

# Octave

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SEAMS SCHOOL ON

MATHEMATICAL MODELLING  
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Overview

Start, quit, getting help

Variables and data types

Matrices

Plotting

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**Octave** is the "open-source **Matlab**"

It is for free (GPL license)

[www.octave.org](http://www.octave.org)

[www.mathworks.com](http://www.mathworks.com)

There are minor differences in syntax

**Octave** and **Matlab** are high-level languages and mathematical programming environments for

Visualization

Programming, algorithm development, etc.

Scientific computing: linear algebra, optimization, statistic, signal processing, etc.

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# Start, Quick, Getting Help

**Start Octave:** type the shell command `octave` or whatever your OS needs

**Interrupt Octave:** by typing `Ctrl-C`

**Quit Octave:** type `quit` or `exit`

**Get help:** type `help` or `doc`

Get **help** on a **specific command:** type `help command`  
`help size, help plot, help figure, help inv,`  
`...`

To get **help** on the **help system,** type `help help`

Type `q` to **exit help** mode

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In Octave/Matlab almost **everything** is a **matrix**

Main matrix classes

**Strings:** matrices of characters

**Structures:** matrices of named fields for data of varying types and sizes

**Logical:** matrices of boolean 0/1-values

Not treated in this tutorial

Cells (like structures)

Function handles (pointer to functions)



## **vector or arrays?**

A matrix with one column or row

## **Scalars?**

A matrix of dimension  $1 \times 1$

## **Integers?**

A double

## **Characters**

A string of size 1

## Creating a Matrix

Simply type:

```
» A = [1, 2, 3; 4, 9, 10; 1, 5, 7]
```

Octave will respond with a matrix in pretty-print:

A =

1	2	3
4	9	10
1	5	7

More on matrices will introduce further down this tutorial

## Creating a Character String

Simply type: `» str = 'Hello World'`

Opposed to Matlab, Octave can also deal with double quotes.

For compatibility reasons: always use **single quotes**

## Creating a Structure

Type for instance

```
» data.id = 3
```

```
» data.timestamp = 1256.235
```

```
» data.name = 'School'
```

## Creating a Vector of Structures

A new measurement has arrived. Extend struct by:

```
» data(2).id = 4  
» data(2).timestamp = 1268.45879  
» data(2).name = 'Department'
```

Octave will respond with ....

```
data =
```

```
1x2 struct array containing the fields:
```

```
id  
timestamp  
name
```

# Variable and data types (con't)

## Display Variables

Simply type its name

```
» a = 4
```

## Suppress Output

Add a semicolon

```
» a;
```

```
» sin(pi)
```

Applies also to function calls

# Variable and data types (con't)

**Variable** have **no permanent type**. Octave/Matlab are weakly typed languages

`s = 3` followed by `s = "octave"` is fine

Use `help` or `who` (or the more detailed `whos`) to **list the currently defined variables**. Example:

## Numerical Precision

Variables are stored as double precision numbers in IEEE floating point format

`realmin`: Smallest positive floating point number: 2.23e-308

`realmax`: Largest positive floating point number: 1.80e+308

`eps`: Relative precision: 2.22e-16

These keywords are **reserved** and can be used in your code

## Control Display of Float Variables

<code>format short</code>	Fixed point format with 5 digits
<code>format long</code>	Fixed point format with 15 digits
<code>format short e</code>	Floating point format, 5 digits
<code>format long e</code>	Floating point format, 15 digits
<code>format short g</code>	Best of fixed or floating point with 5 digits
<code>format long g</code>	Best of fixed or floating point with 15 digits

See `help format` for more information



# Variable and data types (con't)

## Talking about Float Variables...

<code>ceil(x)</code>	Round to smallest interger not less than x
<code>floor(x)</code>	Round to largest integer not greater than x
<code>round(x)</code>	Round towards nearest integer
<code>fix(x)</code>	Round towards zero

