



# Lab 1

## Matlab Fundamentals; Part I

"Learning to walk"

*Marine Modelling* January 14, 2019

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## Advantages of MATLAB:

- powerful and widely used,
- useful for data analysis, complex calculations and visualization,
- works interactively (unlike FORTRAN, C++ or Java),
- customizable.

Over one million people around the world speak MATLAB. Engineers and scientists in every field from aerospace and semiconductors to biotech, financial services, and earth and ocean sciences use it to express their ideas.

## Do you speak MATLAB?



Two essential requirements for successful programming:

- one needs to know the exact rules and syntax for writing statements (computers are stupid, they will do exactly as told);
- one needs to develop a logical plan for solving the problem under consideration.

This and next lab: we will focus on the first requirement; basic Matlab rules and syntax

Next we'll deal with more complex problems and ways of solving them (the second point).

At the end of the course you will be able to use MATLAB in designing, developing an implementing computational and graphical tools for your scientific problems (e.g. personal toolbox tailored to your scientific problems).

## Getting help:

- excellent built-in help,
- lots of online resources (demos, tutorials etc.)

## Good starting point:

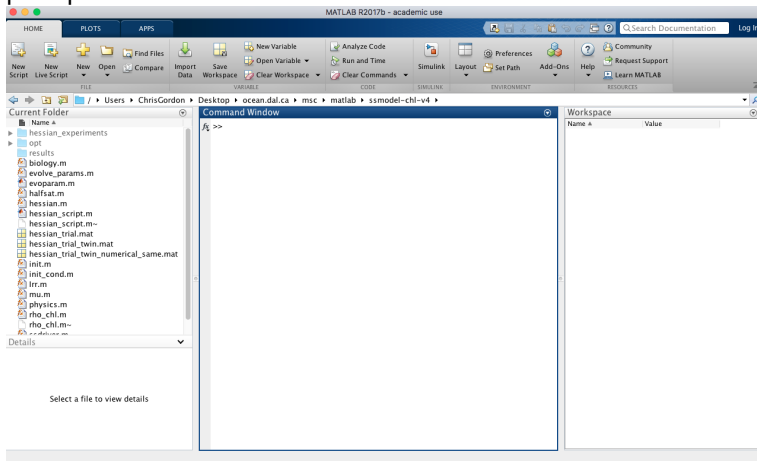
<https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/index.html>

The screenshot shows the MathWorks Documentation website for MATLAB R2018b. At the top, there are navigation links for Products, Solutions, Academia, Support, Community, and Events. The main header includes the MathWorks logo, a search bar with the text "Search R2018b Documentation", and a "Documentation" dropdown menu. Below the header, there are links for "Trial Software", "Product Updates", and "Translate This Page". The left sidebar contains a "CONTENTS" menu with a "Close" button and a list of categories including MATLAB, Getting Started with MATLAB, Language Fundamentals, Mathematics, Graphics, Data Import and Analysis, Programming Scripts and Functions, App Building, Advanced Software Development, Desktop Environment, Supported Hardware, Simulink, and various toolboxes. The main content area is titled "MATLAB" and describes it as "The Language of Technical Computing". It includes a paragraph about its use in engineering and scientific work, a "Getting Started" section, "Language Fundamentals", "Mathematics", "Graphics", "Data Import and Analysis", "Programming Scripts and Functions", "App Building", and "Advanced Software Development". There are also links for "Release Notes" and "PDF Documentation".





Start by double-clicking the Matlab icon or typing matlab at the prompt.





To **exit** either select **Exit Matlab** from the **File** menu, or  
Enter `quit` or `exit` at the Command Window prompt (`»`).

Note: Do not click the close box (cross in the top corner).

## Matlab as a calculator

Enter the following commands:

```
>> 2+3  
>> 2-3  
>> 2*3  
>> 1/2  
>> 2^3  
>> 2\1
```

What do the symbols

`*`, `/`, `^`, `\`

mean?

Try this:

```
>> 2 .* 3  
>> 1 ./ 2  
>> 2 .^ 3
```





A few things to note:

- You can edit the Matlab command using the **Backspace**, **Left-arrow**, **Right-arrow** and **Del** keys.
- You can make previously entered commands reappear using the **Up-arrow** and **Down-arrow** commands (typing enter will execute the command).
- *Smart recall* feature: Type the first few characters of a previously entered command and press the Up-arrow key.





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How will Matlab handle  $0/1$  or  $1/0$ ? Try it!

