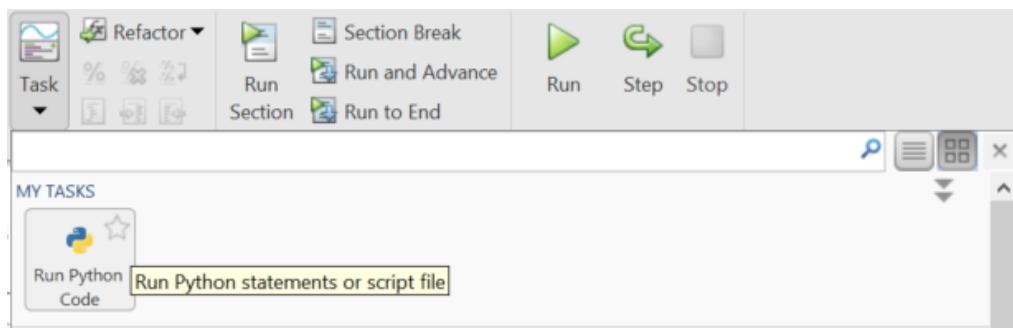


MATLAB with Python

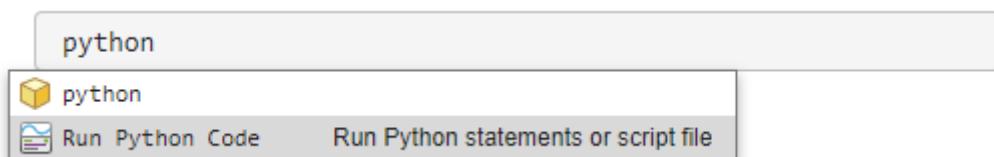
MATLAB editor team, and the Python interface team. We decided it would be best to release this prototype in open-source on GitHub to get early feedbacks, and potentially ship it in the product in future version.

The code is available on <https://github.com/mathworks/MATLAB-Live-Task-for-Python>

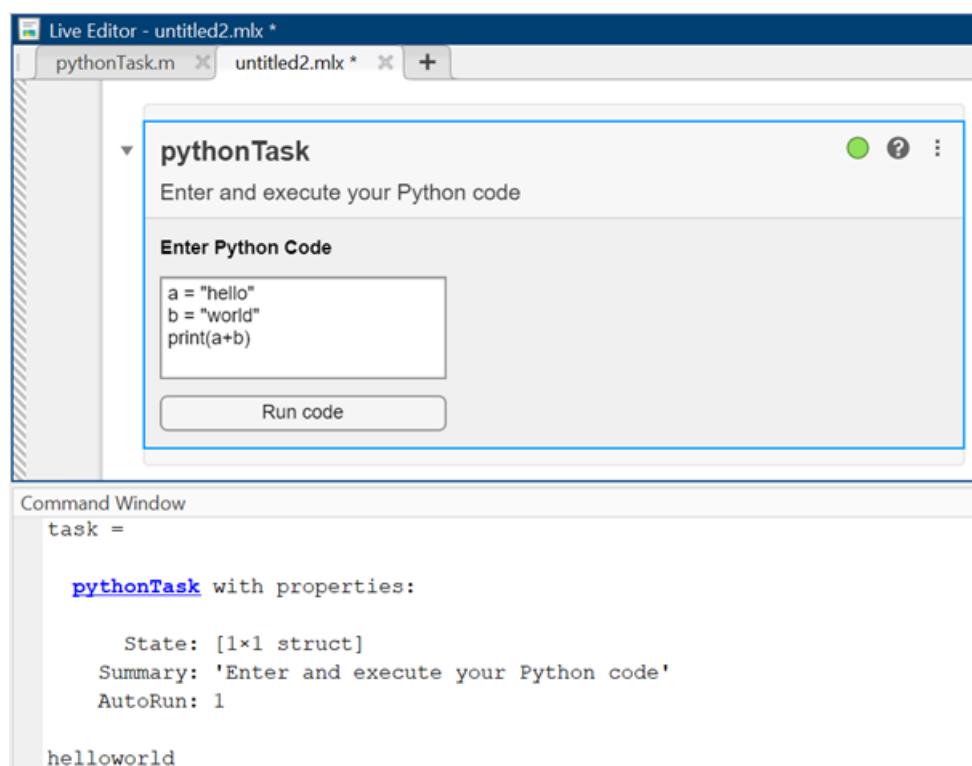
To test it, just clone or download the repo. Execute the set-up script to register the Live Task in your Task gallery. Create a new Live Script, and select Task in the Live Editor tab. You should see this icon under MY TASKS:



If you click on it, it will add the live task to your Live Script where the cursor is located. Alternatively, you can start typing “python” or “run” directly in your Live Script select the task:

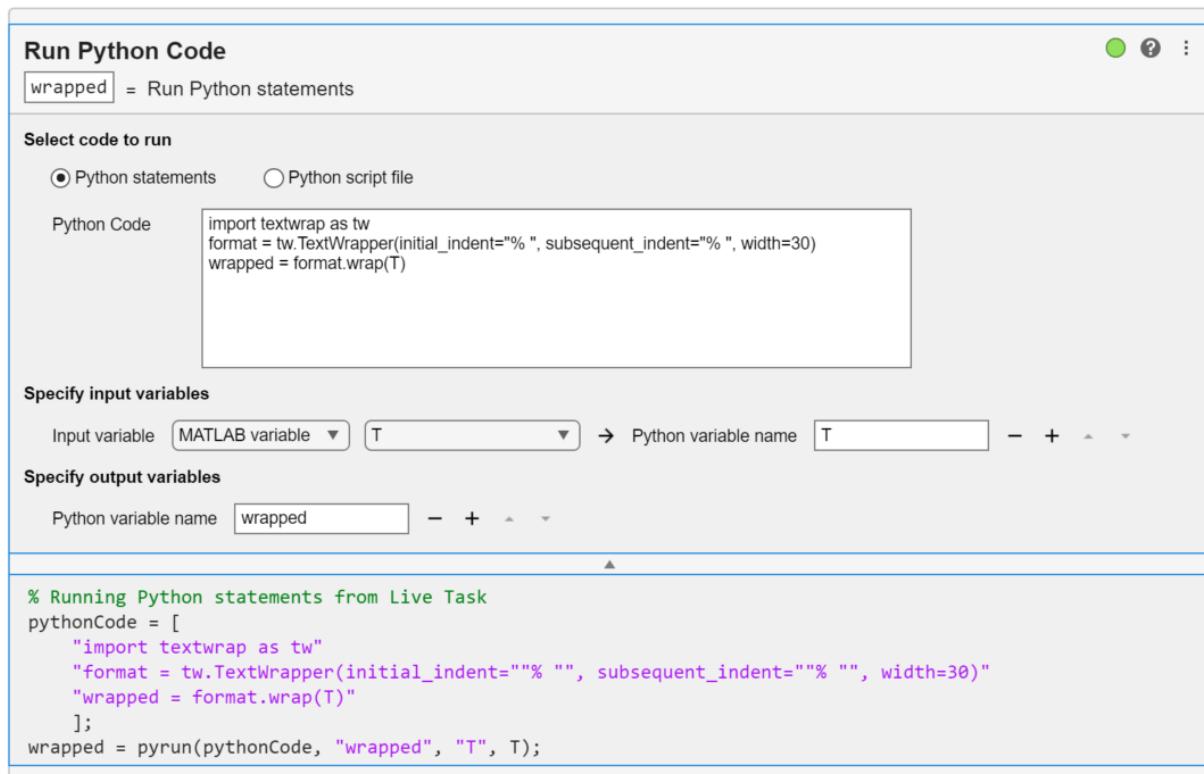


This is what the first version (mine looked like):



MATLAB with Python

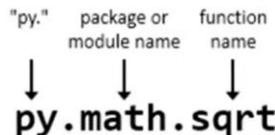
And this is what Lucas turned it into:



This is meant to be a convenient user interface on top of pyrun. Feel free to share your feedback!

4.3. Basic syntax of calling Python functions from MATLAB

All Python functions in MATLAB have the same basic syntax:



The basic example that I give to kick things off is usually calling the square root function from the math module⁴⁶, that is part of the Python standard library. It makes little sense to call mathematics functions in Python from MATLAB, but it is easy to compare the result with what you would expect directly from MATLAB:

In the MATLAB Command Window:

```
>> py.math.sqrt(42)
```

In a MATLAB Live Script:

```
py.math.sqrt(42)
```

```
ans = 6.4807
```

We can create Python data structures from within MATLAB:

⁴⁶ Python math module: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/math.html>

MATLAB with Python

```
py.list([1,2,3])
```

```
ans =  
    Python list with values:
```

```
[1.0, 2.0, 3.0]
```

```
Use string, double or cell function to convert to a MATLAB array.
```

```
py.list({1,2,'a','b'})
```

```
ans =  
    Python list with values:
```

```
[1.0, 2.0, 'a', 'b']
```

```
Use string, double or cell function to convert to a MATLAB array.
```

```
s = struct('a', 1, 'b', 2)
```

```
s = struct with fields:  
    a: 1  
    b: 2
```

```
d = py.dict(s)
```

```
d =  
    Python dict with no properties.
```

```
{'a': 1.0, 'b': 2.0}
```

And we can run methods on those data structures from the MATLAB side:

```
methods(d)
```

Methods for class py.dict:

char	copy	eq	get	items	le	ne	popitem
struct	values						
clear	dict	ge	gt	keys	lt	pop	
setdefault	update						

Static methods:

```
fromkeys
```

Methods of py.dict inherited from handle.

```
d.get('a')
```

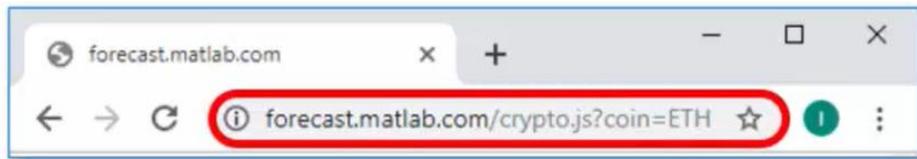
```
ans = 1
```

4.4. Call Python User Defined Functions from MATLAB

In this chapter, we will leverage a demo developed by a Finance colleague. In this example, he is responsible for building enterprise web predictive analytics that other business critical applications can connect to as a web service. It follows the same structure as the weather example in [chapter 2](#).

This web service is **forecasting the price of cryptocurrencies**⁴⁷:

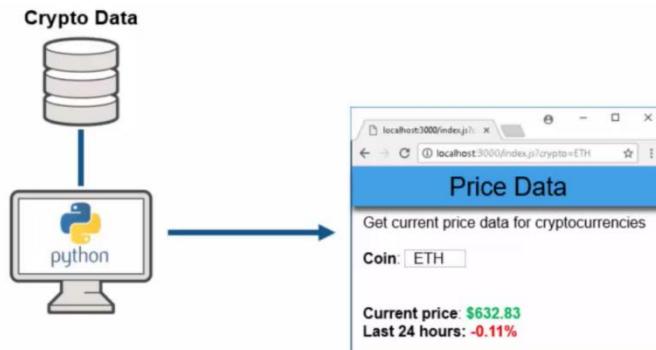
forecast.matlab.com/crypto.js?coin=ETH



It returns data in the following form (JSON):

```
[{"Time": "2022-01-21T12:00:00Z", "predictedPrice": 2466.17},  
...  
{"Time": "2022-01-21T17:00:00Z", "predictedPrice": 2442.25}]
```

The first step is to develop an application that simply shows the historical price movement of a particular cryptocurrency:

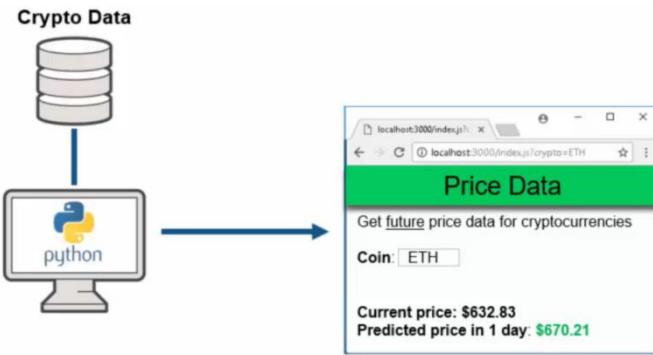


This allows you to monitor the evolution of the price over the last 24 hours and take decisions to buy or sell your crypto assets based on this. Then one day, you manager comes to you and says:

"Hey, I have an idea. If we had access to the predicted forward-looking data as opposed to the historical data, we could make additional profit beyond what we're currently making, even if the prediction is 100% accurate. "

⁴⁷ Forecasting the price of cryptocurrencies with Python and MATLAB
<https://www.mathworks.com/videos/integrating-python-with-matlab-1605793241650.html>

New Idea



Let's assume the organization has a few quants that have extensive MATLAB expertise. And they know exactly how to build out such predictive models that the business users are looking for.

However, before we can get to that, our first challenge is to call the Python data scraping libraries and pull that data directly into MATLAB. Our first task at hand: Parse the cryptocurrency URL that we are connecting to, and just get out the domain name. For that, we want to use this function that's contained within the Python standard libraries and use it from within MATLAB. In this case, we are going to call a package `urllib`⁴⁸. It contains a sub-module called `parse`, that contains in turn the function `urlparse`.

```
startDate = '2022-01-21T12:00:00Z';
stopDate = '2022-01-21T17:00:00Z';
url = "https://api.pro.coinbase.com/products/ETH-
USD/candles?start="+startDate+"&end="+stopDate+"&granularity=60";
urlparts = py.urllib.parse.urlparse(url)
```

`urlparts` =
Python `ParseResult` with properties:

```
fragment
hostname
netloc
params
password
path
port
query
scheme
username
```

```
ParseResult(scheme='https', netloc='api.pro.coinbase.com', path='/products/ETH-
USD/candles', params='', query='start=2022-01-23T01:00:00Z&end=2022-01-
23T06:00:00Z&granularity=60', fragment='')
```

```
domain = urlparts.netloc
domain =
Python str with no properties.

api.pro.coinbase.com
```

⁴⁸ `urllib` package from the Python standard library: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/urllib.html>

To avoid the unnecessary back and forth of intermediate data between MATLAB and Python, we write a **Python User Defined Module**⁴⁹, called `dataLib.py` with a few functions in it:

```
jsonData = py.dataLib.getPriceData("ETH", startDate, stopDate)
historicalPrices = py.dataLib.parseJson(jsonData, [0,4])
```

`dataLib.py` imports 1-minute bars from Coinbase Pro⁵⁰. Note, the API does not fetch the first minute specified by the start date so the times span `(start, stop]`. To return data we are using a variety of data structures from Numpy arrays to lists and dictionaries, and even JSON.

This is what the function looks like:

```
def getPriceData(coin, start, stop):
    # returns back a python list containing the historical data
    # of the cryptocurrency 'product' for the period of time
    # ('start', 'stop'].

    import urllib.request
    import json
    import os

    # website we want to pull data from
    hostname = 'api.pro.coinbase.com'

    # all cryptocurrency products returned in USD currency
    product = coin + '-USD'

    # granularity is in seconds, so we are getting 1-minute bars
    granularity = '60'

    # returns back: [date, low, high, open, close, volume]
    url = 'https://' + hostname + '/products/' + product + '/candles?start=' + start + '&end=' + stop + '&granularity=' + granularity

    # execute call to the website
    urlRequest = urllib.request.Request(url, data=None, headers={'User-Agent': 'Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_9_3) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/35.0.1916.47 Safari/537.36'})
    response = urllib.request.urlopen(urlRequest)
    html = response.read()

    # python 3.x requires decoding from bytes to string
    data = json.loads(html.decode())
    return data
```

⁴⁹ Call User-Defined Python Module:

https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_external/call-user-defined-custom-module.html

⁵⁰ Coinbase Pro: <https://pro.coinbase.com/>

This is how you would call this function from MATLAB:

```
product = "ETH";
startDate = '2022-01-21T12:00:00Z';
stopDate = '2022-01-21T17:00:00Z';
jsonData = py.dataLib.getPriceData(product, startDate, stopDate)
```

```
jsonData =
  Python list with no properties.

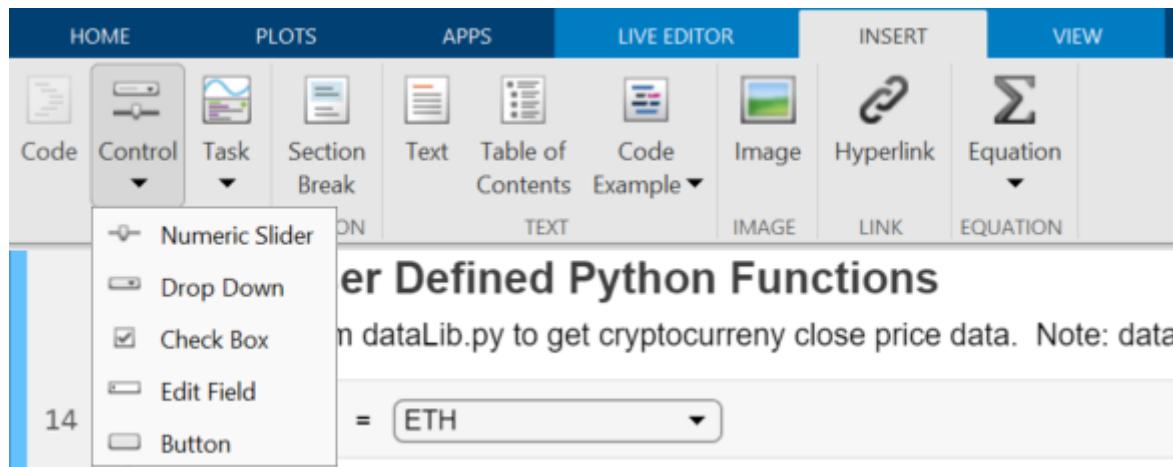
  [[1642917600, 2466.17, 2473.56, 2468.52, 2469.96, 258.02707836], ...
   [1642899660, 2442.25, 2446.79, 2446.77, 2445.17, 276.4743004]]
```

If you want to add interactivity to your Live Script, you can add so called **Live Controls**⁵¹. This is helpful to point other people to areas where you may want to change parameters or select things to do scenario analysis.

```
product = ETH
```

```
product = "ETH"
```

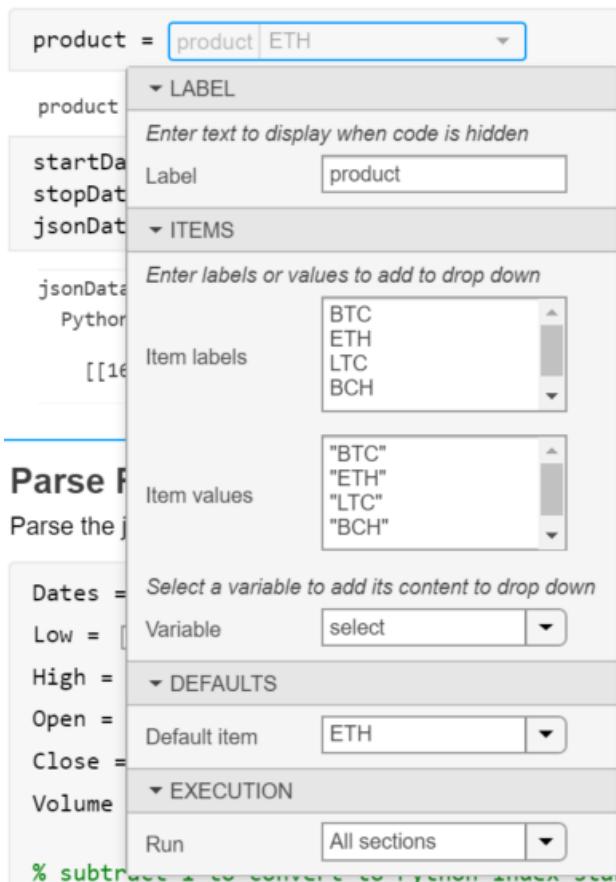
You can insert controls from the ribbon:



This is how you would parametrize the Live Control:

⁵¹ Add Interactive Controls to a Live Script:

https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_prog/add-interactive-controls-to-a-live-script.html



Another type of Live Control that is useful here are simple checkboxes to select the information we want to return from the `parseJson` function:

```

Dates =  ;
Low =  ;
High =  ;
Open =  ;
Close =  ;
Volume =  ;

% subtract 1 to convert to Python index starting at 0
selectedColumns = find([Dates Low High Open Close Volume])-1

selectedColumns = 1x2
    0      4

```

Pay attention to the fact that we are subtracting 1 to the resulting array to adapt to Python indexing starting at 0.

```
% this function returns back two outputs as a tuple
data = py.dataLib.parseJson(jsonData, selectedColumns);
```

MATLAB with Python

The last thing we will do in this part of the story is to convert the Python function outputs do MATLAB Data types (this will be covered in the last section of this chapter on [mapping data between Python and MATLAB](#)).

