

# Matlab Notes for Calculus 1

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## 1. Basic Arithmetic

You can use +, -, \*, \ and ^ to add, subtract, multiply, divide or exponentiate, respectively. For example if you enter:

```
>> 2^3 - 2*2
```

Matlab calculates the answer:

```
ans = 4
```

If you want to perform further calculations with the value of the answer, you can type **ans** rather than retyping the specific answer value. For example,

```
>> sqrt(ans)
```

```
ans = 2
```

To perform symbolic calculations in Matlab, use **syms** to declare the variables you plan to use. For example, suppose that you need factor  $x^2-3x+2$ . First you need

```
>> syms x (you are declaring that x is a variable)
```

Then you can use the command **factor**.

```
>> factor(x^2-3*x+2)
```

```
ans = (x-1)*(x-2)
```

Note that we entered **3\*x** to represent  $3x$  in the command above. **Entering \* for multiplication is always necessary in Matlab.**

Besides **factor** command, you have **simplify** and **expand**.

## 2. Solving equations using “solve”

For solving equations, you can use the command **solve**. The command **solve** is always followed by parenthesis. After that, the equation you would like to solve should be entered in single quotes. Separated by a comma, the equation is followed by the variable for which you are solving the equation in (single) quotes. Thus, the command **solve** has the following form

**solve('equation', 'variable for which you are solving')**

For example, to solve the equation  $x^3-2x-4=0$ , you can use:

```
>> solve('x^3-2*x-4=0')
```

and get the following answer:

```
ans = [ 2]          [-1+i]          [-1-i]
```

Here  $i$  stands for the imaginary number  $\sqrt{-1}$ . This answer tells us that there is just one real solution, 2.

Matlab can give you both symbolic and numerical answer. For example, let us solve the equation  $3x^2-8x+2=0$ .

```
>> solve('3*x^2-8*x+2=0','x')
```

```
ans = [ 4/3+1/3*10^(1/2)] [ 4/3-1/3*10^(1/2)]
```

If we want to get the answer in the decimal form with, say, three significant digits, we can use the command **vpa**.

```
>> vpa(ans, 3)
```

```
ans = [ 2.38] [ 0.28]
```

The command **vpa** has the general form

**vpa(expression you want to approximate, number of significant digits)**

You can solve an equation in two variables for one of them. For example the command

```
>> solve('y^2-5*x*y-y+6*x^2+x=2','y')
```

solves the given equation for values of  $y$  in terms of  $x$ . The answer is:

```
ans = [ 3*x+2] [ 2*x-1]
```

## 3. Representing a function

The following table gives an overview of how most commonly used functions or expressions are represented in Matlab.

To represent a function, use the command **inline**. Similarly to **solve**, this command is followed by parenthesis and has the following form:

function or symbol	representation in MATLAB
$e^x$	exp(x)
$\ln x$	log(x)
$\log x$	log(x)/log(10)
log. base a of x	log(x)/log(a)
$\sin x$	sin(x)
$\cos x$	cos(x)
arctan(x)	atan(x)
$\pi$	pi

**inline('function', 'independent variable of the function')**

Here is how to define the function  $x^2+3x-2$ :

```
>> f = inline('x^2+3*x-2', 'x')
f =
    Inline function:
    f(x) = x^2+3*x-2
```

After defining a function, we can evaluate it at a point. For example,

```
>> f(2)          ans =    8
```

In some cases, we will need to define function f as a vector. Then we use:

```
>> f = inline(vectorize('x^2+3*x-2'), 'x')
f =    Inline function:    f(x) = x.^2+3.*x-2
```

In this case, we can evaluate a function at more than one point at the same time. For example, to evaluate the above function at 1, 3 and 5 we have:

```
>> f([1 3 5])    ans =    2    16    38
```

If a function is short, it might be **faster to evaluate a function at a point simply by typing the value of x directly for x**. For example, you can evaluate  $\sin(x)$  at  $x=2$  as follows.

```
>> sin(2)        ans =    .909297
```

As when using the calculator, one must be careful when representing a function. For example

