ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

Μηχανική Μάθηση
Introduction to Matlab

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Τμήμα Επιστήμης Υπολογιστών

About Matlab

- Matlab (MATrix LABoratory) is an interactive system for doing numerical computations.
  - It is easy to use
    - Easy and fast to write code
    - User-friendly interface
    - No memory management
  - Has many libraries (toolboxes)
    - E.g. for signal processing, bioinformatics, econometrics, **neural networks** and many more.
  - Great documentation
    - Type 'doc' in the Matlab prompt to open the documentation window.

Vectors and Matrices

- Every variable in Matlab is a vector or matrix.
- A normal variable is a 1x1 matrix.
- There are two types of vectors:
  - Row vectors (1xN)
    - E.g. [1 2 3 4 5] is a 1x5 row vector
  - Column vectors (Nx1)
    - E.g. [1;2;3;4;5] is a 5x1 column vector
- Matrices are of size NxM
  - E.g. [1 2 3; 4 5 6; 7 8 9] is a 3x3 matrix

Data Types

- Matlab is dynamically typed (types are determined at runtime)

- The default type for a number is **double**
  - Basic types: **single** (float), **logical** (boolean)
  - Other types: uint8, uint16, uint32, int8, int16, int32 and more
  - But be careful: some of them are **not supported** by some operations and may **not be compatible** to use with other data types.
  - Most of the times using the default type is OK (unless memory is an issue)

- Special values
  - Inf (Infinity)
  - NaN (Not a Number)

- Strings
  - They are also arrays (vectors), of characters.
  - Unlike most languages, strings begin with ‘ and not with “. E.g. ‘abc’ or [‘a’ ‘b’ ‘c’]
  - The characters are represented with ASCII codes

Accessing Elements of an Array

- Unlike most languages, the index of the first element of an array is 1
  - E.g. for x = [4 5 6]; x(1) will return 4.
- Arrays are declared with [..], but accessed with (..)
- To access elements of a multi-dimensional array use x(i1,i2,…,in)

Operating on Arrays

- Functions (usually) process whole arrays with a single call
  - E.g. x = [1 2 3 4]; y = [5 6 7 8]; z = x + y; (z = [6 8 10 12];)

- **Forget loops**: In most cases you will not have to use them.
  - Easier to make mistakes.
  - Using loops in general is a lot slower than using built-in functions.
    - E.g. A simple addition of two arrays will be at least 2 times slower (depending on the dimension of the arrays : more dimensions imply more nested for loops which again result in much slower code).

Operators

- Most basic operators are the same as in other languages (+,-,*,/)
  - Modulo operator: mod(x,y) (% is used for comments)
  - Power operator: ^
  - Transpose operator: ‘
- For some operators such as * / ^ there are two versions:
  - The first is for linear algebra operations
  - The second is for pair wise operations (.* ./ .^)

Operators

- Comparison operators (>, <, >=, <=, ==)
  - Compare a number, vector or matrix with another number or vector/matrix of same dimensions
  - E.g. x = [1,2,3,4];
  - x>=3 creates a vector of size 1x4, containing the values true wherever x contains a value >= 3 ([0,0,1,1] of type logical)
  - Can be used to index x: x(x >= 3) = [3,4]

- Logical Operators: && (and), || (or), ~ (not), &, |
  - &&, || are used between two values (short circuit evaluation)
  - &,| are used between a number, vector or matrix with another number of vector/matrix of the same dimensions
  - E.g. x((x <= 1) | (x >= 4)) gives [1,4]
  - ~ can be used with any expression or vector/matrix

Accessing Elements of an Array (colon operator)

- The Colon Operator (:) is perhaps the most important operator in Matlab.
- It is used to create a sequence of numbers.
  - E.g. 1:5 creates a row vector with the numbers [1 2 3 4 5]
- The spacing can be anything
  - E.g. 100:-5:80 creates [100 95 90 85 80]
- This operator allows to access portions of matrices
  - E.g. x(1:5, 2:3) to access the first 5 rows and the 2nd and 3rd columns

Accessing Elements of an Array

- We can use arrays of numbers to access elements of other arrays.
  - x([1,5:10,**end**])
    - End is a special keyword used to access the last element of an array.
  - x(x >= 3) returns an array of all elements in x greater or equal to 3

Conditional Statements

- If/Else/Elseif
  - E.g. if x > 2 … elseif x < 1 … else … end
  - After each opening 'if' an 'end' is needed to terminate the statement.
  - Be careful: elseif is not the same as else if.
    - The first elseif is connected to the previous if, the second uses another nested if statement and needs a separate end statement in the end.
    - Avoid the else if combination whenever possible.