In this case, we have a complex tuple that has a Numpy arrays inside of it, as well as a list. We can easily split up the tuple by using syntax like this:

```
priceData = data{1}
```

```
priceData =
    Python ndarray:
    1.0e+09 *
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    ...
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000

    Use details function to view the properties of the Python object.

    Use double function to convert to a MATLAB array.
```

```
columnNames = data{2}
```

```
columnNames =
    Python list with no properties.
    ['Date', 'Close']
```

Then we can cast over the Numpy array on the right-hand side by just using the double command:

```
priceData = double(priceData)
```

```
priceData = 300x2
10^9 *
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    1.6429    0.0000
    :
    :
```

Likewise, we have a variety of commands for casting lists like string (or cell before R2022a):

```
columnNames = string(columnNames);
```

Once we have those data in MATLAB, we will convert it over to the MATLAB table, which is basically equivalent to Pandas data frames:

```
data = array2table(priceData, 'VariableNames', columnNames);
```

MATLAB with Python

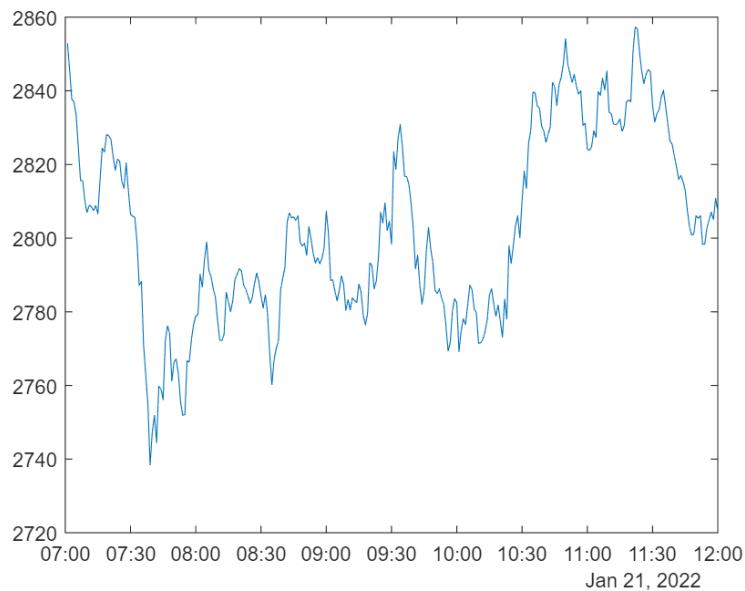
Like tables, timetable are built-in data constructs that appeared in MATLAB over the last couple of years to make our lives easy for doing simple types of tasks or even complex types of tasks. If I want to deal with time zones and convert the times – which are with respect to universal time zone – to a view of someone who is in New York, the command `datetime`⁵² allows us to do that conversion:

```
data.Date = datetime(data.Date, 'ConvertFrom', 'posixtime', 'TimeZone',  
'America/New_York')
```

`data = 300x2 table`

	Date	Close
1	21-Jan-2022 12:00:00	2.8073e+03
2	21-Jan-2022 11:59:00	2.8108e+03
3	21-Jan-2022 11:58:00	2.8051e+03
4	21-Jan-2022 11:57:00	2.8071e+03
5	21-Jan-2022 11:56:00	2.8051e+03
:		

```
plot(data.Date, data.Close)
```



Reload Modified User-Defined Python Module⁵³

What if you've made modifications to the functions inside of your `dataLib` module? You call those again from MATLAB, but you don't see any difference. It is because you need to reload the module:

```
mod = py.importlib.import_module('dataLib');  
py.importlib.reload(mod);
```

⁵² MATLAB `datetime`: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/datetime.html#d123e298898>

⁵³ Reload Modified User-Defined Python Module:

https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_external/call-user-defined-custom-module.html#buuz303

MATLAB with Python

You may need to unload the module first, by clearing the classes. This will delete all variables, scripts and classes in your MATLAB workspace.

```
clear classes
```

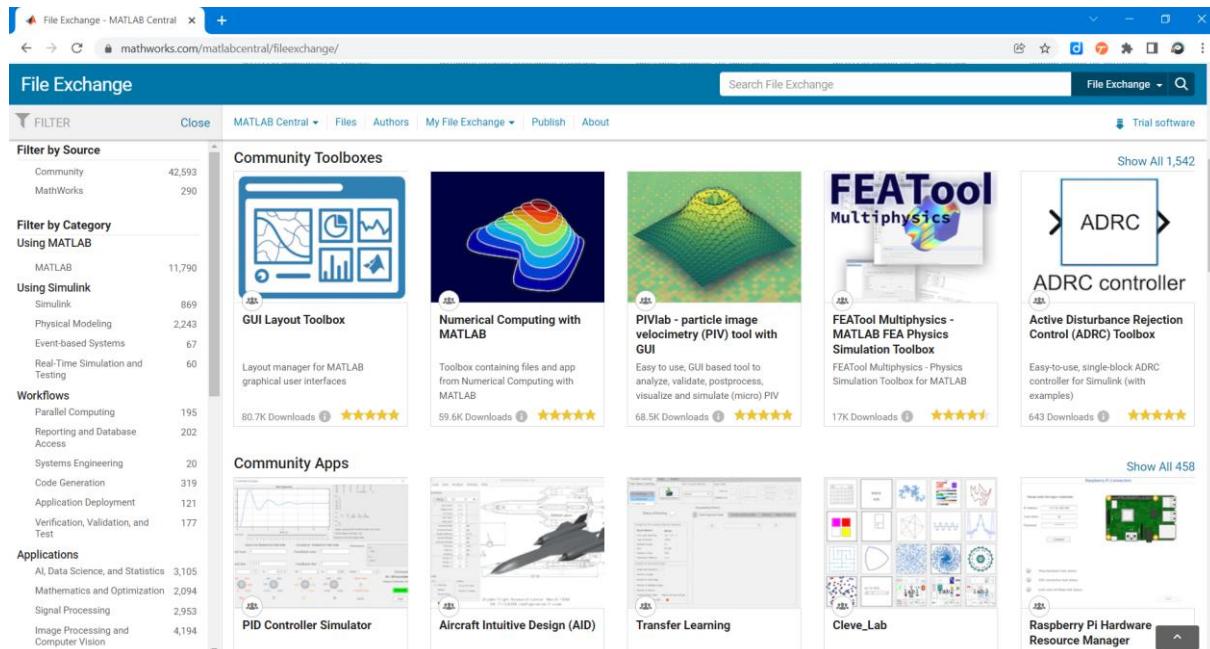
If you're running Python out-of-process, another approach is to simply terminate the process⁵⁴.

```
terminate(pyenv)
```

4.5. Call Python community packages from MATLAB

In some scientific fields like earth and climate sciences, we observe a growing Python community. But as programming skills may vary a lot in researchers and engineers, a MATLAB interface to Python community packages can open up some domain specific capabilities to the 5M+ MATLAB community.

One great example of this is the Climate Data Store Toolbox⁵⁵ developed by Rob Purser, a fellow MathWorker. Rob and I are part of the MathWorks Open Source Program. We are promoting open-source, both to support the use of open-source software in MathWorks products and to help for MathWorkers to contribute their work on GitHub and the MATLAB File Exchange⁵⁶.



In this section we will demonstrate with the Climate Data Store Toolbox how to build MATLAB toolboxes on top of Python packages. It relies on the CDS Python API⁵⁷ created by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). The toolbox will automatically configure Python, download and install the CDSAPI package (you can manually do it using `pip install cdsapi`). You will need to create an account on <https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/> to retrieve data.

⁵⁴ Reload Out-of-Process Python Interpreter:

https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_external/reload-python-interpreter.html

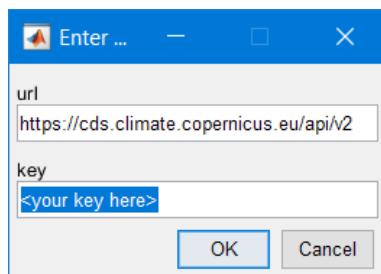
⁵⁵ Rob Purser (2022). Climate Data Store Toolbox for MATLAB <https://github.com/mathworks/climatedatastore>

⁵⁶ MATLAB File Exchange: <https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/>

⁵⁷ CDS Python API: <https://github.com/ecmwf/cdsapi>

MATLAB with Python

The first time you use it, it will prompt you for CSAPI credentials.



A well written toolbox like this one throwing an error coming from Python will forward this error:

```
datasetName = "satellite-sea-ice-thickness";
options.version = "1_0";
options.variable = "all";
options.satellite = "cryosat_2";
options.cdr_type = ["cdr","icdn"];
options.year = ["2011","2021"];
options.month = "03";
[downloadedFilePaths,citation] = climateDataStoreDownload('satellite-sea-ice-thickness',options);
```

```
2022-01-20 19:33:13,558 INFO Welcome to the CDS
```

```
2022-01-20 19:33:13,577 INFO Sending request to
https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/api/v2/resources/satellite-sea-ice-thickness
```

```
Error using api>_api
Python Error: Exception: Client has not agreed to the required terms and conditions.. To
access this resource, you first need to accept the
terms of 'Licence to use Copernicus Products' at
https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/terms/licence-to-use-copernicus-products
```

```
Error in api>retrieve (line 348)
```

```
Error in climateDataStoreDownload (line 60)
    retrieveFromCDS(name,options,zipfilePath);
```

This error for instance indicates that an exception has been raised on the Python side.

In this case the culprit is located in the following MATLAB function:

```
function retrieveFromCDS(name,options,zipfilePath)
% Utility function to isolate python code so that we don't trigger the
% python check until after python install checks are done.

% Copyright 2021 The MathWorks, Inc.
c = py.cdsapi.Client();

% Don't show the progress information
c.quiet = true;
c.progress = false;
c.retrieve(name,options,zipfilePath);
end
```

MATLAB with Python

Once imported with Python, the NetCDF files are read with MATLAB using `ncread`⁵⁸ and storing information as timetable⁵⁹ with the function `readSatelliteSeaIceThickness`⁶⁰:

```
ice2011 = readSatelliteSeaIceThickness("satellite-sea-ice-thickness\ice_thickness_nh_ease2-250_cdr-v1p0_201103.nc");
ice2021 = readSatelliteSeaIceThickness("satellite-sea-ice-thickness\ice_thickness_nh_ease2-250_icdr-v1p0_202103.nc");
head(ice2021)
```

ans = 8x3 timetable

	time	lat	lon	thickness
1	01-Mar-2021	47.6290	144.0296	2.4566
2	01-Mar-2021	47.9655	144.0990	2.5800
3	01-Mar-2021	50.5072	148.0122	-0.0364
4	01-Mar-2021	50.8360	148.1187	1.0242
5	01-Mar-2021	50.3237	146.9969	0.0518
6	01-Mar-2021	51.1642	148.2269	0.2445
7	01-Mar-2021	50.9112	147.6573	0.8933
8	01-Mar-2021	50.6540	147.0948	0.1271

```
disp(citation)
```

Generated using Copernicus Climate Change Service information 2022

This toolbox leverages the beautiful geoplotting⁶¹ capabilities of MATLAB:

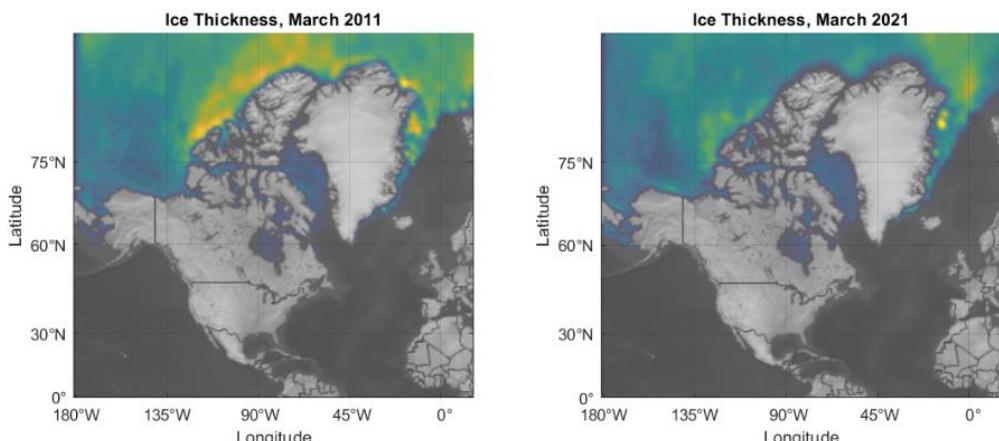
```
subplot(1,2,1)
geodensityplot(ice2011.lat,ice2011.lon,ice2011.thickness,"FaceColor","interp")
geolimits([23 85],[-181.4 16.4])
geobasemap("grayterrain")
title("Ice Thickness, March 2011")
subplot(1,2,2)
geodensityplot(ice2021.lat,ice2021.lon,ice2021.thickness,"FaceColor","interp")
geolimits([23 85],[-181.4 16.4])
geobasemap("grayterrain")
title("Ice Thickness, March 2021")
f = gcf;
f.Position(3) = f.Position(3)*2;
```

⁵⁸ Read data from variable in NetCDF data source <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/ncread.html>

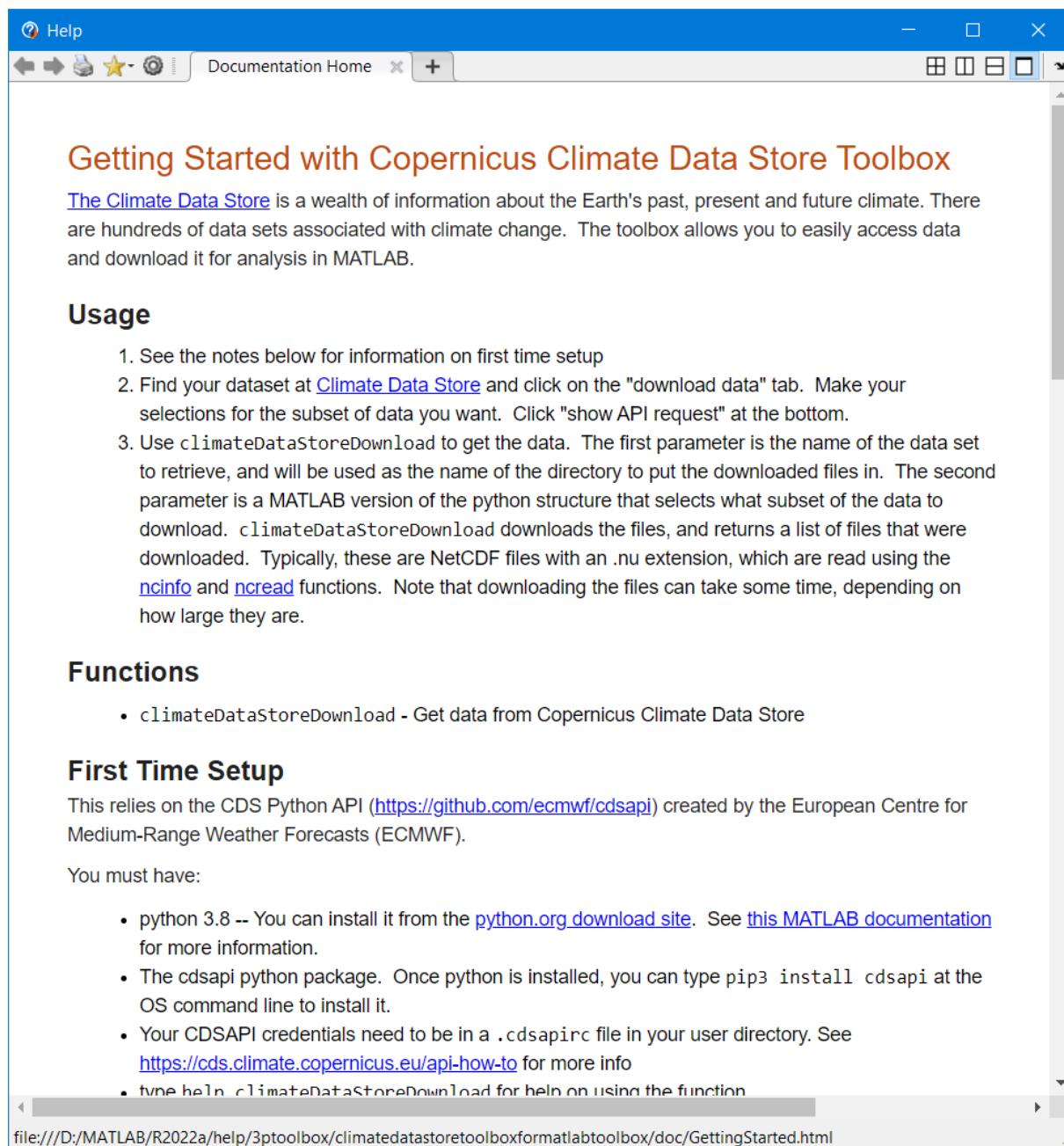
⁵⁹ MATLAB timetable: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/timetables.html>

⁶⁰ <https://github.com/mathworks/climatedatastore/blob/main/doc/readSatelliteSeaIceThickness.m>

⁶¹ Geographic density plot: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/geodensityplot.html>



In a well written toolbox like this one, you find a documentation that is packaged directly with it.