- $\frac{1}{x(x+6)}$  should be represented as  $1/(x*(x+6))$  not as  $1/x*(x+6)$  nor as  $1/x(x+6)$ ,
- $\frac{3}{x^2+5x+6}$  should be represented as  $3/(x^2+5*x+6)$  not as  $3/x^2+5*x+6$ ,
- $e^{5x^2}$  should be represented as  $\exp(5*x^2)$  not as  $e^(5*x^2)$ ,  $\exp*(5*x^2)$ ,  $\exp(5x^2)$  nor as  $\exp^(5*x^2)$ .
- $\ln(x)$  should be represented as  $\log(x)$ , not  $\ln(x)$ .
- $\log_3(x^2)$  should be represented as  $\log(x^2)/\log(3)$  not as  $\log(x)/\log(3)*x^2$ .

## 4. Graphics

Let us start by declaring that x is a variable:

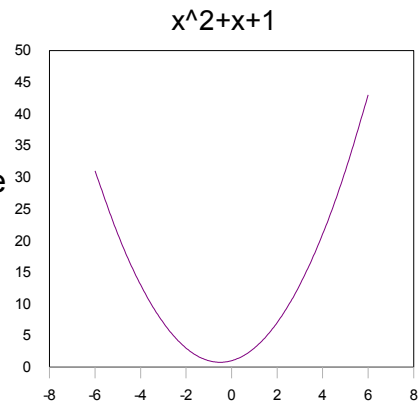
```
>> syms x
```

The simplest command in Matlab for graphing is **ezplot**. The command has the following form

```
ezplot(function)
```

For example, to graph the function  $x^2+x+1$ , you simply type

```
>> ezplot(x^2+x+1)
```



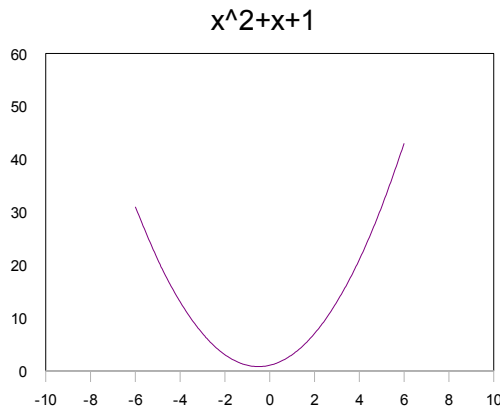
A new window will open and graph will be displayed. To copy the figure to a text file, go to **Edit** and choose **Copy Figure**. Then place cursor to the place in the word file where you want the figure to be pasted and choose **Edit** and **Paste**.

We can specify the different scale on x and y axis.  
 To do this, the command **axis** is used.  
 It has the following form

**axis([ $x_{min}$ ,  $x_{max}$ ,  $y_{min}$ ,  $y_{max}$ ])**

This command parallels the commands in menu WINDOW on the TI83 calculators.

For example, to see the above graph between x-values -10 and 10 and y-values 0 and 60, you can enter  
**>> axis([-10 10 0 60])**



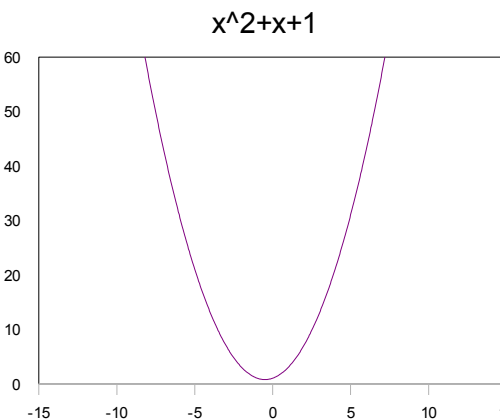
Note that the domain of function did not change by command axis. To see the graph on the entire domain (in this case [-10, 10]), add that domain after the function in the command ezplot:

**ezplot(function, [ $x_{min}$ ,  $x_{max}$ ])**

In this case,  
**>> ezplot(x^2+x+1, [-10, 10])**  
 will give you the desired graph.

For the alternative command for graphics, **plot**, you can find more details by typing **help**.