If `x` is a matrix **matrix**, the functions are applied to **each element** of `x`

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## Creating a Matrix

Simply type:

```
» A = [1, 2, 3; 4, 9, 10; 1, 5, 7]
```

To delimit **columns**, use comma or space

To delimit **rows**, use semicolon

The following expressions are **equivalent**

```
» A = [1 2 3; 4 9 10; 1 5 7]
```

```
» A = [1, 2, 3; 4, 9, 10; 1, 5, 7]
```

## Creating a Matrix

Alternative Example:

```
» phi = pi/3  
» [cos(phi) -sin(phi); sin(phi) cos(phi)]
```

## Creating a Matrix from Matrices

```
» A = [1 2 3; 4 9 10; 1 5 7] ; B = [33; 33;  
33]
```

### Column-wise

```
» C = [A B]
```

### Row-wise

```
» D = [A; [33 33 33]]
```

## Indexing

Always "row before column"!

<code>aij = A(i, j)</code>	get an element
<code>r = A(i, :)</code>	get a row
<code>c = A(:, j)</code>	get a column
<code>B = A(i:k, j:l)</code>	get a sub-matrix

### Useful indexing command end:

```
» A = [1 2 3; 4 9 10; 1 5 7]
» v = A(2:end; 2:end)
```

## The two meaning of colon ':'

» `A(3, :)`, `B(:, 1)`

**Wildcard** to select entire matrix **row** or **column**

**Defines a range** in expression like

```
indices = 1:5    Returns row vector 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
steps = 1:3:61  Returns row vector 1, 4, 7, ..., 61
t = 0:0.01:1    Returns vector 0, 0.01, 0.02, ..., 1
```

**Useful command** to define ranges: `linspace`

## Assigning a Row/Column

All referenced elements are set to the scalar value

```
» A = [1 2 3; 4 9 10; 1 5 7]
» A(3, :) = -2
```

## Adding a Row/Column

If the referenced row/columns does not exist, it's added

```
» A(5, :) = -2
Result ??
```



## Deleting a Row/Column

Assigning an empty matrix[] deletes the referenced rows or columns

Examples:

```
» A(3, :) = []
```

```
» A(1:1:3, :) = []
```

## Get Size

```
nr = size(A, 1)
nc = size(A, 2)
[nr nc] = size(A)
l = length(A)
numel(A)
isempty(A)
```

Get number of rows of A  
Get number of columns of A  
Get both (remember order)  
Get whatever is bigger  
Get number of elements  
Check if A is empty matrix[]

## Octave only:

```
nr = rows(A)
nc = columns(A)
```

Get number of rows of A  
Get number of columns of A

## Matrix Operations With $x$ being a column vector

$$B = 3*A$$

Multiply by scalar

$$C = A*B + X - D$$

Add and multiply

$$B = A'$$

Transpose A

$$B = \text{inv}(A)$$

Invert A

$$s = v' * Q * v$$

Mix vectors and matrices

$$d = \text{det}(A)$$

Determinant of A

$$[v \ \lambda] = \text{eig}(A)$$

Eigenvalue decomposition

$$[U \ S \ V] = \text{svd}(A)$$

Singular value decomposition

## Vector Operations

With  $x$  being a column vector

- $s = x' * x$  Inner product, result is a scalar
- $X = x * x'$  Outer product, result is a matrix
- $e = x * x$  Gives an error

## Element-Wise Operations With $x$ being a column vector

- $s = x . + x$  Element-wise addition
- $p = x . * x'$  Element-wise multiplication
- $q = x . / x$  Element-wise division
- $e = x . ^ 3$  Element-wise power operator