A screenshot of a MATLAB documentation window. The title bar says "Documentation Home". The main content area has a blue header "Getting Started with Copernicus Climate Data Store Toolbox". Below it, a paragraph of text describes the Climate Data Store. Under "Usage", there is a numbered list of steps for downloading data. Under "Functions", there is a bullet point for "climateDataStoreDownload". Under "First Time Setup", there is a paragraph about the CDS Python API and a note about credentials. At the bottom, there is a link to the source file: "file:///D:/MATLAB/R2022a/help/3ptoolbox/climatedatastoretoolboxformatlabtoolbox/doc/GettingStarted.html".

Getting Started with Copernicus Climate Data Store Toolbox

The [Climate Data Store](#) is a wealth of information about the Earth's past, present and future climate. There are hundreds of data sets associated with climate change. The toolbox allows you to easily access data and download it for analysis in MATLAB.

Usage

1. See the notes below for information on first time setup
2. Find your dataset at [Climate Data Store](#) and click on the "download data" tab. Make your selections for the subset of data you want. Click "show API request" at the bottom.
3. Use `climateDataStoreDownload` to get the data. The first parameter is the name of the data set to retrieve, and will be used as the name of the directory to put the downloaded files in. The second parameter is a MATLAB version of the python structure that selects what subset of the data to download. `climateDataStoreDownload` downloads the files, and returns a list of files that were downloaded. Typically, these are NetCDF files with an .nu extension, which are read using the [ncinfo](#) and [ncread](#) functions. Note that downloading the files can take some time, depending on how large they are.

Functions

- `climateDataStoreDownload` - Get data from Copernicus Climate Data Store

First Time Setup

This relies on the CDS Python API (<https://github.com/ecmwf/cdsapi>) created by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

You must have:

- python 3.8 -- You can install it from the [python.org download site](https://www.python.org/downloads/). See [this MATLAB documentation](#) for more information.
- The `cdsapiclient` python package. Once python is installed, you can type `pip3 install cdsapi` at the OS command line to install it.
- Your CDSAPI credentials need to be in a `.cdsapirc` file in your user directory. See <https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/api-how-to> for more info
- `tune help climateDataStoreDownload` for help on using the function

You can create your own toolbox and share it with others. These files can include MATLAB code, data, apps, examples, and documentation. When you create a toolbox, MATLAB generates a single installation file (.mltbx) that enables you or others to install your toolbox.

Read more on how to create and share toolboxes⁶²

4.6. Debug Python code called by MATLAB

One of the first difficulty you will face when developing bilingual applications, is debugging across the language boundary. In the following examples we will demonstrate how to attach a MATLAB session to a VSCode or Visual Studio process to debug the Python part of your app. In the next chapter, we will see how to do the opposite, debug the MATLAB part with the nice MATLAB Debugger.

4.6.1. Debug with Visual Studio Code

This section is showing in 8 steps how to debug Python code called from MATLAB with VSCode⁶³:

1. Install VS Code and create a project.

See the official tutorial⁶⁴ for instructions on how to install Visual Studio Code, set up a Python project, select a Python interpreter, and create a launch.json file.

2. In a terminal, install the debugpy module using, for example,

\$ python -m pip install debugpy

3. In VS Code, add the following debugging code to the top of your Python module.

```
import debugpy  
debugpy.debug_this_thread()
```

4. Configure the launch.json file to select and attach to MATLAB using the code below.

```
{  
    "version": "0.2.0",  
    "configurations": [  
        {  
            "name": "Attach to MATLAB",  
            "type": "python",  
            "request": "attach",  
            "processId": "${command:pickProcess}"  
        }  
    ]  
}
```

5. Add breakpoints to your code.

⁶² Create and share toolboxes:

https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_prog/create-and-share-custom-matlab-toolboxes.html

⁶³ How can I debug Python code using MATLAB's Python Interface and Visual Studio Code:

<https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/answers/1645680-how-can-i-debug-python-code-using-matlab-s-python-interface-and-visual-studio-code>

⁶⁴ Configure and run the debugger:

https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/python/python-tutorial#_configure-and-run-the-debugger

MATLAB with Python

6. Set up your Python environment in MATLAB and get the ProcessID number. In this example, the ExecutionMode is set to InProcess.

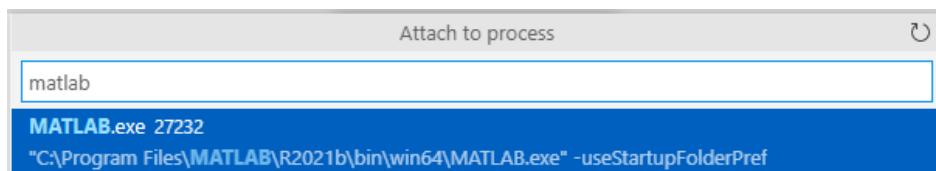
```
>> pyenv  
ans =  
  
PythonEnvironment with properties:  
  
    Version: "3.10"  
    Executable: "C:\Users\username\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python310\python.exe"  
    Library: "C:\Users\username\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python310\python310.dll"  
        Home: "C:\Users\username\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python310"  
    Status: Loaded  
ExecutionMode: InProcess  
    ProcessID: "27664"  
    ProcessName: "MATLAB"
```

If you see Status: NotLoaded, execute any Python command to load the Python interpreter (for example >> py.list) then execute the pyenv command to get the ProcessID for the MATLAB process.

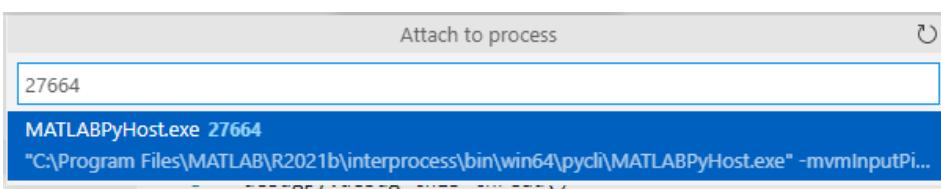
7. Attach the MATLAB process to VS Code.

In VS Code, select "Run and Debug" (Ctrl+Shift+D), then select the arrow to Start Debugging (F5). In this example, the green arrow has the label "Attach to MATLAB". Note that this corresponds to the value of the "name" parameter that you specified in the launch.json file. Type "matlab" in the search bar of the dropdown menu and select the "MATLAB.exe" process that matches the ProcessID from the output of the pyenv command. Note that if you are using OutOfProcess execution mode, you will need to search for a "MATLABPyHost.exe" process.

In-process:

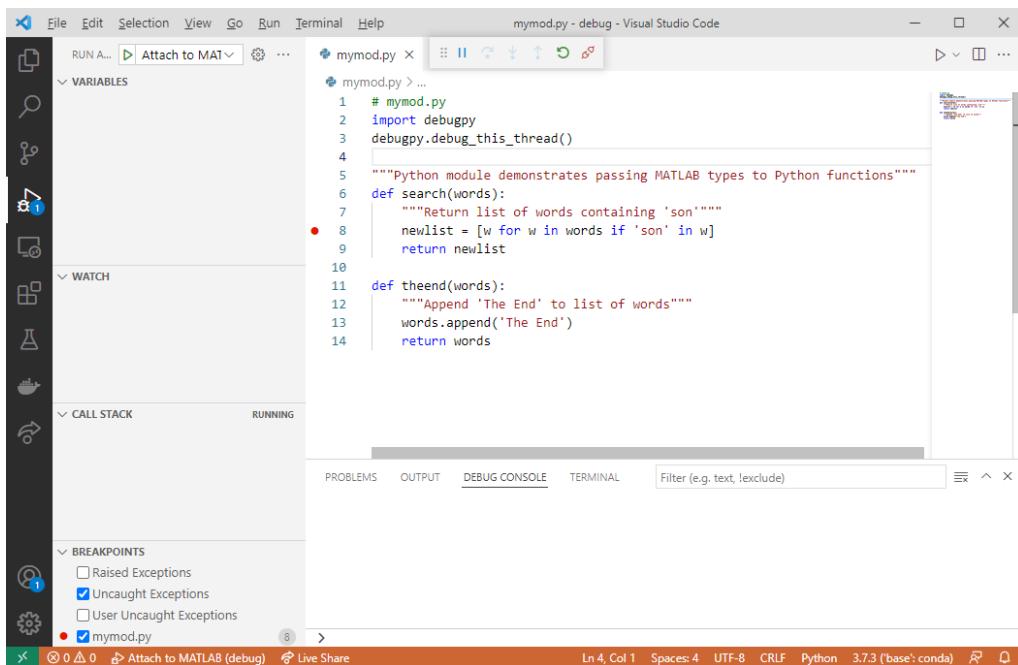


Out-of-Process:



8. Invoke the Python function from MATLAB. Execution should stop at the breakpoint.

MATLAB with Python

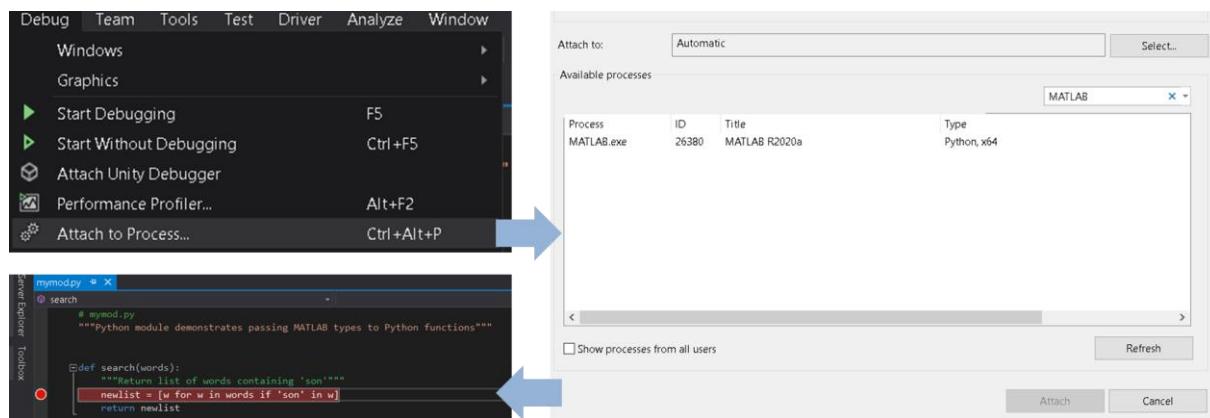


Run the following MATLAB code to step into the Python function search:

```
>> N = py.list({'Jones','Johnson','James'})  
>> py.mymod.search(N)
```

4.6.2. Debug with Visual Studio

If you have access to Visual Studio and you are more familiar with it, you can do the same as before with Visual Studio⁶⁵. Open Visual Studio and create a new Python project from existing code. Then, select Attach to Process from the Debug menu:



⁶⁵ Calling Python from Matlab - how to debug Python code?

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/61708900/calling-python-from-matlab-how-to-debug-python-code>

4.7. Mapping data between Python and MATLAB

In his book about *Python for MATLAB Development*⁶⁶, Albert Danial shares some clever functions to convert MATLAB variables into an equivalent Python-native variable with `mat2py`⁶⁷, and vice-versa with `py2mat`⁶⁸.

Converting data⁶⁹ returned by Python function inside of MATLAB may require understanding some of the differences in the native datatypes of the two languages:

- Scalars (integers, floating point numbers, ...), text and Booleans
- Dictionaries and lists
- Arrays and dataframes

Some specialized MATLAB data types like *timetable* or *categorical* will require some extra love and need to be converted manually. Of course, we can still use these data types in our functions, but the functions need to return types that the Python interpreter can understand.

4.7.1. Scalars

The table below shows the mappings for common scalar data types:

MATLAB	Python
<code>double, single</code>	<code>float</code>
<code>complex single, complex double</code>	<code>complex</code>
<code>(u)int8, (u)int16, (u)int32, (u)int64</code>	<code>int</code>
<code>NaN</code>	<code>float('nan')</code>
<code>Inf</code>	<code>float('inf')</code>
<code>string, char</code>	<code>str</code>
<code>logical</code>	<code>bool</code>

By default, numbers in MATLAB are double, whereas numbers without decimal point in Python are integers.

```
a = py.dataExchange.get_float()

a = 1

class(a)

ans = 'double'

b = py.dataExchange.get_complex()

b = 2.0000 + 0.0000i

class(b)

ans = 'double'
```

There are several kinds of integers in MATLAB, depending on the precision you require.

⁶⁶ Python for MATLAB Development, Albert Danial: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-1-4842-7223-7>

⁶⁷ mat2py: https://github.com/Apress/python-for-matlab-development/blob/main/code/matlab_py/mat2py.m

⁶⁸ py2mat: https://github.com/Apress/python-for-matlab-development/blob/main/code/matlab_py/py2mat.m

⁶⁹ Converting data: https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_external/passing-data-to-python.html

MATLAB with Python

For instance [uint8](#) can only store positive numbers between 0 and 255, whereas [int8](#) covers the range $[-2^7, 2^7 - 1]$. The most generic type to convert Python integers are int64, which you can do explicitly.

```
c = py.dataExchange.get_integer()
```

```
c =
Python int with properties:

denominator: [1x1 py.int]
    imag: [1x1 py.int]
  numerator: [1x1 py.int]
    real: [1x1 py.int]
```

```
3
```

```
class(c)
```

```
ans = 'py.int'
```

```
int64(c)
```

```
ans = int64
3
```

When getting a string from a Python function, the conversion isn't obvious. It can either be turned into a [char](#) (character array) or a [string](#). You can distinguish them by the single quotation marks for chars, and double quotes for strings.

```
abc = py.dataExchange.get_string()
```

```
abc =
Python str with no properties.

abc
```

```
char(abc)
```

```
ans = 'abc'
```

```
class(char(abc))
```

```
ans = 'char'
```

```
string(abc)
```

```
ans = "abc"
```

```
class(string(abc))
```

```
ans = 'string'
```

Finally, the last basic datatype that contains a logical information is called a boolean in Python:

```
py.dataExchange.get_boolean()
```

```
ans = logical
```

```
1
```

4.7.2. Dictionaries and Lists

This is how containers map to each other between the two languages:

MATLAB	Python
structure	dict
cell arrays	list, tuple

To illustrate the conversion of Python dictionaries and lists into MATLAB containers, we will reuse the example from chapter 2. JSON data are really close to dictionaries in Python, which makes the data processing very easy when accessing data from web services.

```
url=
webread("https://samples.openweathermap.org").products.current_weather.samples{1};
r = py.urllib.request.urlopen(url).read();
json_data = py.json.loads(r);
py.weather.parse_current_json(json_data)

ans =
Python dict with no properties.

{'temp': 280.32, 'pressure': 1012, 'humidity': 81, 'temp_min': 279.15, 'temp_max': 281.15, 'speed': 4.1, 'deg': 80, 'lon': -0.13, 'lat': 51.51, 'city': 'London', 'current_time': '2022-05-22 22:15:18.161296'}
```

Dictionaries can contain scalars, but also other datatypes like lists.

```
url2 =
webread("https://samples.openweathermap.org").products.forecast_5days.samples{1};
r2 = py.urllib.request.urlopen(url2).read();
json_data2 = py.json.loads(r2);
forecast = struct(py.weather.parse_forecast_json(json_data2))

forecast = struct with fields:
    current_time: [1x40 py.list]
        temp: [1x40 py.list]
            deg: [1x40 py.list]
            speed: [1x40 py.list]
            humidity: [1x40 py.list]
            pressure: [1x40 py.list]

forecastTemp = forecast.temp;
forecastTime = forecast.current_time;
```

MATLAB with Python

Lists containing only numeric data can be converted into doubles since MATLAB R2022a:

```
double(forecastTemp)
```

```
ans = 1x40  
261.4500 261.4100 261.7600 261.4600 260.9810 262.3080 263.7600 ...
```

And any lists can be converted to string (even those containing a mix of text and numeric data).

```
forecastTimeString = string(forecastTime);  
datetime(forecastTimeString)
```

```
ans = 1x40 datetime  
30-Jan-2017 18:00:00 30-Jan-2017 21:00:00 31-Jan-2017 00:00:00 31-Jan-2017  
03:00: ...
```

Before MATLAB R2022a, Python lists need to be converted into MATLAB cell arrays⁷⁰. Cells can then be transformed to double, strings, with the cellfun⁷¹ function. The previous code would look like this until R2021b:

```
forecastTempCell = cell(forecastTemp)
```

```
forecastTempCell = 1x40 cell  


|   |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |     |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----|
|   | 1        | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5        | 6        | 7        | ... |
| 1 | 261.4500 | 261.4100 | 261.7600 | 261.4600 | 260.9810 | 262.3080 | 263.7600 |     |


```

```
cellfun(@double, forecastTempCell)
```

```
ans = 1x40  
261.4500 261.4100 261.7600 261.4600 260.9810 262.3080 263.7600 ...
```

```
forecastTimeCell = cell(forecastTime)
```

```
forecastTimeCell = 1x40 cell  


|   |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |     |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----|
|   | 1        | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5        | 6        | 7        | ... |
| 1 | 1x19 str |     |


```

```
cellfun(@string, forecastTimeCell)
```

```
ans = 1x40 string  
"2017-01-30 18:0..." "2017-01-30 21:0..." "2017-01-31 00:0..." "2017-01-31 03:0..."  
"2" ...
```

⁷⁰ MATLAB Cell Arrays: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/cell-arrays.html>

⁷¹ MATLAB cellfun Function: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/cellfun.html>

4.7.3. Arrays

By modifying the parse_forecast_json function in the weather module, we output Python arrays⁷² instead of lists. There exists indeed a native array datatype in base Python.

```
forecast2 = struct(py.weather.parse_forecast_json2(json_data2))
```

```
forecast2 = struct with fields:  
    current_time: [1x40 py.list]  
        temp: [1x1 py.array.array]  
        deg: [1x1 py.array.array]  
        speed: [1x1 py.array.array]  
        humidity: [1x1 py.array.array]  
        pressure: [1x1 py.array.array]
```

The MATLAB double function will convert the Python array into a MATLAB array

```
double(forecast2.temp)
```

```
ans = 1x40  
261.4500 261.4100 261.7600 261.4600 260.9810 262.3080 263.7600 ...
```

Those data conversion also apply to Numpy arrays:

```
npA = py.numpy.array([1,2,3;4,5,6;7,8,9])
```

```
npA =  
Python ndarray:  
  
1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9
```

Use details function to view the properties of the Python object.