To graph multiple curves on the same plot, you can also use the **ezplot** command.



To graph multiple curves on the same window, you can use the **ezplot** command in combination with hold on and hold off on the following way:

**ezplot(1st function)**  
**hold on**  
**ezplot(2nd function)**  
**ezplot(3rd function)**  
 ...  
**ezplot(n-th function)**  
**hold off**

For example to graph the functions  $\sin(x)$  and  $e^{-x^2}$ , you can use: **>> ezplot(sin(x))**  
**>> hold on**                      **>> ezplot(exp(-x^2))**                      **>> hold off**

## 5. Solving equations using “fzero”

In some cases, the command **solve** may fail to produce all the solutions of an equation. In

those cases, you can try to find solutions using **fzero** (short for "find zero") command. In order to use the command, first you need to write equation in the form

$$f(x)=0.$$

Thus, put all the terms of the equations on one side leaving just zero on the other. To find a solution near the  $x$ -value  $x=a$ , you can use

**fzero('left side of the equation', a)**

The command **fzero**, similarly as **solve** is always followed by expression in parenthesis. The equation should be in single quotes.

If it is not clear what a convenient  $x$ -value  $a$  should be, you may want to graph the function on the left side of the equation first, check where it intersects the  $x$ -axis. Alternatively, you can graph left and right side of the equation that is not in  $f(x)=0$  form and see where the two functions intersect. Then decide which  $x$ -value you should use.

**Example.** To solve the equation  $e^{x^2}-2=x+4$ , we can first graph the functions on the left and right side of the equation using

```
syms x      ezplot(exp(x^2)-2)      hold on      ezplot(x+4)      hold off
```

From the graph, we can see that the two functions intersect at a value near -1 and at a value near 1. To use **fzero**, we need to represent the equation in the form  $e^{x^2}-2-(x+4)=0$  (or simplified form  $e^{x^2}-x-6=0$ ). Then, we can find the positive solution by using **fzero** to find a zero near 1 and then to find the negative solution near -1, for example. Thus, both solutions can be obtained by:

```
>> fzero('exp(x^2)-2-(x+4)', 1)      ans = 1.415
>> fzero('exp(x^2)-2-(x+4)', -1)     ans = -1.248
```

Note also that the command **solve('exp(x^2)-2=x+4', 'x')** returns just the positive solution. Thus, knowing how to use **fzero** command may be really useful in some cases.

## 6. Limits

You can use **limit** to compute limits, left and right limits as well as infinite limits. For example, to evaluate the limit when  $x \rightarrow 2$  of the function  $\frac{x^2-4}{x-2}$ , we have:

```
>> syms x
>> limit((x^2-4)/(x-2), x, 2)      ans = 4
```

You can also evaluate left and right limits. For example:

```
>> limit(abs(x)/x, x, 0, 'left')    ans = -1
>> limit(abs(x)/x, x, 0, 'right')   ans = 1
```

Limits at infinity:

```
>> limit(exp(-x^2-5)+3, x, Inf)     ans = 3
```

## 7. Differentiation

Start by declaring  $x$  for a variable. The command for differentiation is **diff**. It has the following form

**diff(function)**

For example,

```
>> syms x
>> diff(x^3-2*x+5)      ans = 3*x^2-2
```

To get n-th derivative use

**diff(function, n)**

For example, to get the second derivative of  $x^3-2x+5$ , use: **>> diff(x^3-2\*x+5, 2)**  
**ans = 6\*x**

Similarly, the 23rd derivative of  $\sin(x)$  is obtained as follows. **>> diff(sin(x), 23)**  
**ans = -cos(x)**

To evaluate derivative at a point, we need to represent the derivative as a new function. For example, to find the slope of a tangent line to  $x^2+3x-2$  at point 2, we need to find the derivative and to evaluate it at  $x=2$ .

```
>> diff(x^2+3*x-2) (first we find the derivative)      ans = 2*x+3
>> f = inline('2*x+3', 'x') (then we representative the derivative as a function)
f = Inline function: f(x) = 2*x+3
>> f(2) (and, finally, we evaluate the derivative at 2)  ans = 7
```

## 8. Optimization

Recall the steps needed in order to find minimum or maximum values of a given function (using second derivative test)

- Find first derivative
- Solve it for zeros. The  $x$ -values you obtain are called critical
- Find second derivative
- Plug critical points in second derivative. If your answer is negative, the function has a maximum value at a critical point used. If your answer is positive, the function has a minimum value at a critical point used.
- Plug critical points in your function. The  $y$ -values you obtain are your maximum or minimum values.