Conditional Statements

- Switch/Case
  - Can also be used with strings.
    - E.g.

```
switch x
        case 'abc'
                ...
        case 'def'
                ...
        otherwise
                ...
end
```

  - Notice that you don't have to use any break statement.
  - (doc *switch*)

Loops / Break-Continue

- For/While
  - Examples:
    - For
      - for i = 1:10 … end
      - for i = 1:10
        for j = 10:-1:1
        …
        end
        end
    - While
      - while x > 10 … end
- Break/Continue
  - Same as in other languages like C and Java.

Other

- Semicolon
  - Used to end statements. If it is not used the result of the expression is printed to the prompt.
  - Also used to change rows when creating an array
    - [1;2;3] creates a column vector (3x1)
- Comma
  - The comma operator can be used to separate statements/expressions.
- Comments start with % (% is the same as // in C)
- To continue code in a new line use the '…' operator (three dots).

Input / Output

- Input
  - Read from standard input:
    - Function *input* (see doc/help input)
  - Read from file:
    - Function *fscanf* (see doc/help fscanf)

- Output
  - Print to file
    - *fprintf*(FileID, format,…) (see doc/help fprintf)
  - Print to standard output
    - *fprintf*(format,…) (see doc/help fprintf)
  - Save results to file
    - *save* filename variable1 variable2 … variableN

Data Structures

- Structs
  - Structs are easy to use. You do not have to define some struct (like in C), but you can "build it" at runtime.
  - To access a field of a struct the '.' operator is used.
    - x.a = 1;
    - If x.a does not exist it is added at runtime.
      - E.g. x.a = 1; x.b = [1,2,3]; x.c = 'abc';
  - The fields of structs can be of any type.

Data Structures

- Cell Arrays
  - Cell arrays can hold any type of data in each cell.
  - Instead of '[' and ']' use '{' and '}' to create a cell array.
    - x = { 'abc', 1, [5;6;7], [], {'def',2} } (1x5 cell array)
  - Instead of '(' and ')' use '{' and '}' to access an element of a cell array.
    - x{1} to access 'abc'
    - x{3} = [1 2] to replace the [5;6;7] with [1 2]

Scripts

- In Matlab, you do not need any main function to run the program.
- Programs are scripts which are running through an interpreter (code can also be compiled).
- It is not good practice to run everything through scripts for many reasons.
- That does not mean that scripts are not used; they should be avoided if a function can be used instead (similar to avoiding having everything in the main function in C).

Functions

- Functions are organized in a single file.
  - The filename is also the function name.
- In a file there can be several functions, but only the function with the same name as the filename is accessible from outside (like classes in Java).
- The syntax is simple:

```
function [r1,r2,…,rn] = function_name(a1,a2,…,an)
…
end
```

- It is not necessary to have an end after each function definition but it is good practice to do so (especially if there are other functions in the file).
- In Matlab a function can return more than one value.

Functions

- It is possible to call functions with fewer arguments, but not with more.

- Also, it is possible to get any number of results you want.
  - E.g. function [a, b, c] = f (x, y, z) … end

    [~, k] = f(l, m)

    This will ignore the first return value (~), store b into k after calling f with two arguments.

    Of course it is not always possible to call with fewer arguments! Most functions use all of their arguments.

Functions: Pre-Allocation

- x = zeros(s1,s2,…,sn): create a s1xs2x…xsn matrix initialized with zeros.
- x = ones(s1,s2,…,sn): create a s1xs2x…xsn matrix initialized with ones.
- s = struct('field1', values1, 'field2', values2, ...): create a struct with some fields and values.
- s = struct('field1', {}, 'field2', {}, ...): create a struct with some fields and empty values.
- c = cell(s1,s2,…,sn): create a s1xs2x…xsn empty cell array.
- (see *doc* cell, *doc* struct for more constructors)

Functions: Arrays

- size, length
- reshape, squeeze, permute, repmat
- sort, sortrows
- union, intersect, setdiff, setxor, unique
- ismember, issorted
- all, any, find
- full, sparse

Functions: Statistics / Distributions / Operations

- min, max
- mean, median, mode
- std, var, corr, cov

- normcdf, normpdf, normrnd
- chi2cdf, chi2pdf
- rand, randi

- sum, prod, cumsum, cumprod

Functions: Plots

- figure, plot, plot3, ezplot, subplot
- hist, bar
- scatter, scatter3

- hold on, hold off (used to plot multiple graphs)
- title, legend, xlabel, ylabel
- axis, xlim, ylim

Τέλος Ενότητας

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- Το παρόν εκπαιδευτικό υλικό έχει αναπτυχθεί στα πλαίσια του εκπαιδευτικού έργου του διδάσκοντα.
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Σημείωμα Αναφοράς

Γιώργος Μπορμπουδάκης «Μηχανική Μάθηση. Introduction to Matlab». Έκδοση: 1.0. Ηράκλειο 2015. Διαθέσιμο από τη δικτυακή διεύθυνση: https://opencourses.uoc.gr/courses/course/view.php?id=362.

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