Use double function to convert to a MATLAB array.

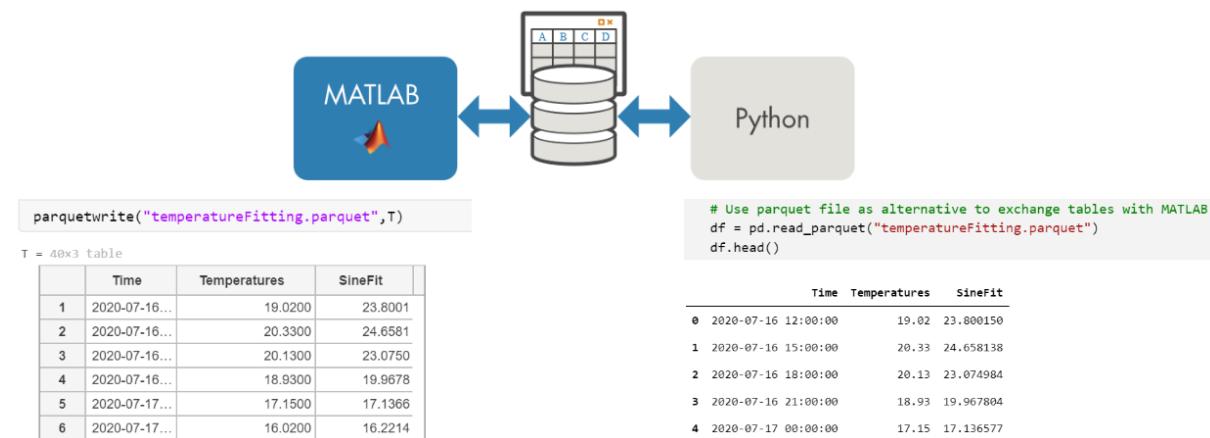
```
double(npA)
```

```
ans = 3x3  
1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9
```

⁷² Python Array: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/array.html>

4.7.4. Dataframes

One common question on data transfer, is how to exchange data between MATLAB tables and Pandas Dataframes. The recommended solution for that is to rely on Parquet files⁷³. Parquet is a columnar storage format that enables to store & transfer tabular data between languages. It is available to any project in the Hadoop big data ecosystem, regardless of the choice of data processing framework, data model or programming language (more on Parquet⁷⁴).



This example demonstrates a back and forth between Pandas DataFrames and MATLAB Tables:

pq_CreateDataframe.py

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

# create dataframe
df = pd.DataFrame({'column1': [-1, np.nan, 2.5],
'column2': ['foo', 'bar', 'tree'],
'column3': [True, False, True]})
print(df)

# save dataframe to parquet file via pyarrow library
df.to_parquet('data.parquet', index=False)
```

Read in parquet file

```
% info = parquetinfo('data.parquet')
data = parquetread('data.parquet')
```

	column1	column2	column3
1	-1	"foo"	1
2	NaN	"bar"	0
3	2.5000	"tree"	1

⁷³ Parquet file support in MATLAB: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/parquet-files.html>

⁷⁴ Apache Parquet project: <https://parquet.apache.org/>

MATLAB with Python

Examine datatype of a particular column

```
class(data.column2)
```

```
ans = 'string'
```

Change data in table

```
data.column2 = ["orange"; "apple"; "banana"];
```

Write the results back to parquet

```
parquetwrite('newdata.parquet', data)
```

Finally read the modified DataFrame back in Python:

pq_ReadTable.py

```
import pandas as pd

# read parquet file via pyarrow library
df = pd.read_parquet('newdata.parquet')
print(df)
```

5. Call Python AI libraries from MATLAB

In this Chapter we will look at different Python libraries for Artificial Intelligence, both Machine Learning & Deep Learning (like Scikit-learn and TensorFlow) and how to call them from MATLAB.

Those steps can be integrated in a typical AI workflow⁷⁵:



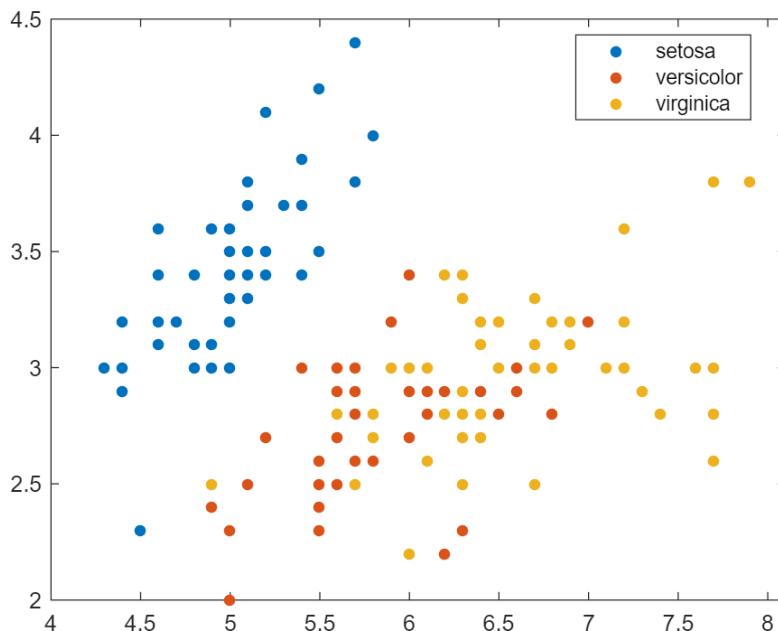
5.1. Call Scikit-learn from MATLAB

The Iris flower dataset⁷⁶ is a multivariate data set introduced by the British statistician and biologist Ronald Fisher. This data set consists of 3 different types of irises' (Setosa, Versicolour, and Virginica) petal and sepal length, stored in a 150x4 numpy.ndarray. The rows being the samples and the columns being: Sepal Length, Sepal Width, Petal Length and Petal Width.

You can also find this dataset in MATLAB, as it is shipped with a list of Sample Data Sets⁷⁷:

```

load fisheriris.mat
gscatter(meas(:,1),meas(:,2),species)
  
```



Or retrieve the dataset from the Scikit-learn library⁷⁸ (inside of MATLAB still):

```

iris_dataset = py.sklearn.datasets.load_iris()
  
```

```

iris_dataset =
  
```

⁷⁵ AI Workflow: <https://www.mathworks.com/discovery/artificial-intelligence.html>

⁷⁶ Iris dataset: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_flower_data_set

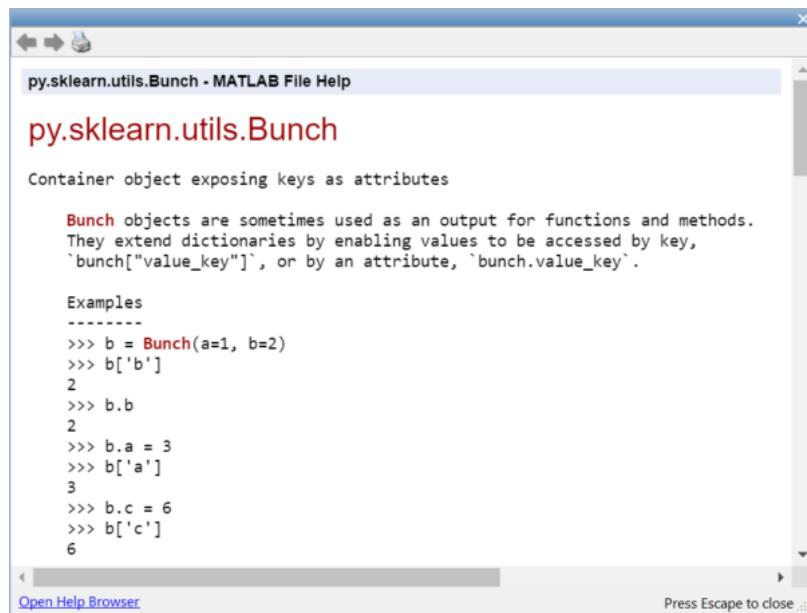
⁷⁷ Sample Data Sets in MATLAB: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/stats/sample-data-sets.html>

⁷⁸ Iris dataset in Scikit-learn: https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto_examples/datasets/plot_iris_dataset.html

MATLAB with Python

Python Bunch with no properties.

Scikit-learn datasets are returned as a “Bunch object”. You can access the Python modules documentation directly from within MATLAB:



This dataset can be passed to MATLAB as a struct:

struct(iris dataset)

```
ans = struct with fields:  
    data: [1×1 py.numpy.ndarray]  
    target: [1×1 py.numpy.ndarray]  
    frame: [1×1 py.NoneType]  
    target_names: [1×1 py.numpy.ndarray]  
    DESCRI: [1×2782 py.str]  
    feature_names: [1×4 py.list]  
    filename: [1×8 py.str]  
    data module: [1×21 py.str]
```

MATLAB with Python

The data manipulated in this dataset are by default stored as Numpy arrays.
Read more on how to Pass Matrices and Multidimensional Arrays to Python⁷⁹

```
X_np = iris_dataset['data']
```

```
X_np =  
Python ndarray:  
 5.1000    3.5000    1.4000    0.2000  
 4.9000    3.0000    1.4000    0.2000  
 4.7000    3.2000    1.3000    0.2000  
 ...
```

Use details function to view the properties of the Python object.

Use double function to convert to a MATLAB array.

```
X_ml = double(X_np);  
X = X_ml(:,1:2)
```

$$X = 150 \times 2$$

5.1000	3.5000
4.9000	3.0000
4.7000	3.2000
4.6000	3.1000
5.0000	3.6000
5.4000	3.9000
4.6000	3.4000
5.0000	3.4000
4.4000	2.9000
4.9000	3.1000
⋮	

```
y = iris_dataset['target']
```

$$y =$$

Python ndarray:

Use `details` function to view the properties of the Python object.

Use [int64](#) function to convert to a MATLAB array.

⁷⁹ https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_external/passing-data-to-python.html#mw_b64f3777-2204-45e9-8ced-f3f363096a49 - Pass Matrices and Multidimensional Arrays to Python

MATLAB with Python

We won't translate the Python ndarray into a MATLAB datatype just yet, as we will use a cool feature of Python to translate the list of ordinal values into a list of categorical species. Those features can be leveraged in MATLAB with a few calls to `pyrun`⁸⁰

```
pyrun('dict = {0: "setosa",1: "versicolor", 2: "virginica"})  
% pass y as input, and retrieve species as output  
s = pyrun('species = [dict[i] for i in y]', 'species', y = y)
```

```
s =  
    Python list with no properties.  
    ['setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', ...]
```

Finally, you can retrieve the Python list as a [MATLAB categorical](#) variable:

```
s = string(s);  
species = categorical(s)
```

```
species = 1x150 categorical array  
    setosa    setosa    setosa    setosa    setosa    setosa    setosa    setosa    ...
```

Another approach for the preprocessing in Python can be performed with `pyrunfile`

```
[X,y,species] = pyrunfile('iris_data.py',{'X1','y','species'})
```

Use `details` function to view the properties of the Python object.

Use `int64` function to convert to a MATLAB array.

species =

Python `list` with no properties.

```
['setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', 'setosa', ...]
```

⁸⁰ pyrun: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/pyrun.html>

This is what the python scripts looks like:

iris_data.py

```
from sklearn import datasets
iris = datasets.load_iris()

X = iris.data[:, :2] # we only take the first two features (sepal)
X1 = X.tolist()
y = iris.target
dict = {0: "setosa", 1: "versicolor", 2: "virginica"}
species = [dict[i] for i in y]
```

In this case, we are retrieving a list of lists, instead of a Numpy array. This will require some manual data marshalling:

```
Xc = cell(X)'
```

```
Xc = 150x1 cell array
{1x2 py.list}
{1x2 py.list}
{1x2 py.list}
{1x2 py.list}
{1x2 py.list}
{1x2 py.list}
...
...
```

```
Xc1 = cell(Xc{1})
```

```
Xc1 = 1x2 cell array
{[5.1000]}    {[3.5000]}
```

```
cell2mat(Xc1)
```

```
ans =
5.1000    3.5000
```

The previous steps are included in the helper function dataprep (at the end of the live script):

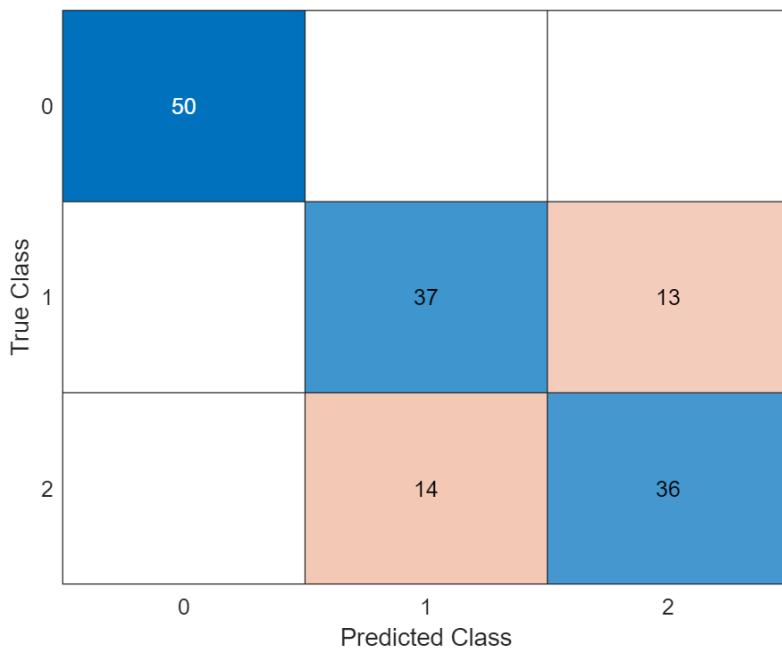
```
function Xp = dataprep(X)
Xc = cell(X)';
Xcc = cellfun(@cell,Xc,'UniformOutput',false);
Xcm = cellfun(@cell2mat,Xcc,'UniformOutput',false);
Xp = cell2mat(Xcm);
end
```

```
X_ml = dataprep(X);
y_ml = double(y);
s = string(species);
```

```
species = categorical(s);
```

Call the Scikit-Learn Logistic Regression and its fit and predict methods directly:

```
model = py.sklearn.linear_model.LogisticRegression();
model = model.fit(X,y); % pass by object reference
y2 = model.predict(X);
y2_ml = double(y2);
confusionchart(y_ml,y2_ml)
```



Call the Scikit-Learn model through a wrapper module:

```
model = py.iris_model.train(X,y);  
y2 = py.iris_model.predict(model, X)
```

y2 =
Python ndarray:

Use details function to view the properties of the Python object.

Use `int64` function to convert to a MATLAB array.

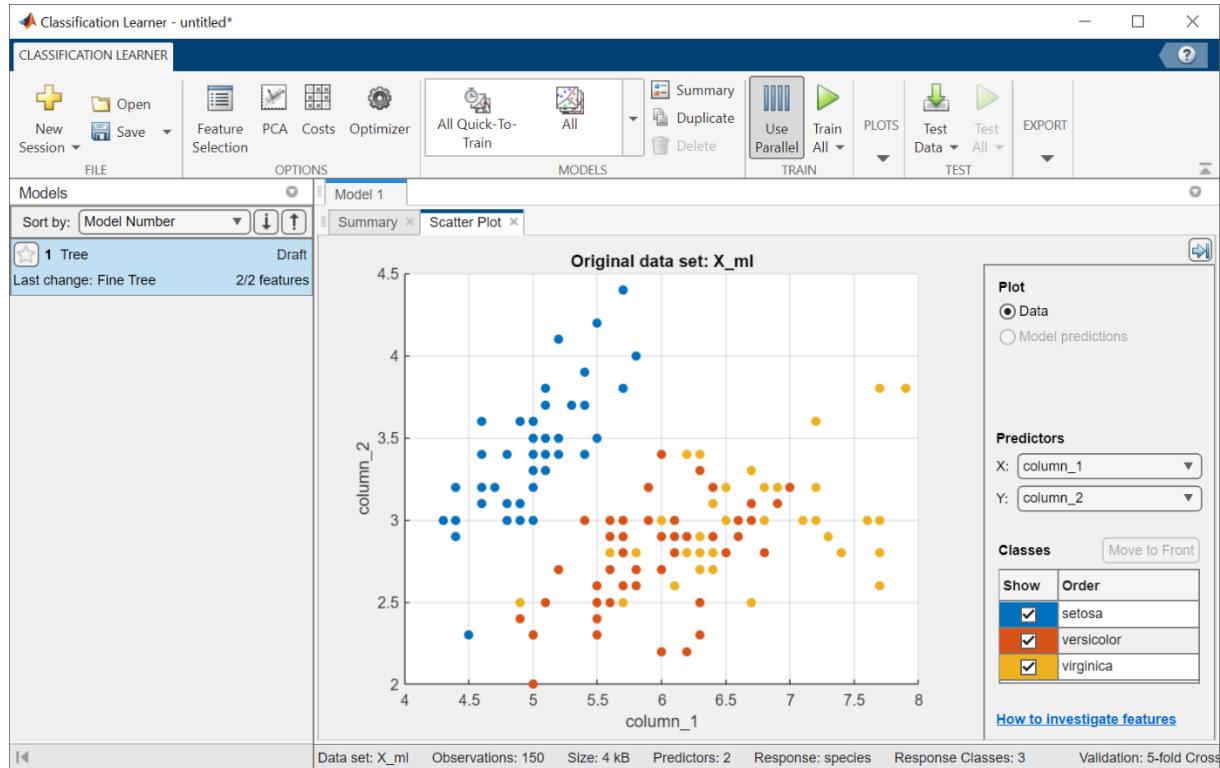
```
sum(y_ml == y2)/length(y_ml) % precision of the model based on training set
```

MATLAB with Python