In MATLAB, start with **syms x**.

1. Finding derivative: **diff(function)**
2. Finding critical points: **solve('copy-paste the answer from step 1=0', 'x')**
3. Finding second derivative: **diff(function, 2)**
4. Evaluating second derivative at critical points: **g=inline(second derivative, 'x')** followed by **g(critical value)**

5. Evaluating function at critical points: **f=inline(function, 'x')** followed by **f(critical value)**

For example, to find extreme values of  $x^3-2x+5$ , start by finding first derivative:

```
>> diff(x^3-2*x+5)      ans = 3*x^2-2
```

Then find critical point(s):

```
>> solve('3*x^2-2=0', 'x')      ans = [6^(1/2)/3] [-6^(1/2)/3]
```

```
or, using vpa(ans, 3)      ans = [.816] [-.816]
```

```
Find second derivative      >> diff(x^3-2*x+5, 2)      ans = 6*x
```

```
Evaluate this at critical points. >> g=inline('6*x', 'x')      g(x)= 6*x
```

```
>>g(.816)      ans = 4.896
```

Positive answer means that the function has minimum at  $x=.816$

```
>> g(-.816)      ans = -4.896
```

Negative answer means that the function has maximum at  $x=.816$

Finding y-values of maximum and minimum:

```
>> f=inline('x^3-2*x+5', 'x')      f(x)= x^3-2*x+5
```

```
>>f(.816)      ans = 3.911 This is the local minimum value.
```

```
>>f(-.816)      ans = 6.088 This is the local maximum value.
```

## 9. Integration

We can use Matlab for computing both definite and indefinite integrals using the command **int**. For the indefinite integrals, start with **syms x** followed by the command

**int(function)**

For example, the command

```
>> int(x^2)
```

evaluates the integral  $\int x^2 dx$  and gives us the answer **ans = 1/3\*x^3**

For definitive integrals, the command is

**int(function, lower bound, upper bound)**

For example,

```
>> int(x^2, 0, 1)
```

evaluates the integral  $\int_0^1 x^2 dx$  The answer is **ans = 1/3**

Matlab can evaluate the definitive integrals of the functions that do not have elementary primitive functions. Recall that the integrals  $\int \frac{\sin x}{x} dx$ ,  $\int \frac{e^x}{x} dx$ ,  $\int e^{x^2} dx$

can not be represented via elementary functions. Suppose that we need to find the integral of  $\frac{\sin x}{x}$  from 1 to 3. The command 

```
>> int(sin(x)/x, 1, 3)
```

doesn't gives us a numerical value. We have just: **ans = sinint(3)-sinint(1)**

Using the command **vpa**, we obtain the answer in numerical form. For example,

```
>> vpa(ans, 4) gives us      ans = 0.9026
```