## Useful Vector Functions

<code>sum(v)</code>	Compute sum of elements of $v$
<code>cumsum(v)</code>	Compute cumulative sums of elements of $v$ (returns a vector)
<code>prod(v)</code>	Compute product of elements of $v$
<code>cumprod(v)</code>	Compute cumulative products of elements of $v$ (returns a vector)
<code>diff(v)</code>	Compute difference of subsequent elements [ $v(2) - v(1)$ $v(3) - v(2)$ ...]
<code>mean(v)</code>	Mean value of elements in $v$
<code>std(v)</code>	Standard deviation of elements

## Useful Vector Functions

`min(v)`

Return smallest element in v

`max(v)`

Return largest element in v

`sort(v, 'ascend')`

Sort in ascending order

`sort(v, 'descend')`

Sort in descending order

`find(v)`

Find indices of non-zero elements

Great in combination with vectorization

Example:

```
ivec = find(datavec == 5)
```

## Special Matrices

<code>A = zeros(m, n)</code>	Zero matrix of size $m \times n$ (Often used for preallocation)
<code>B = ones(m, n)</code>	Matrix of size $m \times n$ with all 1's
<code>I = eye(n)</code>	Identity matrix of size $n$
<code>D = diag([a b c])</code>	Diagonal matrix of size $3 \times 3$ with $a, b, c$ in the main diagonal

## Random Matrices and Vectors

<code>R = rand(m, n)</code>	Matrix with $m \times n$ uniformly distributed random numbers from interval $[0..1]$
<code>N = randn(m, n)</code>	Matrix with $m \times n$ normally distributed random numbers with zero mean, unit variance
<code>v = randperm(n)</code>	Row vector with a random permutation of the numbers 1 to $n$



**Multi-Dimensional Matrices** Matrices can have more than two dimensions

Create a 3-dimensional matrix: e.g.,

» `A = ones(2, 5, 2)`

» `A(:, :, 1)` ?

## Multi-Dimensional Matrices

All operations to create, index, add, assign, delete and get size apply in the same fashion

Examples:

```
» [m n l] = size(A)
» A = ones(m, n, l)
» m = min(min(min(A)))
» aijk = A(i, j, k)
» A(:, :, 2) = -3
```

## Matrices Massage

Matrix operations that have no mathematical meaning. Useful for manipulating data with is organized in matrices

`reshape(A, m, n)`

**Change size** of matrix  $A$  to have dimension  $m \times n$ . An error results if  $A$  does not have  $m \times n$  elements

`circshift(A, [m n])`

**Shift elements** of  $A$   $m$  times in row dimension and  $n$  times in column dimension. Has no mathematical meaning

`shiftdim(A, n)`

Shift the dimension of  $A$  by  $n$ .  
**Generalizes transpose** for multi-dimensional matrices

## Matrices Massage

Matrix operations that have no mathematical meaning. Useful for manipulating data with is organized in matrices

<code>fliplr(A)</code>	<b>Reverses the order</b> of columns of matrix A in left/right-direction. Rows are not changed
<code>flipud(A)</code>	<b>Reverses the order</b> of rows of matrix A in up/down-direction. Columns are not changed
<code>flipdim(A, dim)</code>	<b>Flip</b> matrix A along <b>dimension dim</b> . Typically, for multi-dimensional matrices
<code>rot90(A)</code>	<b>90 degree counterclockwise rotation</b> of matrix A. This is <b>not</b> the transpose of A

## Matrices Massage Example

Let  $P = [x_1; y_1; x_2; y_2; \dots]$  be a  $2n \times 1$  column vector of  $n$  pairs  $(x, y)$ . Make it a column vector of  $(x, y, \theta)$  tuples with all  $\theta$  being  $\pi/2$

Make  $P$  it a  $2 \times n$  matrix

```
» P = reshape(P, 2, numel(P)/2)
```

Add a third row, assign  $\pi/2$

```
» P(3, :) = pi/2
```

Reshape it to be a  $3n \times 1$  column vector

```
» P = reshape(P, numel(P), 1)
```

