12.010 Computational Methods of Scientific Programming

Matlab Lecture 1

Lecturers

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Summary of Today's class

- We will look at Matlab:
  - History
  - Getting help
  - Variable definitions and usage
  - Math operators
  - Control statements: Syntax is available through the online help
  - M-files: Script and function types
    - Variable number of input and output arguments
- Our approach here will be to focus on some specific problems using Matlab for analysis and for building Graphical User Interfaces (GUI) and treating graphics as objects.

MATLAB (Matrix Laboratory)

- History
  - MATLAB was originally written to provide easy access to matrix software developed by the LINPACK and EISPACK projects.
  - First version was released 1984.
  - Current version is version 7 (Versions come in releases; currently Release 2010a/b, 7.10). (command ver gives version)
  - Interactive system whose basic data element is an array that does not require dimensioning
  - UNIX, PC and Mac versions. Similar but differences.

MATLAB:

- All commands are executable although there is the equivalent to dimensioning. In general arrays in MATLAB are not fixed dimensions
- Syntax is flexible but there are specific set of separators
- Basic Structure:
  - MATLAB commands are executed in the command window called the base workspace (>> prompt)
  - MATLAB code can be put in M-files: Two types
    - Script type which simply executes the code in the M-file
    - Function type which executes codes in a new workspace. Generally variables in the new workspace are not available in the base workspace or other workspaces.

Getting help

- Matlab has extensive help available both locally based and through the web.
- After release 13 there is a help menu in the command window.
- Help falls into two types:
  - Help on specific commands and their usage
  - Help by topic area which is useful when looking for generic capabilities of Matlab
- Matlab also comes with guides and there are third-party books such as “Mastering Matlab X”

Basic Structure 02

- Variable types
  - Early versions of matlab had variables that are double precision, strings cells {} , or structures.
  - After Version 6, other variable types introduced specifically single precision and integer forms can be used (saves memory space) (help datatypes)
  - Complex variables are used as needed (use `*i` or `*j` to set complex part)
  - Variables can be defined locally in current workspace or they can be global.
  - To be global must be defined that way in both base workspace and M-files
  - `who` and `whos` are used determine current workspace variables
  - Names are case sensitive, no spaces, start with letter and may contain numbers and _
  - `workspace` command is GUI management tool (now built into Desktop Layout).

Basic Structure 03

- I/O: File I/O is similar to C
  - `fopen`, `fclose`, `fread` (binary), `fwrite` (binary), `fscanf` (formatted read), `fprintf` (format write), `fgetl` (read line), `fgets` (read line keep new line character), `sscanf` (string read), `sprintf` (string write)
  - `save` and `load` save and load workspace.
- Math symbols: + - * / \ ^ (\ is left divide)
- When matrices are used the symbols are applied to the matrices.
- When symbol preceded by . Array elements are operated on pair at a time.
- ‘ means transpose array or matrix

- http://geoweb.mit.edu/~tah/12.010/Matlab/Lec01_01.m and http://geoweb.mit.edu/~tah/12.010/Matlab/Lec01_02.m are examples

Basic Structure 04

- Control
  - `if` statement (various forms)
  - `for` statement (looping control, various forms (similar to do)
  - `while` statement (similar to do while)
  - No `goto` statement!
  - `break` exists from `for` and `while` loops
  - `switch case otherwise end` combination
  - `try catch end` combination
- Termination
  - `end` is used to end control statements above
  - `return` is used in functions in the same way as Fortran.

M-files: Script and Function types

- Communication with functions and M-files
  - Script M-files:
    - Do not accept input or output arguments
    - Operate on data in workspace
    - Useful for automating a series of steps
  - Function M-files
    - Accept input arguments and return outputs
    - Internal variables are local to the function by default, but can be declared global
    - Useful for extending language

Syntax

- Flexible layout with certain characters have specific uses.
- % is the comment symbol. Everything after % is ignored
- … (3 dots) is the line continuation symbol. Must be used at a natural break in commands
- , used to separate commands, with result printed
- ; used to separate commands with result not printed
- [] enclose arrays and matrices, {} enclose sets (difference is multi-dimensional arrays need to be all of the same type and size)
- : is the range selector for from start:increment:end, if only one : increment is 1, if no numeric values, range for matrix elements.

Multidimensional arrays

- Matlab works naturally with 1 and 2 dimensional arrays but more than 2 dimensions can be used.
- They can be constructed a number of different ways
  - By extension: a = [5 7 8 ; 0 1 9 ; 4 3 6];

    a(:,:,2) = [1 0 4 ; 3 5 6; 9 8 7]
  - Scalar extension (Set “plane” 3 to 5)

    a(:,:,3) =5
  - Use of functions `ones, zeros, randn`

    b = `zeros`(3,3,2)
  - `cat` function, cat(ndim, arrays, …) where ndim is the dimension to be concatinated in.

Multidimensional arrays 02

- `reshape` function allows refinition of array shape e.g., a = [1:18]; reshape(a,[3 3 2])
- `squeeze` removes dimensions that are only 1 element
- `permute` allows array dimensions to be re-ordered.
- Functions that operate on elements of arrays work with multidimensional arrays but matrix type functions do not work unless a suitable 2-D array is passed
- Functions that operate on vectors use the first nonsingleton index

Summary of Introduction to Matlab

- Looked at the basic features of Matlab:
  - Getting help
  - Variable definitions and usage
  - Math operators
  - Control statements: Syntax is available through the online help
  - M-files: Script and function types
    - Variable number of input and output arguments
- Class Project Descriptions and groups of 1 or 2 people are due Thursday November 17.