Matlab tries to anticipate errors and will warn you. **Inf** is the Matlab symbol for infinity. If you want to use infinity in a calculation you can.

How about  $0/0$ ?

**NaN** stands for not-a-number. Can be useful when working with data fields which contain missing values (will become more obvious later).



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## Assigning values to variables

```
>> a = 2
```

```
>> a = a + 2
```

```
>> b = 3;
```

```
>> c = a + b;
```

```
>> c
```

```
>> x = 2; y = 3; z = x + y;
```

```
>> z
```

```
>> A
```

```
>> B
```

### Note:

- The semicolon suppresses display and allows several commands per line.
- MATLAB is **case-sensitive**.



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Matlab has the usual mathematical functions that you would expect to find on a calculator (pi, sin, cos, log).

- Find  $\sqrt{\pi}$  as sqrt(pi) (should be 1.7725)
- Trigonometric functions like sin(x) expect the argument in radians (multiply degrees by  $\frac{\pi}{180^\circ}$  to get radians). Try  $\sin(90^\circ)$  as sin(90\*pi/180) (should be 1)
- The exponential function  $e^x$  is expressed as exp(x). Use this information to find the values of  $e$  and  $\frac{1}{e}$  (should be 2.7183 and 0.3679)

Note: Be careful when naming your own functions.



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## Illustration of a naming conflict

Try:

```
>> pi = 4;  
>> sqrt(pi)  
>> whos  
>> clear pi  
>> whos  
>> sqrt(pi)  
>> clear  
>> whos
```

Note: `clear` deletes all variables from the workspace. `clear pi` only deletes `pi`. `whos` shows all local variables in the workspace.



## Illustration of a naming conflict

Try:

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>> pi = 4;  
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Matlab has many general functions.

For example, try

```
>> date
```

```
>> calendar
```



Matlab has many commands for a variety of tasks, e.g. `clc`, `help` and `lookfor`.

For example,

```
>> clc           % clears command window
>> help clc
>> lookfor identity
```



Matlab can handle vectors and matrices (generally referred to as arrays). An easy way to define a vector that has a constant increment between its elements is thus:

```
>> x = 1 : 10;
```

Then check:

```
>> x
```

x is a row vector with 11 elements (columns). Check it size thus:

```
>> size(x)
```

Try

```
>> y = 2 * x  
>> w = y ./ x  
>> z = sin(x)
```

Note that the 2nd line is an array operation; the division is carried out element-by-element.



## Drawing a graph of $\sin(x)$ :

```
>> x = 0 : 0.1 :2*pi;  
>> z = sin(x);  
>> plot(x,z), grid
```

Note that the first command has three numbers and two semicolons. In this case the middle number specifies the increment (default is 1). The command `grid` adds grid lines to the graph.

You can add more graphs, axis labels, a title and a legend to the current figure:

```
>> hold on  
>> plot(x,cos(x),'r')  
>> xlabel('x')  
>> ylabel('y')  
>> title('sin and cos')  
>> legend('sin','cos')
```



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You can clear the current figure window using `clf` or open a new one using `figure`.

You can also use different line styles (dashed, dotted, different symbols).

Use `help plot` to see the different options and make a new plot using different line styles.



Back to arrays. Vectors and matrices can also be entered element-by-element.

```
>> V = [1 2 3]
>> M = [1 2 3; 4 5 6; 7 8 9]
```

And one can refer to the individual elements:

```
>> M(1,1)
>> M(2,3)
```

And overwrite elements:

```
>> M(2,3) = 10
```

And concatenate arrays (if their dimensions allow):

```
>> M = [M; V]
```



The colon operator is used to refer to rows or columns or subsets of rows and columns:

```
>> M(:, 1)
>> M(2:3, 2:3)
```

The prime operator turns rows into columns or vice versa (also called transpose):

```
>> W = V'
```

Built-in functions exist for some frequently used matrices:

```
>> E = ones(4, 3)
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Try the following. Does Matlab behave like you would expect?  
Can you explain the behavior you see?

```
>> M + E  
>> M + E'  
>> M + 4  
>> M * 2  
>> M * E
```



To check the size of arrays:

```
>> size(M)
>> size(V)
>> length(V)
```

Note the two different ways of multiplying matrices in Matlab:

```
>> M * ones(3,4) % matrix multiplication
>> M .* M % multiplication element-by-element
% or array multiplication
```



Note the difference between:

```
>> who  
>> whos
```

Another useful feature is tab completion.



For a sample of Matlab's features, try `demo` at the command line. Especially check out the different graphics demos.