```
ans = 0.8200
```

Alternatively, you can train all sorts of classification models in MATLAB. If you don't feel too comfortable with the various machine learning methods, you can simply try out the results from different types of models with an app:

```
classificationLearner(X_ml,species)
```



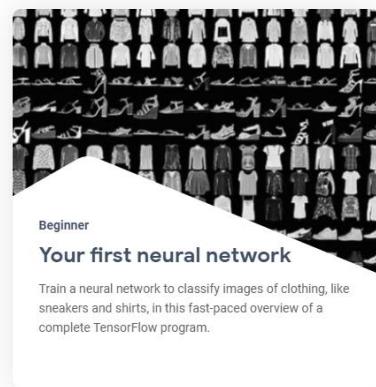
5.2. Call TensorFlow from MATLAB

Let's introduce the use of Tensorflow with the getting started tutorial⁸¹:

This guide uses the Fashion MNIST⁸² dataset which contains 70,000 grayscale images in 10 categories. The images show individual articles of clothing at low resolution (28 by 28 pixels).

This example is curated by Zalando, under a MIT License.

First let's **load tensorflow** explicitly, and check the version of tensorflow installed:



⁸¹ Basic classification – Classify images of clothing: <https://www.tensorflow.org/tutorials/keras/classification>

⁸² Fashion MNIST: <https://github.com/zalandoresearch/fashion-mnist>

```
tf = py.importlib.import_module('tensorflow');
pyrun('import tensorflow as tf; print(tf.__version__)')
```

2.8.0

Then let's **retrieve the dataset**

```
fashion_mnist = tf.keras.datasets.fashion_mnist;
train_test_tuple = fashion_mnist.load_data();
```

And store the images and labels for training and testing separately.

Indexing into Python tuples in MATLAB⁸³ is done with curly brackets: `pytuple{1}`

(Remember that indexing starts at 1 in MATLAB unlike Python starting at 0)

```
% ND array containing gray scale images (values from 0 to 255)
train_images = train_test_tuple{1}{1};
test_images = train_test_tuple{2}{1};
% values from 0 to 9: can be converted as uint8
train_labels = train_test_tuple{1}{2};
test_labels = train_test_tuple{2}{2};
```

Define the list of classes directly in MATLAB:

```
class_names = ["T-shirt/top", "Trouser", "Pullover", "Dress", "Coat",
"Sandal", "Shirt", "Sneaker", "Bag", "Ankle boot"]

class_names = 1x10 string
"T-shirt/top"    "Trouser"      "Pullover"      "Dress"        "Coat"        "Sandal"
...

```

If we want to use the index of the training labels from the list above in MATLAB, we need to shift the range from [0:9] to [1:10]

```
t1 = uint8(train_labels)+1; % shifting range from [0:9] to [1:10]
l = length(t1)
```

l = 60000

The following shows there are 60,000 images in the training set, with each image represented as 28 x 28 pixels:

```
train_images_m = uint8(train_images);
size(train_images_m)
```

ans = 1x3

60000 28 28

⁸³ Python tuples in MATLAB: www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/matlab_external/pythontuplevariables.html

To **resize a single image** from the dataset, use the reshape function:

```
size(train_images_m(1,:,:))
```

```
ans = 1x3
```

```
1 28 28
```

```
size(reshape(train_images_m(1,:,:),[28,28]))
```

```
ans = 1x2
```

```
28 28
```

You can add a live control to your live script to **explore your dataset**:

```
i = 42 ;  
img = reshape(train_images_m(i,:,:),[28,28]);  
imshow(img)  
title(class_names(tl(i)))
```

Sneaker



You must **preprocess the data** before training the network.

If you inspect the first image in the training set, you will see that the pixel values fall in the range of 0 to 255:

```
train_images = train_images / 255;  
test_images = test_images / 255;
```

Finally, **build the model** with the function specified in the tf_helper file / module:

```
model = py.tf_helper.build_model();
```

You can look at the architecture of the model by retrieving the layers in a cell array:

```
cell(model.layers)
```

```
ans = 1x3 cell
```

	1	2	3
1	1x1 Flatten	1x1 Dense	1x1 Dense

```
py.tf_helper.compile_model(model);  
py.tf_helper.train_model(model,train_images,train_labels)
```

Epoch 1/10

MATLAB with Python

```
1/1875 [.....] - ETA: 12:59 - loss: 159.1949 - accuracy: 0.2500
39/1875 [.....] - ETA: 2s - loss: 52.8977 - accuracy: 0.5256
76/1875 [>.....] - ETA: 2s - loss: 34.8739 - accuracy: 0.6049
113/1875 [>.....] - ETA: 2s - loss: 28.4213 - accuracy: 0.6350
157/1875 [=>.....] - ETA: 2s - loss: 22.9735 - accuracy: 0.6616
194/1875 [==>.....] - ETA: 2s - loss: 20.3405 - accuracy: 0.6740
229/1875 [==>.....] - ETA: 2s - loss: 18.3792 - accuracy: 0.6861
265/1875 [==>.....] - ETA: 2s - loss: 16.7848 - accuracy: 0.6943
```

...

Evaluate the model by comparing how the model performs on the test dataset:

```
test_tuple = py.tf_helper.evaluate_model(model,test_images,test_labels)
```

```
313/313 - 0s - loss: 0.5592 - accuracy: 0.8086 - 412ms/epoch - 1ms/step
```

```
test_tuple =
```

```
    Python tuple with values:
```

```
(0.5592399835586548, 0.8086000084877014)
```

```
Use string, double or cell function to convert to a MATLAB array.
```

```
test_acc = test_tuple{2}
```

```
test_acc = 0.8086
```

Test the model on the first image from the test dataset:

```
test_images_m = uint8(test_images);
prob = py.tf_helper.test_model(model,py.numpy.array(test_images_m(1,:,:)))
```

```
prob =
```

```
    Python ndarray:
```

```
0.0000    0.0000    0.0000    0.0000    0.0000    0.0002    0.0000    0.0033    0.0000    0.9965
```

```
Use details function to view the properties of the Python object.
```

```
Use single function to convert to a MATLAB array.
```

```
[argvalue, argmax] = max(double(prob))
```

```
argvalue = 0.9965
```

```
argmax = 10
```

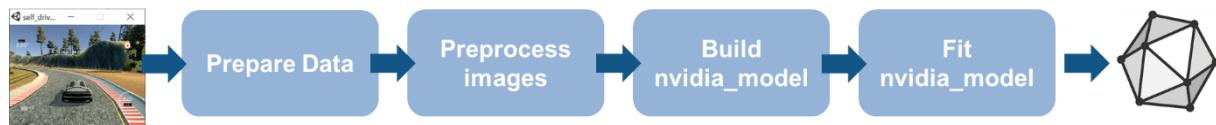
```
imshow(reshape(test_images_m(1,:,:),[28,28])*255)
title(class_names(argmax))
```

Ankle boot

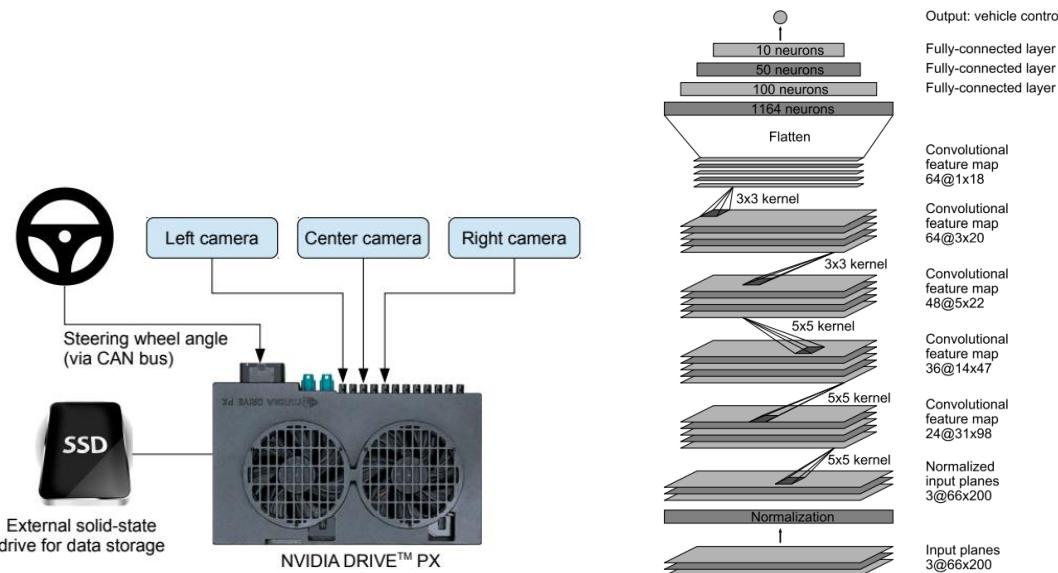


5.3. Import TensorFlow model into MATLAB

To illustrate the TensorFlow & ONNX import/export capabilities⁸⁴, we will take a workflow around an autonomous driving use case.



The data is generated by a simple open-source driving simulator⁸⁵ from Udacity. And the model comes from a real-life experiment from NVIDIA about End-to-end learning for self-driving cars⁸⁶.



The inputs of the neural network are images from the camera and the output to predict in the steering angle (between -1 and 1). We will simplify the problem with only 5 classes (from left to right).

First, import csv file created by the driving simulator with images locations and steering ground truth:

```

filename = "driving_log.csv";
drivinglog = import_driving_log( filename );
drivinglog = drivinglog(2:end,:)
  
```

drivinglog = 7935x8 table

	VarName1	center	left	...
1	0	"center_2021_04_25_11_32_45_622.jpg"	"left_2021_04_25_11_32_45_622.jpg"	
2	1	"center_2021_04_25_11_32_45_689.jpg"	"left_2021_04_25_11_32_45_689.jpg"	
3	2	"center_2021_04_25_11_32_45_765.jpg"	"left_2021_04_25_11_32_45_765.jpg"	
4	3	"center_2021_04_25_11_32_45_834.jpg"	"left_2021_04_25_11_32_45_834.jpg"	
5	4	"center_2021_04_25_11_32_45_905.jpg"	"left_2021_04_25_11_32_45_905.jpg"	
:				

⁸⁴ blogs.mathworks.com/deep-learning/2022/03/18/importing-models-from-tensorflow-pytorch-and-onnx/

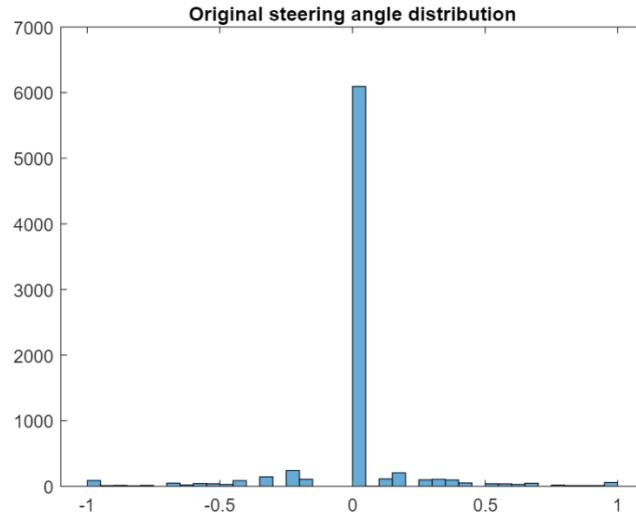
⁸⁵ Open-source driving simulator: <https://github.com/udacity/self-driving-car-sim>

⁸⁶ End-to-end learning for self-driving cars: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1604.07316.pdf>

Prepare the data

Analyze the range of values for the steering angle to find the optimal class values.

```
histogram(drivinglog.steering);
title("Original steering angle distribution");
```

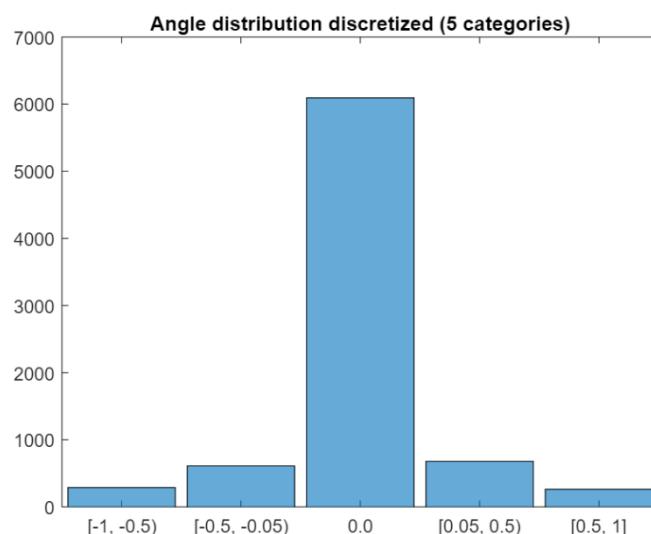


Use discretize to group the steering angles into discrete bins.

```
steeringLimits = [-1 -0.5 -0.05 0 0.05 0.5 1];
steeringClasses=discretize(drivinglog.steering,steeringLimits,'categorical');
classNames = categories(steeringClasses);
```

Merge the two bins that represent the angle close to 0 degrees.

```
steeringClasses=mergecats(steeringClasses,[ "-0.05, 0)", "[0, 0.05)", "0.0");
histogramClasses = histogram(steeringClasses);
title("Angle distribution discretized (5 categories)");
```



Create image datastore and balance data (undersampling)

The previous histogram shows that the dataset is highly unbalanced. Use countEachLabel to check how many instances there are of each class.

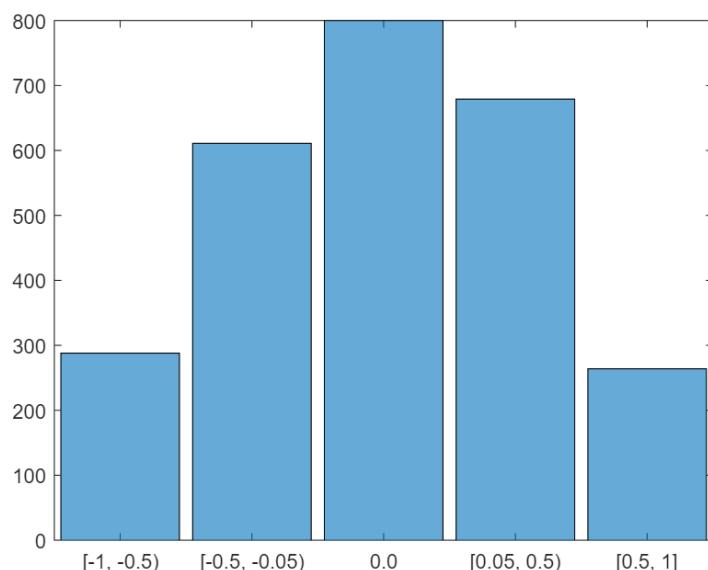
```
imds=imageDatastore("sim_data/" + drivinglog.center, "Labels", steeringClasses);
countEachLabel(imds)
```

ans = 5×2 table

	Label	Count
1	[-1, -0.5)	288
2	[-0.5, -0.05)	611
3	0	6093
4	[0.05, 0.5)	679
5	[0.5, 1]	264

Define how many samples of the unbalanced class should be kept and randomly select these samples.

```
maxSamples = 800;
countLabel = countEachLabel(imds);
[~, unbalancedLabelIdx] = max(countLabel.Count);
unbalanced = imds.Labels == countLabel.Label(unbalancedLabelIdx);
idx = find(unbalanced);
randomIdx = randperm(numel(idx));
downsampled = idx(randomIdx(1:maxSamples));
retained = [find(~unbalanced) ; downsampled];
imds = subset(imds, retained');
histogram(imds.Labels)
```



Separate the dataset into training, validation and testing

Extract 90% of the data for training and the remaining for testing and validation.

```
[imdsTrain, imdsValid, imdsTest] = splitEachLabel(imds, 0.9, 0.05, 0.05);
```

Preprocess the images by resizing it and converting it to the YCbCr color space.

```
trainData = transform(imdsTrain, @imagePreprocess, "IncludeInfo", true);
 testData = transform(imdsTest, @imagePreprocess, "IncludeInfo", true);
 valData = transform(imdsValid, @imagePreprocess, "IncludeInfo", true);
 imds_origI = imdsTrain.read;
 imds_newI = trainData.read{1};
 subplot(211), imshow(imds_origI), title("Original image from imds")
 subplot(212), imshow(imds_newI), title("Preprocessed image from imds")
```

Original image from imds



Preprocessed image from imds



Modify the model:

Load the network from keras model and display with Deep Network Designer⁸⁷

It is recommended to save and import the model in the SavedModel format instead of the HDF5 format⁸⁸ (you might get a warning).

