

Matlab Cheat Sheet

Some nifty commands

clc	Clear command window
clear	Clear system memory
clear x	Clear x from memory
ans	Last result
close all	closes all figures
close(H)	closes figure H
whos	lists data structures
winopen(pwd)	Open current folder
class(obj)	returns objects class
int16(x)=y	convert doubles to Integers
dlmread('path')	Reads data
dlmwrite('path',M)	Writes M to path
save filename	saves all variables to .mat file
save filename x,y	saves x,y variables to .mat file
save -append filename x	appends x to .mat file
load filename	loads all variables from .mat file
ver	Lists version and toolboxes
beep	Makes the beep sound
doc function	Help/documentation for function
docsearch string	search documentation
web google.com	opens webaddress
inputdlg	Input dialog box

Portions of matrices and vectors

x(:)	All elements of x
x(j:end)	j th to end element of x
x(2:5)	2nd to 5th element of x
x(j,:)	all j row elements
x(:,j)	all j column elements
diag(x)	diagonal elements of x
[A,B]	concatenates horizontally
[A;B]	concatenates vertically

Keyboard shortcuts

edit filename	Opens filename in editor
Alt	Displays hotkeys
F1	Help/documentation for <u>highlighted</u> function
F5	Run code
F9	Run <u>highlighted</u> code
F10	Run code line
F11	Run code line, enter functions
Shift+F5	Leave debugger
F12	Insert break point
Ctrl+Page up/down	Moves between tabs
Ctrl+shift	Moves between components
Ctrl+C	Interrupts code
Ctrl+D	Open <u>highlighted</u> codes file
Ctrl+ R/T	Comment/uncomment line
Ctrl+N	New script
Ctrl+W	Close script
Ctrl+shift+d	Docks window
Ctrl+shift+u	Undocks window
Ctrl+shift+m	max window/restore size

Built in functions/constants

abs(x)	absolute value
pi	3.1415...
inf	∞
eps	floating point accuracy
1e6	10^6
sum(x)	sums elements in x
cumsum(x)	Cummulative sum
prod	Product of array elements
cumprod(x)	cummulative product
diff	Difference of elements
round/ceil/fix/floor	Standard functions..
*Standard functions: sqrt, log, exp, max, min, Bessel	
*Factorial(x) is only precise for $x < 21$	

Cell commands

A cell can contain any variable type.	
x=cell(a,b)	a x b cell array
x{n,m}	access cell n,m
cell2mat(x)	transforms cell to matrix cellfun
cellfun('fname',C)	Applies fname to cells in C

Strings and regular expressions

strcmp	compare strings (case sensitive)
strcmpi	compare strings (not case sensitive)
strncomp	as strcmp, but only n first letters
strfind	find string within a string , gives start position
regex	Search for regular expression

Logical operators

&&	Short-Circuit AND.
&	AND
	Short-Circuit or
	or
~	not
==	Equality comparison
~=	not equal
isa(obj, 'class_name')	is object in class
*Other logical operators: <,>,>=,<=	
*All above operators are <u>elementwise</u>	
*Class indicators: isnan, isequal, ischar, isinf, isvector, isempty, isscalar, iscolumn	
*Short circuits (SC) only evaluate second criteria if first criteria is passed, it is therefore faster.	
And useful for avoiding errors occurring in second criteria	
*non-SC are bugged and short circuit anyway	

Variable generation

j:k	row vector [j,j+1,...,k]
j:i:k	row vector [j,j+i,...,k],
linspace(a,b,n)	n points linearly spaced and including a and b
NaN(a,b)	a x b matrix of NaN values
ones(a,b)	a x b matrix of 1 values
zeros(a,b)	a x b matrix of 0 values
meshgrid(x,y)	2d grid of x and y vectors
[a,b]=deal(NaN(5,5))	declares a and b
global x	gives x global scope

Standard Matrix and vector operations

x=[1, 2, 3]	1x3 (Row) vector defined
x=[1; 2; 3]	3x1 (Column) vector defined
x=[1, 2; 3, 4]	2x2 matrix
x(2)=4	change index value nr 2
x.*y	Element by element multiplication
x./y	Element by element division
x+y	Element by element addition
x-y	Element by element subtraction
A^n	normal/Matrix power of A
A.^n	Elementwise power of A
A'	Transpose
inv(A)	Inverse of matrix
size(x)	Rows and Columns
eye(n)	Identity matrix
sort(A)	sorts vector from smallest to largest
eig(A)	Eigenvalues and eigenvectors
*Standard operations: rank,rref,kron,chol	
*Inverse of matrix inv(A) should almost never be used, use RREF through \ instead: $inv(A)b = A \backslash b$.	

Matrix and vector operations/functions

x(x>5)=0	change elemnts >5 to 0
x(x>5)	list elements >5
find(A>5)	Indices of elements >5
find(isnan(A))	Indices of NaN elements
B=repmat(A,m,n)	Makes B from A
bsxfun(fun,A,B)	Binary operation on two arrays
arrayfun(fun,A1,...,An)	Calls function m times, gets n inputs m times from arrays
*if arrayfun/bsxfun is passed a gpuArray, it runs on GPU.	

Statistical commands

hist(x)	histogram
distrnd	random numbers from dist
distpdf	pdf from dist
distcdf	cdf dist
distrnd	random numbers from dist
distpdf	pdf from dist
distcdf	cdf dist
*Standard distributions (dist): norm, t, f, gam, chi2, bino	
*Standard functions: mean,median,var,cov(x,y),corr(x,y),	
*quantile(x,p) is <u>not</u> textbook version.	
It uses interpolation for missing quantiles.	
*Like most programs, histogram is not a true histogram.	

