

Matlab as a fancy calculator

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Lecture 02

Matlab variable types

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 - $i = \sqrt{-1} = 1i$
 - $34.23+21.21i$
 - $(1+1i) * (1-1i) = 2$

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- strings (put your words inside apostrophes)
 - handy for file names and messages
 - `'programming is fun'`
 - `s='Williamsburg'`

Some built in constants and functions

- $\pi = 3.141592653589793238462643383279502 \dots$
 - use `pi`
- trigonometry functions
 - `sin` , `cos` , `tan` , `cot`
 - `asin` , `acos` , `atan` , `acot`
- hyperbolic functions
 - `sinh` , `cosh` , `tanh` , `coth`
 - `asinh` , `acosh` , `atanh` , `acoth`
- logarithms
 - natural `log`
 - base of 10 `log10`
- power
 - x^y use `x^y` or alternatively `power(x,y)`
 - e^y use `exp(y)`

Assignment operator

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The expression above should be read as

- evaluate expression at the right hand side of equality symbol
- assign the result of the RHS to the variable on the left hand sign
- now variable `x` holds the value `4.6`

We are free to use the **value** of the variable `x` in any further expressions

```
> x + 4.2
```

```
ans = 8.8
```

Once you typed some expressions in “Command window”

- type couple of first symbols of variable or function name
- hit tab and you will get
 - either fully typed name (if it is uniq)
 - or little chart with choices
 - use <up> or <down> arrows to choose
 - alternatively <Ctrl-p>, <Ctrl-n>
 - then hit <enter> to make your choice

Help related commands

These are the most important commands

- `docsearch word`
 - will search for `word` in the help files and show up matched help files
 - example: `docsearch trigonometry`
- `help name`
 - output short help text into “Command window” about function/method named `name`
 - example: `help sin`
- `doc name`
 - show a reference page about function/method named `name` in the help vrowser
 - usually has more information compare to `help name`
 - example: `doc sin`

Operator Precedence

Look at the following Matlab expression

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Guess the answer.

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```
-2^4*5 + tan(pi/8+pi/8)^2
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```
- (2^4)*5 + (tan( (pi/8+pi/8) ))^2
```

Operator Precedence

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$$-80 + (1)^2$$

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$$-2^4*5 + \tan(\pi/8+\pi/8)^2$$

Guess the answer.

$$- (2^4) * 5 + (\tan(\pi/8 + \pi/8))^2$$

$$- (16) * 5 + (\tan(\pi/4))^2$$

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Rule of thumb: **if not sure use extra parentheses ()**

- Read more by executing `doc precedence`
- or searching for 'precedence' in the help browser.