```
layers = importKerasLayers("tf_model.h5")
```

Warning: File 'tf_model.h5' was saved in Keras version '2.4.0'. Import of Keras versions newer than '2.2.4' is not supported. The imported model may not exactly match the model saved in the Keras file.

⁸⁷ <https://www.mathworks.com/help/deeplearning/gs/get-started-with-deep-network-designer.html>

⁸⁸ www.tensorflow.org/tutorials/keras/save_and_load#save the entire model

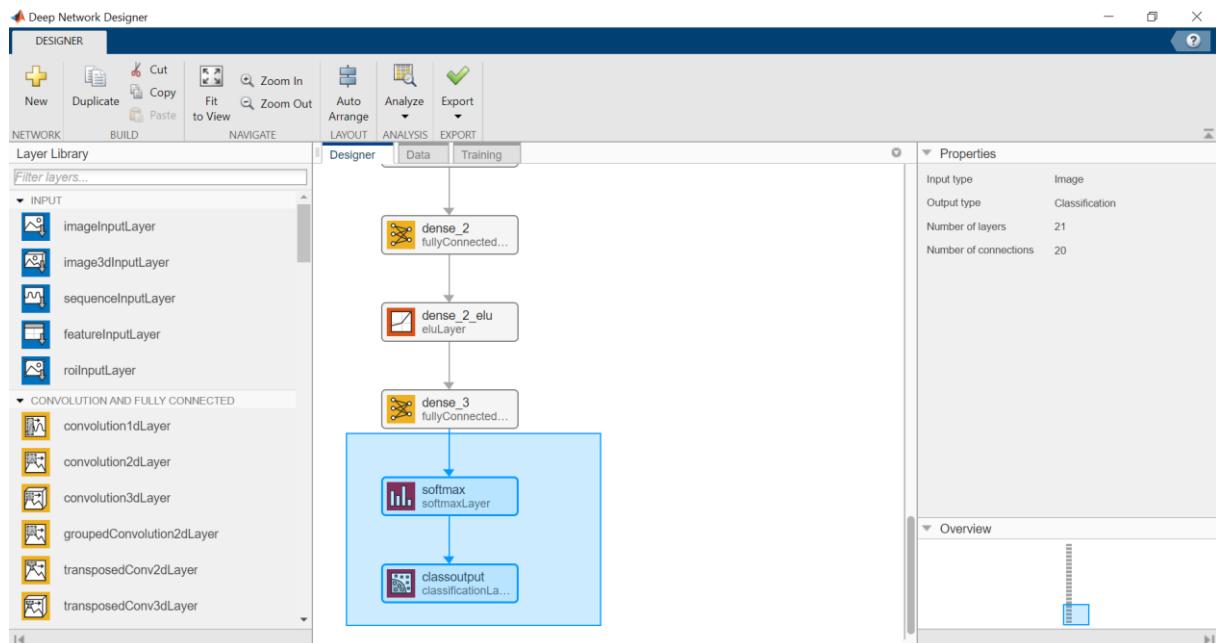
MATLAB with Python

```
layers =
20x1 Layer array with layers:
```

1	'conv2d_5_input'	Image Input	66x200x3 images
2	'conv2d_5'	Convolution	24 5x5 convolutions with stride [2
2]	and padding [0 0 0 0]		
3	'conv2d_5_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
4	'conv2d_6'	Convolution	36 5x5 convolutions with stride [2
2]	and padding [0 0 0 0]		
5	'conv2d_6_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
6	'conv2d_7'	Convolution	48 5x5 convolutions with stride [2
2]	and padding [0 0 0 0]		
7	'conv2d_7_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
8	'conv2d_8'	Convolution	64 3x3 convolutions with stride [1
1]	and padding [0 0 0 0]		
9	'conv2d_8_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
10	'conv2d_9'	Convolution	64 3x3 convolutions with stride [1
1]	and padding [0 0 0 0]		
11	'conv2d_9_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
12	'flatten'	Keras Flatten	Flatten activations into 1-D
assuming C-style (row-major) order			
13	'dense'	Fully Connected	100 fully connected layer
14	'dense_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
15	'dense_1'	Fully Connected	50 fully connected layer
16	'dense_1_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
17	'dense_2'	Fully Connected	10 fully connected layer
18	'dense_2_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
19	'dense_3'	Fully Connected	1 fully connected layer
20	'RegressionLayer_dense_3'	Regression Output	mean-squared-error

```
deepNetworkDesigner(layers)
```

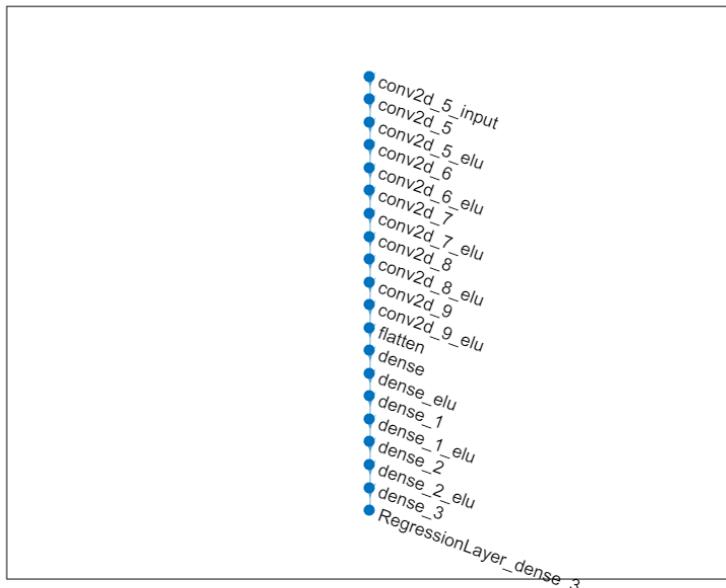
Remove the last layer used for regression and add the layers for a classification with 5 classes (then export net as **layers_1**)



(programmatic alternative)

Remove layers used for regression and add the layers for a classification with 5 classes

```
netGraph = layerGraph(layers);
clf; plot(netGraph)
```



```
classificationLayers = [fullyConnectedLayer(5, "Name", "dense_3"), ...
    softmaxLayer("Name", "softmax"), ...
    classificationLayer("Name", "classoutput")];
netGraph = removeLayers(netGraph, {'dense_3', 'RegressionLayer_dense_3'});
netGraph = addLayers(netGraph, classificationLayers);
layers_1 = netGraph.Layers
```

layers_1 =

21x1 Layer array with layers:

1 'conv2d_5_input'	Image Input	66x200x3 images
2 'conv2d_5'	Convolution	24 5x5 convolutions with stride [2 2]
and padding [0 0 0 0]		
3 'conv2d_5_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
4 'conv2d_6'	Convolution	36 5x5 convolutions with stride [2 2]
and padding [0 0 0 0]		
5 'conv2d_6_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
6 'conv2d_7'	Convolution	48 5x5 convolutions with stride [2 2]
and padding [0 0 0 0]		
7 'conv2d_7_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
8 'conv2d_8'	Convolution	64 3x3 convolutions with stride [1 1]
and padding [0 0 0 0]		
9 'conv2d_8_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
10 'conv2d_9'	Convolution	64 3x3 convolutions with stride [1 1]
and padding [0 0 0 0]		
11 'conv2d_9_elu'	ELU	ELU with Alpha 1
12 'flatten'	Keras Flatten	Flatten activations into 1-D assuming
C-style (row-major) order		

MATLAB with Python

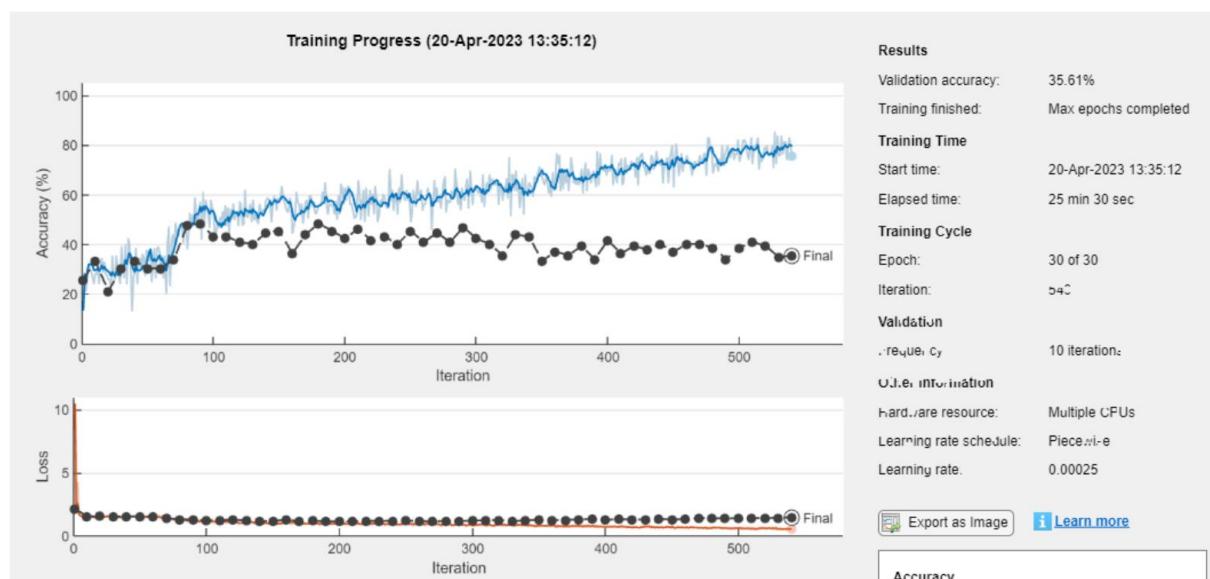
```
13 'dense'           Fully Connected    100 fully connected layer
14 'dense_elu'       ELU                ELU with Alpha 1
15 'dense_1'          Fully Connected   50 fully connected layer
16 'dense_1_elu'     ELU                ELU with Alpha 1
17 'dense_2'          Fully Connected   10 fully connected layer
18 'dense_2_elu'     ELU                ELU with Alpha 1
19 'dense_3'          Fully Connected   5 fully connected layer
20 'softmax'         Softmax            softmax
21 'classoutput'     Classification Output crossentropyex
```

Train the model: (I am using my CPU here, but I recommend to speed it up on a GPU)

```
initialLearnRate = 0.001;
maxEpochs = 30;
miniBatchSize = 100;

options = trainingOptions("adam", ...
    "MaxEpochs",maxEpochs, ...
    "InitialLearnRate",initialLearnRate, ...
    "Plots","training-progress", ...
    "ValidationData",valData, ...
    "ValidationFrequency",10, ...
    "LearnRateSchedule","piecewise", ...
    "LearnRateDropPeriod",10, ...
    "LearnRateDropFactor",0.5, ...
    "ExecutionEnvironment","parallel",...
    "Shuffle","every-epoch");

net = trainNetwork(trainData, layers_1, options);
```



Save the model: Save the new trained network in a MAT format.

```
model_name = "net-class-30-1e-4-drop10-0_5";
% classification-epochs-learning_rate-drop_period-drop_factor
save("model_name+.mat","net")
```

Export it to a ONNX Network format.

```
exportONNXNetwork(net,model_name+".onnx")
```

Test the model:

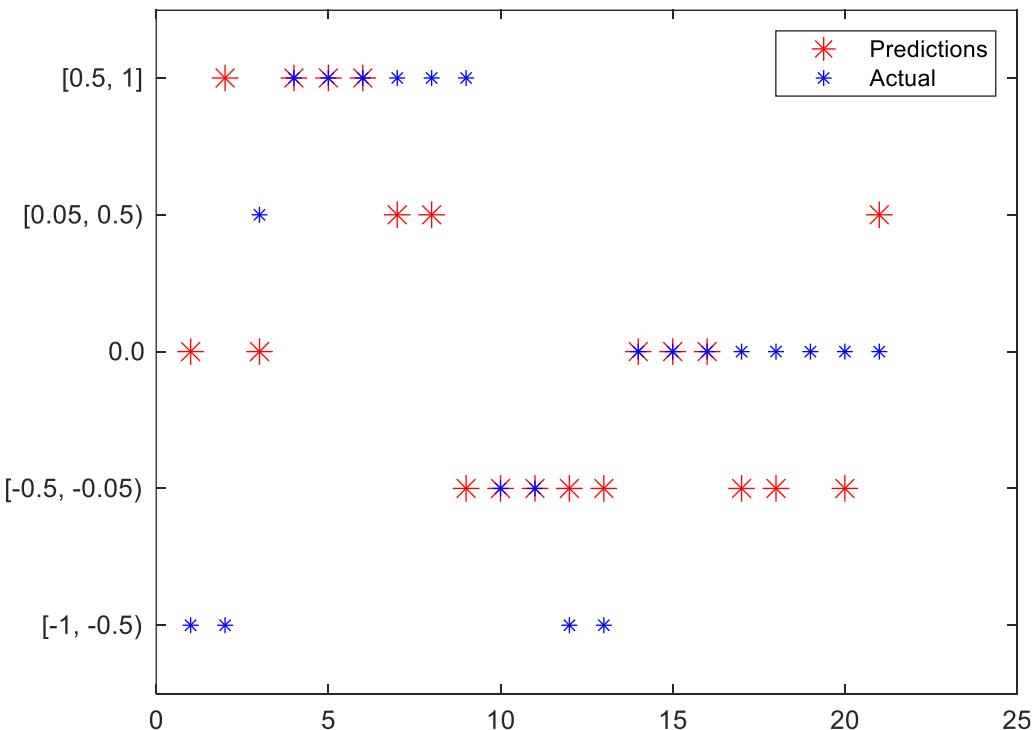
Plot predicted and ground truth values for steering angle using the testing dataset.

```

model_name = "net-class-30-1e-4-drop10-0_7"; % classification-epochs-
learning_rate-drop_period-drop_factor
load("models/" + model_name + ".mat", "net")
predSteering = classify(net, testData);

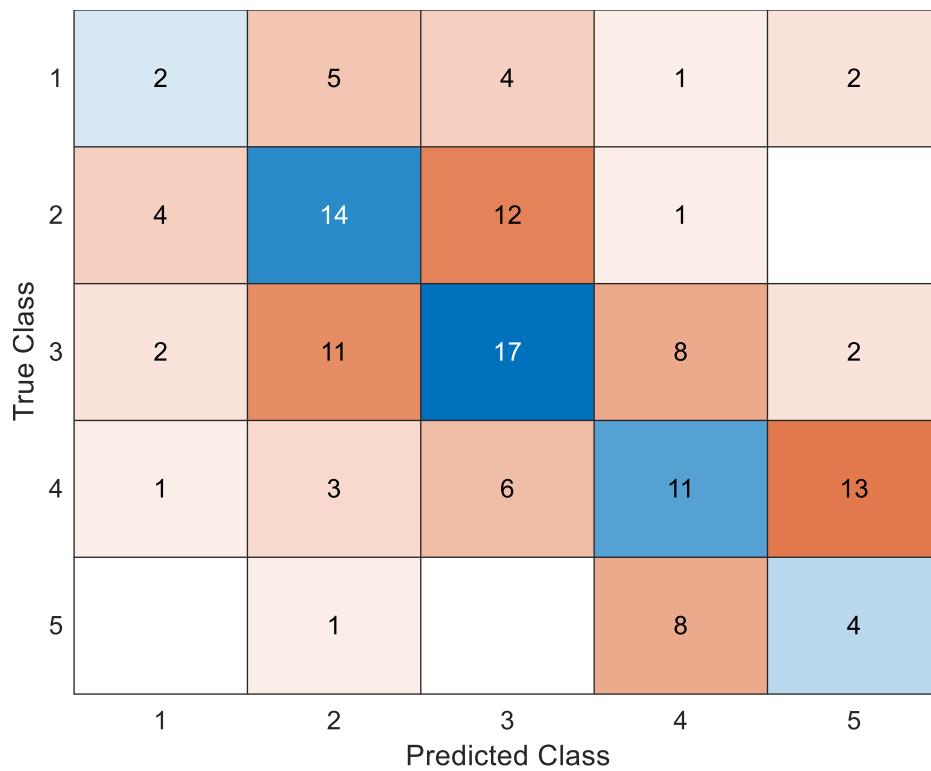
figure
startTest = 1;
endTest = 20;
plot(predSteering(startTest:endTest), 'r*', "MarkerSize", 10)
hold on
plot(imdsTest.Labels(startTest:endTest), 'b*')
legend("Predictions", "Actual")
hold off

```



Display the confusion matrix.

```
confMat = confusionmat(imdsTest.Labels, predSteering);  
confusionchart(confMat)
```



Display the testing image and the predicted label along with the ground truth.