Structures

StructName.FieldName =	Makes structure, and variable named filename.
StructName(2).FieldName	Sets value to struct, cell vector or a structure.
getfield(StructName,'FieldName')	Second element of structure Gets data from structure with filename

Plotting commands

plot(x,y,'Linewidth',2)	plots x,y points
grid	adds gridlines
set(gca, 'FontSize', 14)	all fonts to size 14
mesh(x,y,z)	plots x,y,z points
figure	new figure window
figure(j)	graphics object j
get(j)	returns information
	graphics object j
subplot(a,b,c)	Used for multiple figures in single plot
	names x/y/z axis
xlabel('\mu line','FontSize',14)	Sets y/x axis limits for plot to a-b
ylim([a b])	names plot
	Adds grid to plot
title('name','fontsize',22)	adds legends
grid on;	retains current figure
legend('x','y','Location','Best')	when adding new stuff
hold on	restores to default (no hold on)
hold off	Docked window style for plots
set(h,'WindowStyle','Docked');	useful for coloring polygons
fill	time series axis
	plot x on log scale
datetick('x',yy)	plot y on log scale
semilogx(x,y)	plot y,x on log scale
semilogy(x,y)	
loglog(x,y)	

For printing figure h to .eps files use:

```
print(figure(h),'-depsc2','path\image.eps')
```

Output commands

format short	Displays 4 digits after 0
format long	Displays 15 digits after 0
disp(x)	Displays the string x
disp(x)	Displays the string x
num2str(x)	Converts the number in x to string
num2str(['nA is = ' num2str(a)])	OFTEN USED!
mat2str(x)	Converts the matrix in x to string
int2str(x)	Converts the integer in x to string
sprintf(x)	formatted data to a string

System commands

addpath(string)	adds path to workspace
genpath(string)	gets strings for subfolders
pwd	Current directory
mkdir	Makes new directory
tempdir	Temporary directory
inmem	Functions in memory
exit	Close matlab
dir	list folder content
ver	lists toolboxes

Nonlinear numerical methods

quad(fun,a,b)	simpson integration of @fun from a to b
fminsearch(fun,x0)	minimum of unconstrained multivariable function using derivative-free method
fmincon	minimum of constrained function
Example: Constrained log-likelihood maximization, note the -	
Parms_est = fmincon(@(Parms) -flogL(Parms,x1,x2,x3,y),InitialGuess,[],[],[],[],LwrBound,UprBound,[]);	

Debugging etc.

keyboard	Pauses execution
return	resumes execution
tic	starts timer
toc	stops timer
profile on	starts profiler
profile viewer	Lets you see profiler output
try/catch	Great for finding where errors occur
dbstop if error	stops at first error inside try/catch block
dbclear	clears breakpoints
dbcont	resume execution
lasterr	Last error message
lastwarn	Last warning message
break	Terminates execution of for/while loop
waitbar	Waiting bar

Data import/export

xlsread/xlswrite	Spreadsheets (.xls,.xlsx)
readtable/writetable	Spreadsheets (.xls,.xlsx)
dlmread/dlmwrite	text files (txt,csv)
load/save -ascii	text files (txt,csv)
load/save	matlab files (.m)
imread/imwrite	Image files

Programming commands

return	Return to invoking function
exist(x)	checks if x exists
G=gpuArray(x)	Convert variables to GPU array
function [y1,...,yN] = myfun(x1,...,xM)	
Anonymous functions not stored in main programme	
myfun = @(x1,x2) x1+x2;	
or even using	
myfun2 = @myfun(x) myfun(x3,2)	

Conditionals and loops

for i=1:n	
procedure	Iterates over procedure
end	incrementing i from 1 to n by 1
while(criteria)	
procedure	Iterates over procedure
end	as long as criteria is true(1)

if(criteria 1)	if criteria 1 is true do procedure 1
procedure1	
elseif(criteria 2)	,else if criteria 2 is true do procedure 2
procedure2	
else	, else do procedure 3
procedure3	
end	
switch switch_expression	if case n holds,
case 1	run procedure n. If none holds
procedure 1	run procedure 3
case 2	(if specified)
procedure 2	
otherwise	
procedure 3	
end	

General comments

- Monte-Carlo: If sample sizes are increasing generate longest size first in a vector and use increasingly larger portions for calculations.
- Trick: Program that (1) takes a long time to run and (2) doesn't use all of the CPU/memory ? - split it into more programs and run using different workers (instances).
- Matlab is a column vector based language, load memory columnwise first always.
- Matlab uses copy-on-write, so passing pointers (addresses) to a function will not speed it up.
- You can turn the standard (mostly) Just-In-Time compilation off using: feature accel off. You can use compiled (c,c++,fortran) functions using MEX functions.
- For faster code also preallocate memory for variables, Matlab requires contiguous memory usage!
- Some excellent toolboxes: MFE toolbox (Econometrics).
- Functions defined in a .m file is only available there, give own file if they are used otherplaces and name them as myfun.m if called myfun in definition.
- Graphic cards(GPU)'s have many (small) cores. If (1) program is computationally intensive (not spending much time transferring data) and (2) massively parallel, so computations can be independent. Consider using the GPU!
- Using multiple cores (parallel computing) is often easy to implement, just use parfor instead of for loops.
- Warnings: empty matrices are NOT overwritten ([] + 1 = []). Rows/columns are added without warning if you write in a nonexistent row/column. Good practise: Use 3i rather than 3*i for imaginary number calculations, because i might have been overwritten by earlier. 1/0 returns inf, not NaN. Dont use == for comparing doubles, they are floating point precision for example: 0.01 == (1 - 0.99) = 0.