## Most Often Used Commands

<code>strcat</code>	Concatenate strings
<code>int2str</code>	Convert integer to a string
<code>num2str</code>	Convert floating point numbers to a string
<code>sprintf</code>	Write formatted data to a string Same as C/C++ <code>fprintf</code> for strings

## Example

```
» s = strcat('At step ',int2str(k),' , p = ',num2str(p,4))
```

Given that strings are matrices of characters, this is equivalent to

```
» s = ['At step ' int2str(k) ' , p = ' num2str(p,4)]
```

## Octave/Matlab has virtually all common string and sparsing functions

You can encouraged to browse through the list of commands or simply `help` command

Some commands:

```
strcmp, strncmp strmatch, char, ischar,  
findstr, strfind, str2double, str2num,  
num2str, strvcat, strtrim, strtok, upper,  
lower, ...
```

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## Plotting in 2D

Display x, y plot : `plot(x, cos(x))`

Creates automatically a figure window. **Octave uses gnuplot to handle graphics.**

Create figure window 'n': `figure(n)`

If the figure window **already exists**, brings it into the foreground (=makes it the current figure)

Create new figure window with identifier incremented by 1:  
`figure`

## Several Plots

Series of x,y-pairs: `plot(x1, y1, x2, y2, ...)`

e.g. `plot(x, cos(x), x, sin(x))`

Add **legend** to plot: `legend`

`legend('cos(x)', 'sin(x)')`

Alternatively, `hold on` does the same job:

» `hold on; plot(x, cos(x));`

» `plot(x, sin(x));`

» `plot(x, x.^2);`

## Frequent Commands

<code>clf</code>	Create figure
<code>hold on</code>	Hold axes. Do not replace plot with new plot, superimpose plots
<code>grid on</code>	Add grid lines
<code>grid off</code>	Remove grid lines
<code>title('My Plot')</code>	Set title of figure window
<code>xlabel('time')</code>	Set label of x-axis
<code>ylabel('prob')</code>	Set label of y-axis

## Controlling Axes

<code>axis equal</code>	Set equal scales for x-/y-axes
<code>axis square</code>	Force a square aspect ratio
<code>axis tight</code>	Set axes to the limits of the data
<code>a = axis</code>	Return current axis limits [xmin xmax ymin ymax]
<code>axis([-1 1 2.5 5])</code>	Set axis limits (freeze axes)
<code>axis off</code>	Turn off ticmarks
<code>box on</code>	Adds a box to the current axes
<code>box off</code>	Removes box

## Controlling Plot Styles

In `plot(x, cos(x), 'r+')` the format expression `'r+'` means **red cross**

There are a number of line styles and colors, see `help plot`

### Example:

```
» x = linspace(0,2*pi,100);  
» plot(x,cos(x),'r+',x,sin(x),'bx');  
more on plotExample.m
```

## Exporting Figures

```
print -deps picBW.eps      Export B/W .eps file
print -depssc picC.eps     Export color .eps file
print -djpeg -r80 myPic.jpg Export .png in 80 ppi
print -dpng -r100 myPic.png Export .png in 100 ppi
```

See `help print` for more devices including specialized ones for Latex

`print` can also be **called as a function**

Then it takes arguments and options as a comma-separated list

```
print('-dpng', '-r100', 'myPic.png')
```

## **This tutorial cannot cover the large variety of graphics commands in Octave/Matlab**

You are encouraged to browse through the list of commands or simply type `help` command

Some commands:

`hist, bar, pie, area, fill, contour,`  
`quiver, scatter, compass, rose, semilogx,`  
`loglog, stem, stairs, image, images ...`

## Plotting in 3D

<code>plot3</code>	Plot lines and points in 3D
<code>mesh</code>	3D mesh surface plot
<code>surf</code>	3D colored surface plot

**Most 2D plot commands have a 3D sibling.** Check out, for example,

`bar3`, `pie3`, `fill3`, `contour3`, `quiver3`,  
`scatter3`, `stem3`

let see some **examples...**