```
numberImages = length(imdsTest.Labels);
i = 42;
img = readimage(imdsTest, i);
imshow(img),title(char(imdsTest.Labels(i)) + "/" +char(predSteering(i)));
```



To test your model directly with the driving simulator, you can switch the simulator to “autonomous mode” and run the script [drive.py](#).

6. Call MATLAB from Python

If you are a Python user and you are wondering *why you should consider MATLAB*, this chapter is probably a better entry point into this book. One of my favorite colleagues, Lucas Garcia – Deep Learning Product Manager – tried to answer this question at a Python Meetup⁸⁹ in Madrid:

- **Facilitate** AI development by using a simplified MATLAB workflow
- Need **functionality** available in MATLAB (e.g. Simulink)
- Leverage the work from the MATLAB **community**

But first let's start with a few basics on how to call MATLAB from Python.

6.1. Getting started with the MATLAB Engine API for Python

First, make sure you have the MATLAB Engine for Python installed (as described in section 3.8).

In your python script or jupyter notebook, the first statement you will need to enter in order to load the MATLAB Engine package is:

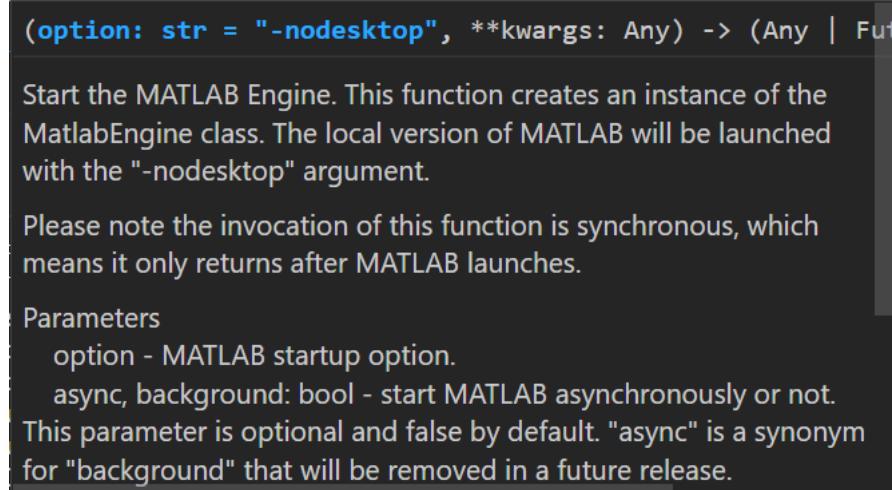
```
>>> import matlab.engine
```

You have then two options to interact with MATLAB from Python:

1. Start a new session (in batch or interactive)

By default, the engine will be started in batch with the “-nodesktop” mode:

```
>>> m = matlab.engine.start_matlab()
```



(this is the contextual help provided by VSCode when you enter the function)

If you wish to have the MATLAB Desktop apparent to visualize which values are stored in the workspace or to debug interactively with the console, you can specify the “desktop” argument:

```
>>> m = matlab.engine.start_matlab("-desktop")
```

⁸⁹ Lucas Garcia – Python Madrid Meetup:
<https://mathinking.github.io/blog/en/a-trick-you-dont-know-about-python-matlab/>

2. Connect to an existing session

First you need to start MATLAB manually. For convenience, it's easier to have the MATLAB Desktop and your Python development environment (Jupyter or VSCode) open side by side. To share the MATLAB Engine session, simply type inside of MATLAB:

```
>> matlab.engine.shareEngine
```

You can also request the name of the MATLAB Engine session, in case Python doesn't find it automatically:

```
>> matlab.engine.engineName
```

```
ans =
```

```
'MATLAB_11388'
```

Then on the Python side, enter the following command:

```
>>> m = matlab.engine.connect_matlab()
```

```
(name: Any | None = None, **kwargs: Any) -> (Any | Future)
```

name: str - the name of the shared MATLAB session, which is optional.

Connect to a shared MATLAB session. This function creates an instance of the MatlabEngine class and connects it to a MATLAB session. The MATLAB session must be a shared session on the local machine.

If name is not specified and there is no shared MATLAB available, this function launches a shared MATLAB session with default options. If name is not specified and there are shared MATLAB sessions available, the first shared MATLAB created is connected. If

(this is the contextual help provided by VSCode when you enter the function)

If Python does not find automatically the running session, you can enter the engine name requested previously in MATLAB ('MATLAB_11388').

6.2. Facilitate AI development by using MATLAB Apps

6.2.1. Data Cleaner App

The first step in an AI pipeline is often to clean the data. This process requires some level of interactivity for the data analyst to understand which variables she is manipulating. Once the input format of the data is fixed, this process can be automated to scale it to the whole dataset.

Let's take an example with the weather data from chapter 2. In this first example, we will start MATLAB in `'-nodesktop` mode (which is the default mode for the engine). In the next two sections, we will use the `'-desktop` mode to show how to use the MATLAB desktop to interact with the data, but also connect to an already running MATLAB session.

Set up the environment

```
!git clone https://github.com/hgorr/weather-matlab-python
```

```
import matlab.engine
m = matlab.engine.start_matlab()
m.cd('weather-matlab-python') # returns the previous dir location
# m.cd('..')
```

'C:\\\\Users\\\\ydebray\\\\Downloads\\\\python-book-github'

```
m.getcwd()
```

'C:\\\\Users\\\\ydebray\\\\Downloads\\\\python-book-github\\\\weather-matlab-python'

```
# Make sure that your Python interpreter follows along
import os
os.getcwd()
os.chdir('weather-matlab-python')
# os.chdir('..')
```

Retrieve Weather Data

```
import weather
appid ='b1b15e88fa797225412429c1c50c122a1'
json_data = weather.get_forecast('Muenchen','DE',appid,api='samples')
data = weather.parse_forecast_json(json_data)
data.keys()
```

dict_keys(['current_time', 'temp', 'deg', 'speed', 'humidity', 'pressure'])

```
print(len(data['temp']))
data['temp'][0:5]
```

36

[286.67, 285.66, 277.05, 272.78, 273.341]

```
t = matlab.double(data['temp'])
t
```

```
matlab.double([[286.67,285.66,277.05,272.78,273.341,275.568,276.478,276.67,
278.253,276.455,275.639,275.459,275.035,274.965,274.562,275.648,277.927,278
.367,273.797,271.239,269.553,268.198,267.295,272.956,277.422,277.984,272.45
9,269.473,268.793,268.106,267.655,273.75,279.302,279.343,274.443,272.424]])
```

Format into a Timetable

```
# Transform into a timetable for data cleaning
m.workspace['data'] = data
```

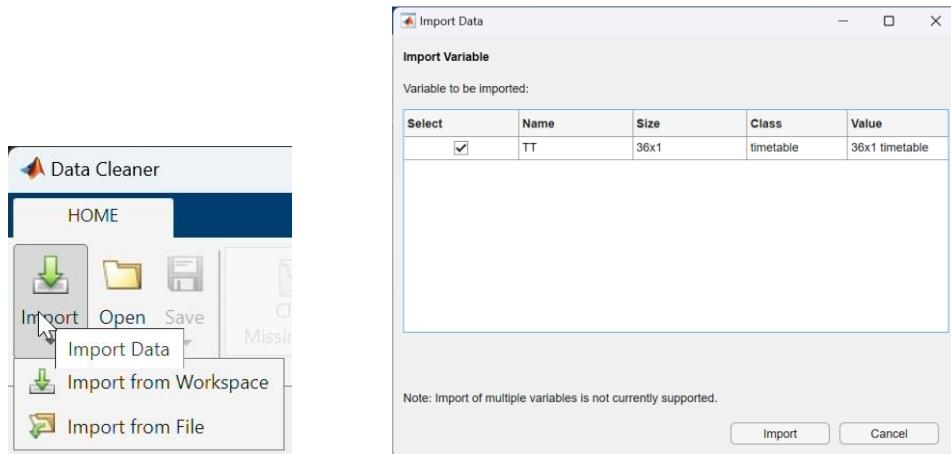
MATLAB with Python

```
m.eval("TT =  
timetable(datetime(string(data.current_time))',cell2mat(data.temp)','VariableNames',{'Temp'})",nargout=0)  
m.who()  
  
['TT', 'data']
```

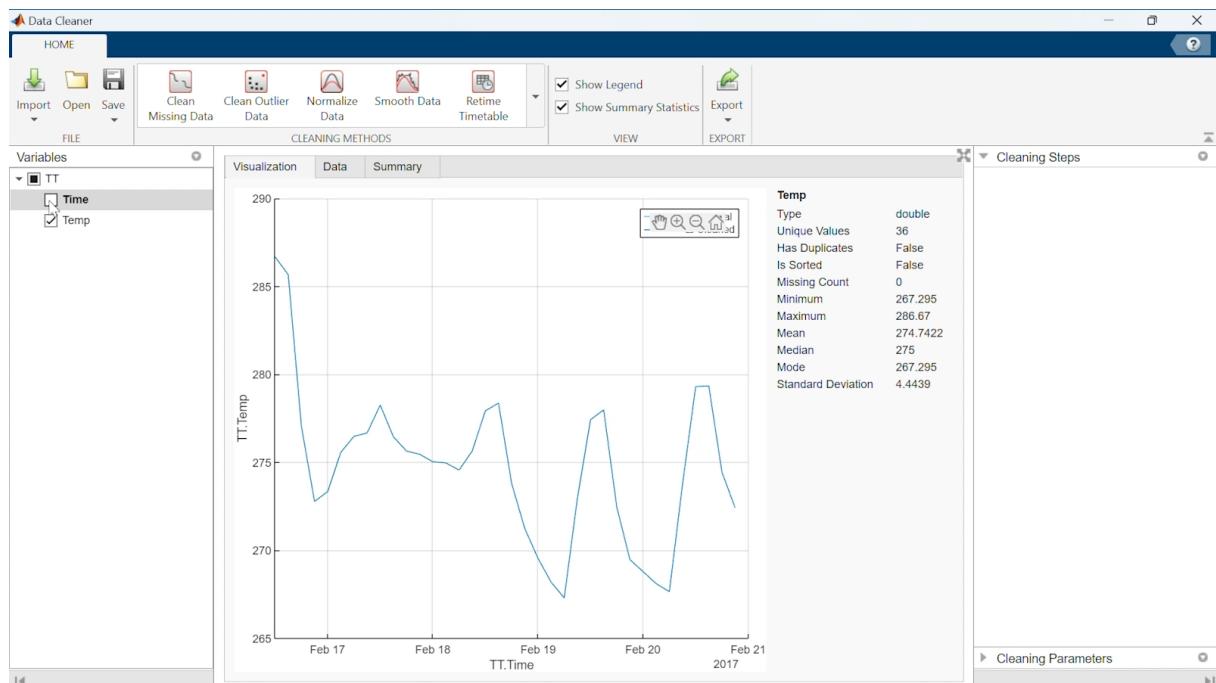
Interact manually with the app

```
m.dataCleaner(nargout=0)
```

The app will appear, with a blank canvas, giving you the option to import data. Select the timetable from your workspace.



This will open your data into the app main view:

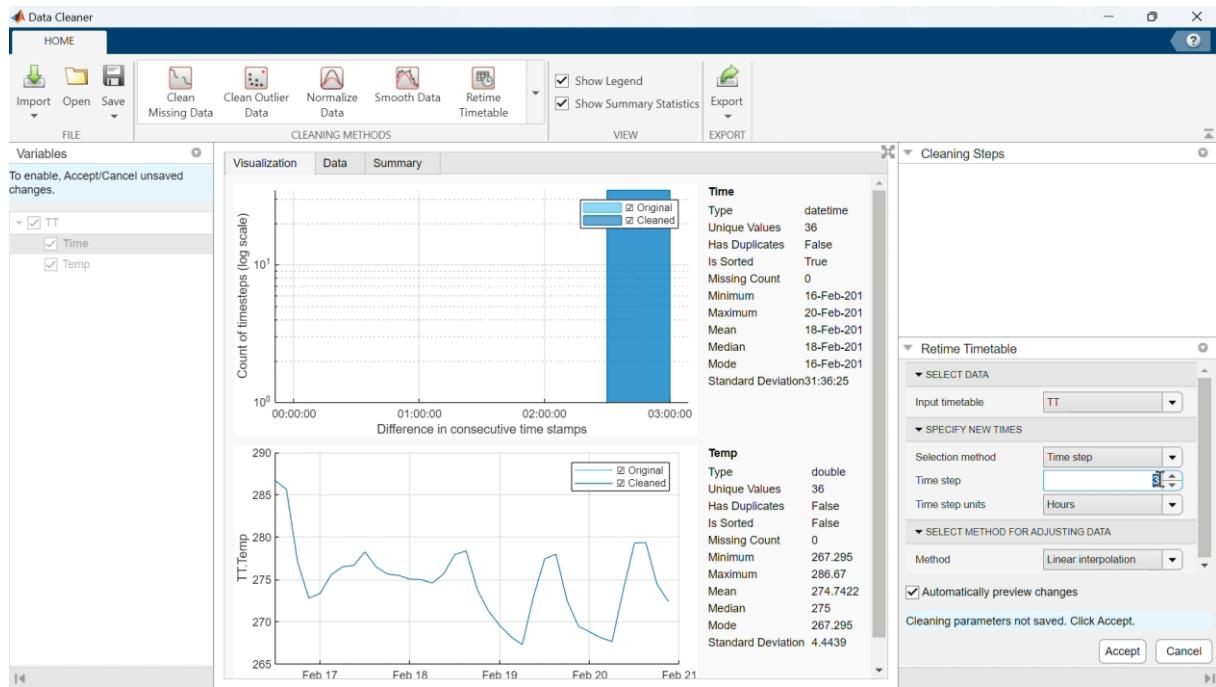


In the left panel, you can select the variables that you want to visualize and manipulate.

MATLAB with Python

We will select the Time variable, and use the **Retime Timetable** cleaning method:

This will display options in the right panel, where we will specify the new sampling, Time step: 1 (hour). Once you are happy with the results, click accept (bottom right).

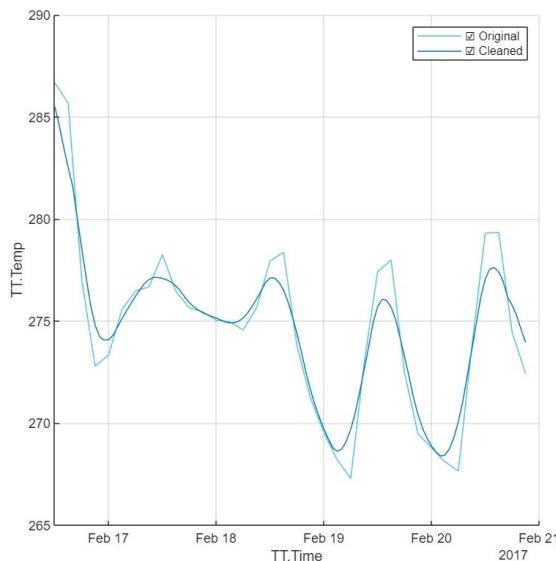


You can see the results of this transformation on your data by changing the tabs in the center panel:

	Visualization	Data	Summary
	Time Min 16-Feb-2017 12:00:00 Max 20-Feb-2017 21:00:00 Mean 18-Feb-2017 16:30:00 Std Dev 30:44:36 Missing 0 Class datetime	Temp Min 267.295 Max 286.67 Mean 274.6515 Std Dev 4.113 Missing 0 Class double	
1	16-Feb-2017 12:00:00	286.6700	
2	16-Feb-2017 13:00:00	286.3333	
3	16-Feb-2017 14:00:00	285.9967	
4	16-Feb-2017 15:00:00	285.6600	
5	16-Feb-2017 16:00:00	282.7900	
6	16-Feb-2017 17:00:00	279.9200	
7	16-Feb-2017 18:00:00	277.0500	
8	16-Feb-2017 19:00:00	275.6267	
9	16-Feb-2017 20:00:00	274.2033	
10	16-Feb-2017 21:00:00	272.7800	

The second transformation we will operate on this is **Smooth Data**. You can select the smoothing method (we will stick with the default moving average) and play around with the smoothing factor.



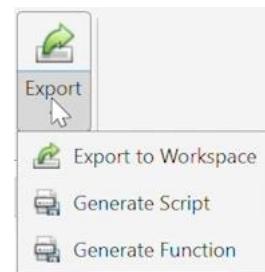


Export the cleaning steps

Once you are happy with the way your data looks, you can save your manual operations as a function that you will apply to any new weather data that comes in, to automate the preprocessing.

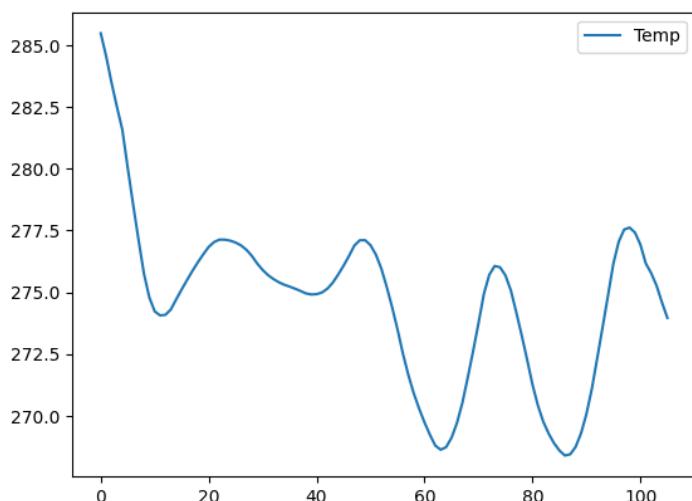
preprocess.m

```
function TT = preprocess(TT)
    % Retime timetable
    TT = retime(TT, "regular", "linear", "TimeStep", hours(1));
    % Smooth input data
    TT = smoothdata(TT, "movmean", "SmoothingFactor", 0.25);
end
```



You can call this function from Python, and test that it works.

```
TT = m.workspace['TT']
TT2 = m.preprocess(TT)
m.parquetwrite("data.parquet", TT2, nargout=0)
import pandas as pd
pd.read_parquet('data.parquet').plot(y='Temp')
```



6.2.2. Regression and Classification Learner Apps

We will take the Boston housing example that is part of the Scikit-Learn sample datasets to call MATLAB from Python.

Open a Jupyter notebook and connect to a running MATLAB session from Python:

```
import matlab.engine  
m = matlab.engine.connect_matlab()
```

Retrieve the dataset:

```
import sklearn.datasets  
dataset = sklearn.datasets.load_boston()  
dataset.keys()  
  
dict_keys(['data', 'target', 'feature_names', 'DESCR', 'filename', 'data_module'])  
  
data = dataset['data']  
target = dataset['target']
```

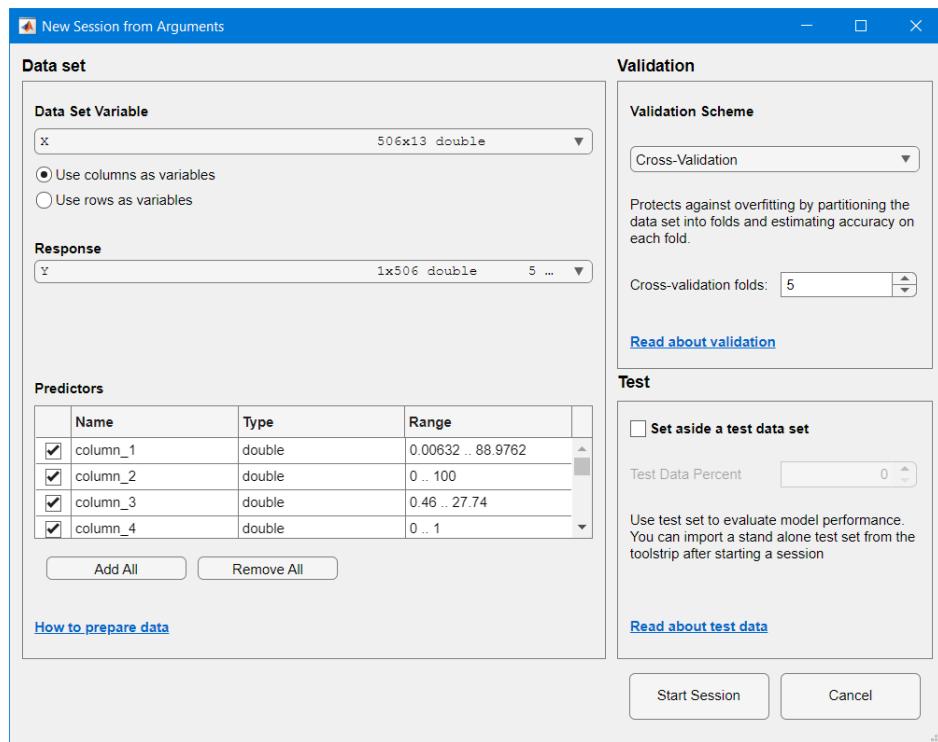
Depending on the version of MATLAB you are using, you might require converting the data and target arrays to MATLAB double:

- Before 22a, Numpy arrays were not accepted, so you need to translate them to lists.
- In 22a, Numpy arrays can be passed into MATLAB object constructor (double, int32, ...).
- From 22b, Numpy arrays can be passed directly into MATLAB functions.