## 10. Practice problems

1. Factor  $x^3+3x^2y+3xy^2+y^3$ .
2. Simplify  $\frac{x^3-8}{x-2}$ .
3. Evaluate the following expressions. (a)  $\sin(\pi/6)$  (b)  $\frac{\sqrt{5}+3}{\sqrt{3}-1}$  (c)  $\log_2(5)$
4. Solve the following equations and express the answers as decimal numbers.  
(a)  $x^3-2x+5=0$  (b)  $\log_2(x^2-9)=4$ .
5. Let  $f(x)=\frac{x^3+x+1}{x}$  (a) Represent  $f(x)$  as a function in Matlab and evaluate it at 3 and -2.  
(b) Find  $x$ -value(s) that corresponds to  $y$ -value  $y=2$ . (c) Graph  $f(x)$  on domain  $[-4, 4]$ .
6. Graph  $\ln(x+1)$  and  $1-x^2$  on the same plot for  $x$  in  $[-2, 6]$  and  $y$  in  $[-4, 4]$ .
7. Find the limits of the following functions at indicated values.  
(a)  $f(x)=\frac{x^{12}-1}{x^3-1}$ ,  $x \rightarrow 1$  (b)  $f(x)=3+e^{-2x}$ ,  $x \rightarrow \infty$  (c)  $f(x)=\frac{6x^3-4x+5}{2x^3-1}$ ,  $x \rightarrow \infty$
8. Let  $f(x)=\frac{x^3+x+1}{x}$  Find the first derivative of  $f(x)$  and evaluate it at  $x=1$ .
9. Let  $f(x)=e^{3x^2+1}$ . (a) Find the first derivative of  $f(x)$ . (b) Find the slope of the tangent line to  $f(x)$  at  $x=1$ . (c) Find the critical points of  $f(x)$ .
10. Find the 12th derivative of the function  $(\frac{x}{2}+1)^{65}$ .
11. Find the extreme values of (a)  $x^3-4x+8$  (b)  $xe^{-3x}$
12. Evaluate the following integrals. (a)  $\int xe^{-3x} dx$  (b)  $\int_0^1 xe^{-3x} dx$ .

### Solutions.

1. `syms x y` followed by `factor(x^3+3*x^2*y+3*x*y^2+y^3)` gives you `ans=(x+y)^3`
2. `syms x` followed by `simplify((x^3-8)/(x-2))` gives you `ans=x^2+2x+4`
3. (a) `sin(pi/6)` `ans=.5` (b) `(sqrt(5)+3)/(sqrt(3)-1)` `ans=7.152` (c) `log(5)/log(2)` `ans=2.3219`.
4. (a) `solve('x^3-2*x+5=0','x')` `ans= -2.09`. (b) `solve('log(x^2-9)/log(2)=4','x')`. `ans= 5, -5`.
5. (a) `>> f=inline('(x^3+x+1)/x','x')`, `>> f(3)` `ans= 10.333`, `>>f(-2)` `ans=4.5`.  
(b) The problem is asking you to solve equation  $\frac{x^3+x+1}{x}=2$ . Using solve command, `solve('(x^3+x+1)/x=2','x')`. you get `ans=-1.3247` (c) `ezplot((x^3+x+1)/x, [-4,4])`.
6. `hold on ezplot(log(x+1)) ezplot(1-x^2) hold off axis([-2 6 -4 4])`
7. (a) `syms x` `limit((x^12-1)/(x^3-1), x, 1)` `ans=4`  
(b) `limit(3+exp(-2*x), x, Inf)` `ans=3` (c) `limit((6*x^3-4*x+5)/(2*x^3-1), x, Inf)` `ans=3`
8. (a) `syms x` `diff((x^3+x+1)/x)` `ans = 2*x-1/x^2` or `(2*x^3-1)/x^2`.  
(b) Inline the derivative: `g=inline('2*x-1/x^2','x')`. Then `g(1)` gives you `ans=1`.
9. (a) `diff(exp(3*x^2+1))` `ans=6*x*exp(3*x^2+1)`  
(b) Represent the derivative as function: `g=inline('6*x*exp(3*x^2+1)','x')`. Then evaluate `g(1)`. Get `6*exp(4)`. To see the answer as a decimal number (say to five nonzero digits) use `vpa(ans, 5)`. Get `327.58`.  
(c) `solve('6*x*exp(3*x^2+1)=0','x')` `ans=0`
10. `diff((x/2+1)^65, 12)`
11. (a) `max(-1.15, 11.079)`, `min(1.15, 4.92)`. (b) `max(.333, .1226)`, no min.
12. (a) `syms x` `int(x*exp(-3*x))` `ans=-1/3*x*exp(-3*x)-1/9*exp(-3*x)`  
(b) `int(x*exp(-3*x), 0, 1)` `ans=-4/9*exp(-3)+1/9` `vpa(ans, 4)` `ans=.08898`