```
# Before 22a  
X_m = matlab.double(data.tolist())  
Y_m = matlab.double(target.tolist())  
# In 22a  
X_m = matlab.double(data)  
Y_m = matlab.double(target)  
# From 22b  
X_m = data  
Y_m = target  
# Call the regression learner app with data coming from Python  
m.regressionLearner(X_m,Y_m,nargout=0)
```

The session is automatically created in the Regression Learner, with the passed data:

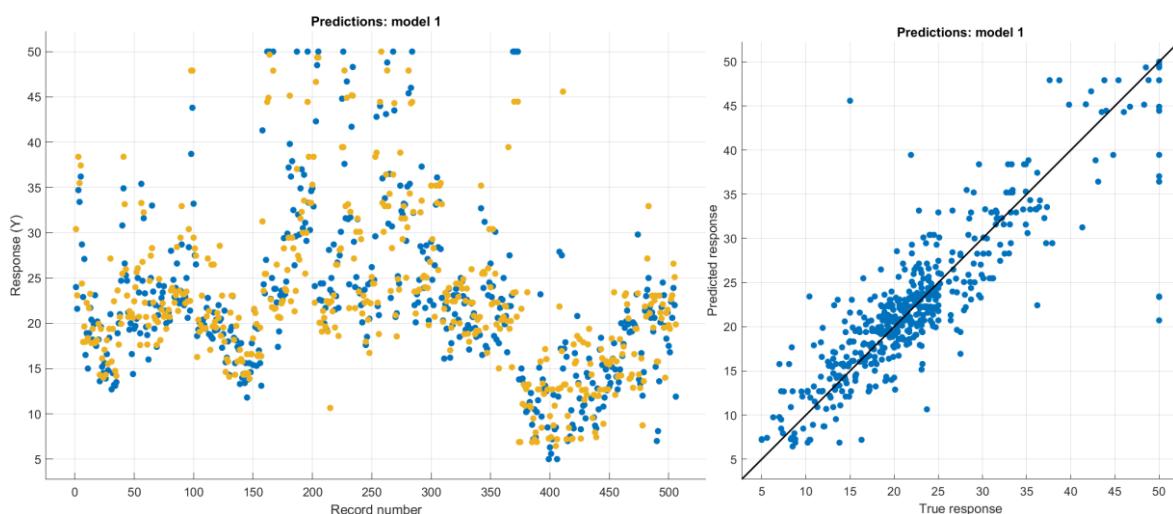
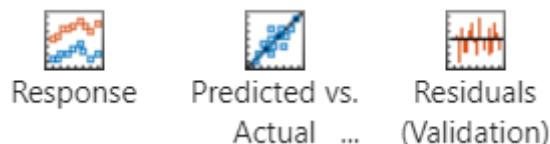
MATLAB with Python



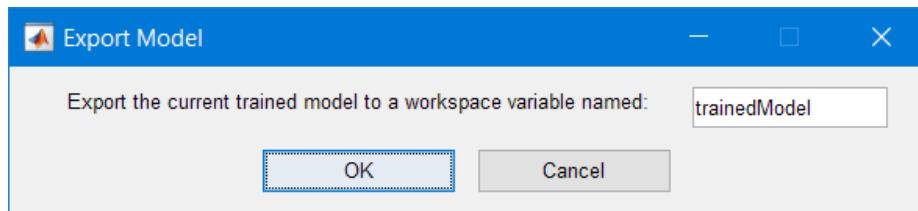
You have several models and categories to choose from:



You can visualize certain indicators during the training:



Once you are happy with one of the models you've trained, you can generate a function or export it:



Informations are shared in the MATLAB Command Window:

```
Variables have been created in the base workspace.  
Structure 'trainedModel' exported from Regression Learner.  
To make predictions on a new predictor column matrix, X:  
    yfit = trainedModel.predictFcn(X)  
For more information, see How to predict using an exported model.
```

Finally, you can retrieve the model to assign the prediction function to a variable in Python:

```
model = m.workspace['trainedModel']  
m.fieldnames(model)  
  
['predictFcn', 'RegressionTree', 'About', 'HowToPredict']  
  
predFcn = model.get('predictFcn')
```

This way, you can test the model directly from within Python:

```
X_test = data[0]  
y_test = target[0]  
X_test,y_test  
  
(array([6.320e-03, 1.800e+01, 2.310e+00, 0.000e+00, 5.380e-01, 6.575e+00,  
       6.520e+01, 4.090e+00, 1.000e+00, 2.960e+02, 1.530e+01, 3.969e+02,  
       4.980e+00]),  
 24.0)  
  
m.feval(predFcn,X_test)  
  
23.46666666666667
```

You can iterate and test another model to see if the predictions are closer to the test target.

6.2.3. Image Labeler App

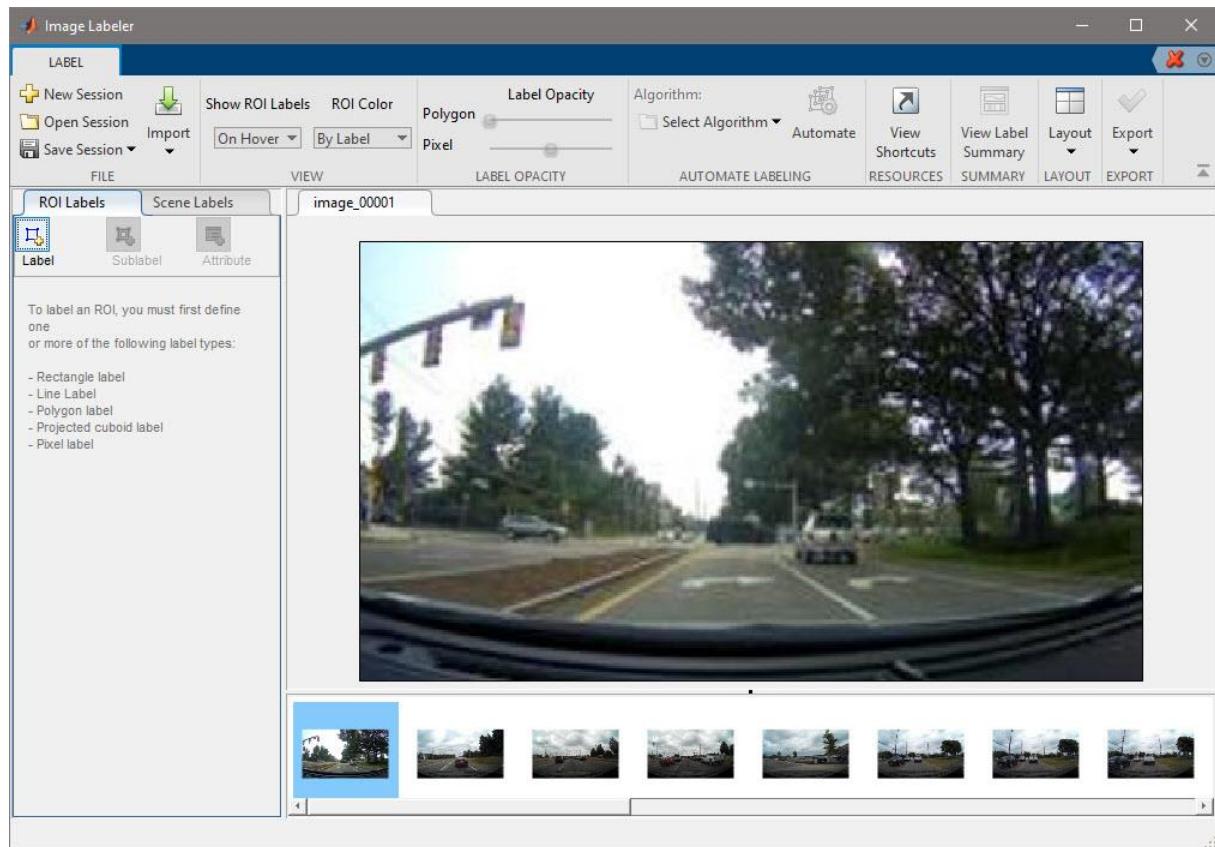
Data preparation is key in developing Machine Learning and Deep Learning applications. No matter how much effort you put into your ML model, it will likely perform poorly if you didn't spend the right time in preparing your data to be consumed by your model.

In this example, we start with a set of images to label for a Deep Learning application.

```
import os
cwd = os.getcwd()
vehicleImagesPath = os.path.join(cwd, "..", "images", "vehicles", "subset")
```

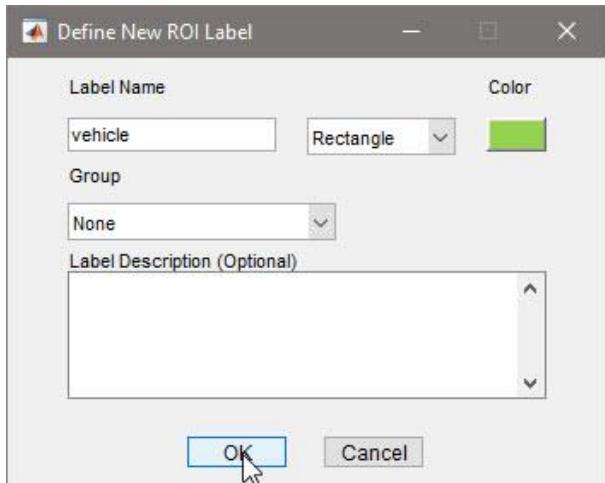
We then start the MATLAB Engine API for Python and open the *Image Labeler App*, passing the location of the images as an input:

```
import matlab.engine
m = matlab.engine.start_matlab('-desktop')
m.imageLabeler(vehicleImagePath, nargout=0)
```

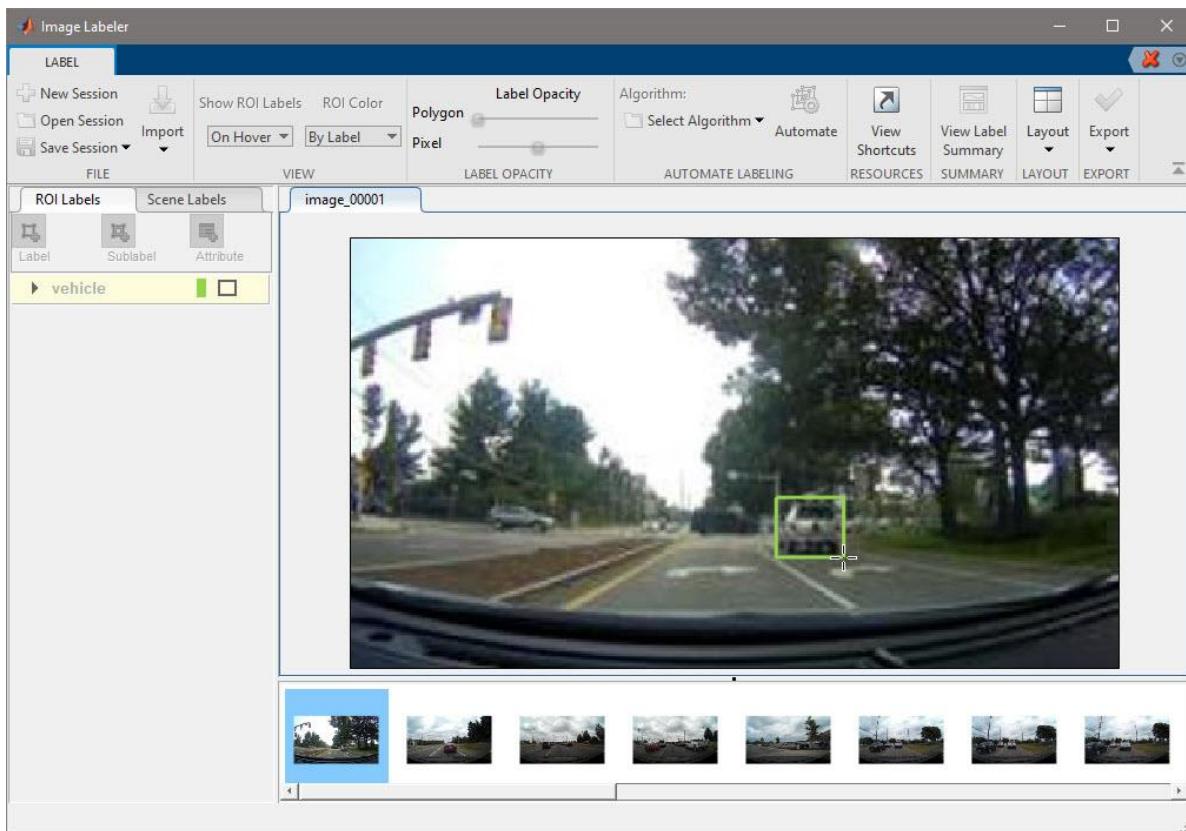


Note that because the App returns no output arguments back to Python, you need to specify `nargout=0` (number of output arguments equals 0).

Now you can interactively create a new ROI Label:

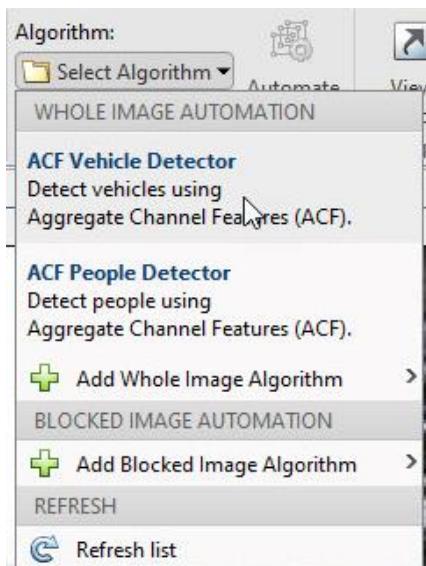


and start to manually label your vehicles:

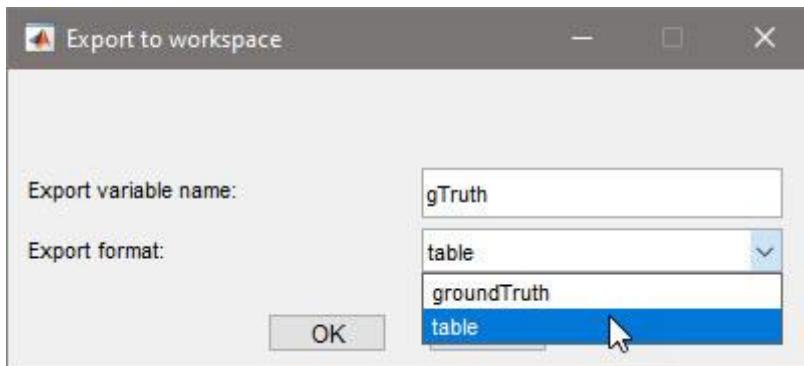


This process is rather tedious, especially considering that the number of required labeled images for the problem might be significant for Deep Learning workflows. Thus, the following shows how to facilitate labeling by automating (or semi-automating) the labeling process. After selecting the images you would like to automatically label, you can choose among various algorithms (*ACF vehicle detector*, *ACF people detector*, or import your custom detector). In this particular case, after choosing *ACF vehicle detector*, the selected images are automatically labeled. Earlier I mentioned that the process is semi-automated, as it might not detect all vehicles, or you might want to correct some bounding boxes before exporting your results.

MATLAB with Python



Finally, export your labeling process as a MATLAB table to continue your work back in Python:



Back in Python, gather the variables you are interested in:

```
imageFilename = m.eval("gTruth.imageFilename")
labels = m.eval("gTruth.vehicle")
```

and put them into a convenient form to continue your work:

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

# Bring data to convenient form as DataFrame
labels = [np.array(x) for x in labels]
df = pd.DataFrame({"imageFileName":imageFilename, "vehicle":labels})
```

Labeled data is now conveniently shaped into a DataFrame with information regarding file location and bounding boxes for each vehicle, and can be easily accessed:

```
df.iloc[[13]]
m.exit()
```


7. Resources

7.1. Getting Python packages on MATLAB Online

MATLAB Online is a great pre-configured environment to demo MATLAB with Python. And I'm not just saying this now that I've joined the MATLAB Online product team (mid 2023). I have been using it since 2022 to run workshops with Heather, either for large public events like MATLAB EXPO, or for customer dedicated hands-on workshops. This avoids wasting the first half hour of any conversation in setting up the MATLAB & Python environments (see [chapter 3](#)), as Python 3 is pre-installed there.

But there's a catch: what always prevented me from using this nice online environment productively for bilingual workflows was the lack of Python packages, and a way to customize the environment. I obviously tried to find ways around this limitation, by uploading the packages sources as zipped files, and unzip it in MATLAB Online. However, for foundational packages like Numpy, it was already amounting for over 7,000 files to write to disk (only 50 Mb uncompressed). So, it takes a while...

Then recently, after looking at how ChatGPT Code Interpreter works (now called Advanced Data Analysis), I realized it would be possible to retrieve Python wheels and install them on the remote machine⁹⁰. Python wheels⁹¹ are a way to distribute Python packages. They are similar to zip files, but they contain all of the information needed to install a package, including the code, the dependencies, and the metadata. Wheels are typically used with the pip package manager.

Having understood that the pip wheel can be used as an executable, all you have to do to enable pip in MATLAB Online is to retrieve the pip wheel, and use the following system command:

```
>> !python pip.whl/pip --version
pip 23.3 from /MATLAB Drive/pip.whl/pip (python 3.10)
```

You can create a simple setup file, [setuppip.m](#):

```
piploc = "/tmp/";
pipwhlname = getwheel("pip");
copyfile(pipwhlname, piploc+"pip.whl")
disp("pip set up in folder: "+piploc)
```

And wrap the code that gets the wheel in a function:

```
function whlname = getwheel(pkg)
url = "https://pypi.org/pypi/" + pkg + "/json";
jason = webread(url);
urlwhl = jason.urls(1).url;
[~, filename, fileext] = fileparts(urlwhl);
whlname = [filename fileext];
websave(whlname,urlwhl);
end
```

⁹⁰ Install python wheel file without using pip <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/36132350/install-python-wheel-file-without-using-pip>

⁹¹ What Are Python Wheels and Why Should You Care? <https://realpython.com/python-wheels/>