

INTENSIVE COMPUTATION

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Lecture 2

INTRODUCTION TO MATLAB

Introduction

- MATLAB stands for MATrix LABoratory
- MATLAB is a **high-level interpreted language** and **interactive environment** for numerical computation, data analysis, visualisation and algorithm development
- MATLAB enables you to perform computationally intensive tasks faster than with traditional programming languages such as C, C++ and Fortran

Introduction

- MATLAB started its life in the late 1970s as an interactive calculator built on top of LINPACK and EISPACK, which were then **state-of-the-art Fortran subroutine libraries for matrix computation**
- In the **80s Cleve Moler** write the first version of MATLAB to give his students at the University of New Mexico easy access to these libraries without writing Fortran
- Matlab has many specialized **toolboxes**

Matlab Screen

• Current Directory

- View folders and m-files

• Command History

- view past commands
- save a whole session using diary

• Command Window

- Type commands

• Workspace

- View program variables
- Double click on a variable to see it in the Array Editor

The screenshot displays the MATLAB R2017a - academic use interface. The top menu bar includes options like HOME, PLOTS, APPS, VARIABLE, and VIEW. Below the menu is a toolbar with icons for file operations (New, Open, Save, Import, Compare), workspace management (New Variable, Open Variable, Clear Workspace), code execution (Run and Time, Clear Commands), and environment settings (Layout, Set Path, Add-Ons, Help, Community). The main workspace is divided into several panels:

- Current Directory:** Shows a file explorer view of the current directory, listing folders like anaconda3, backup, Desktop, Documents, Downloads, Dropbox, gym, Misc, Music, Pictures, Public, PycharmProjects, ssh, Templates, Videos, and zsh-syntax-highlighting.
- Editor:** Displays a script named 'network_20170622.m' with a table of data. The table has columns 1 through 13 and rows 13 through 33. The data includes numerical values and NaN entries.
- Variables - num:** Shows a table of variables with columns 1 through 7 and rows 13 through 22. The data includes numerical values and NaN entries.
- Workspace:** Lists variables in the workspace, including 'num' (224830x5 double), 'raw' (224830x7 cell), and 'txt' (224830x5 cell).
- Command Window:** Shows the MATLAB prompt 'R>>'.
- Details:** A panel at the bottom left with the text 'Select a file to view details'.

Arrows from the text blocks point to these specific panels: 'Current Directory' points to the file explorer, 'Command Window' points to the script editor, and 'Workspace' points to the variable list.

Helpful commands

- **help** lists all the help topic – *the most important function to learn Matlab*
 - **help *name*** the help text for the functionality specified by *name*, such as a function, method, class, or toolbox
- **who/whos** show the current variables in the workspace
- **dir** list files in the current directory
- **clear all** delete all the variables present in the workspace
 - **clear *var1 var2*** clear variables *var1* and *var2*
- **lookfor** search for keyword in all help entries
 - **lookfor *topic***

Variables and expressions

- In the Command window, the command **prompt** is " >> " Examples:
 - Two types of statement:
 - **evaluation of an expression**
" >> *expression* "
 - **assignment** " >> *variable* = *expression* "
 - The evaluation of an expression generates a **matrix** assigned to the specified **variable**
 - If you do not specify the name of the *variable* associated to the result, the system "**ans**" is used
- >> 8+2
ans =
10
 - >> a = 5*ans
a =
50
 - >> 6.9
ans =
6.9000

Variables and expressions

- If an expression ends with symbol “;” its value is not displayed on the screen
- MATLAB names are **case-sensitive**
- **No need to declare variables**
- **No need for types**
- Built-in variables. Don't use these names!
 - **i** and **j** can be used to indicate complex numbers
 - **pi** has the value 3.1415926...
 - **ans** stores the last unassigned value (like on a calculator)
 - **Inf** and **-Inf** are positive and negative infinity
 - **NaN** represents 'Not a Number'

Examples:

```
» b = 6+a;
```

```
» b
```

```
b =
```

```
56
```


Variables and expressions

- All variables are created with **double precision**
- The **variables are 1x1 matrices** with double precision
- Double precision values consist of **8 bytes**

- The default display format for variables is 5-digit scaled, fixed-point values
- We can ask for different display formats with command **format**
- The **format** function affects only how numbers display in the Command Window, **not how MATLAB computes or saves them**

The command `FORMAT`

Command `format` changes the display format to the specified *style*

Let us consider $x = 4/3$

- `format short` 1.3333 0.0000 - 5-digit scaled, fixed-point *default*
- `format long` 1.333333333333333 - 15-digit fixed point
- `format short e` 1.3333e+000 - 5-digit floating point
- `format long e` 1.333333333333333e+000 - 15-digit floating point
- `format short g` 1.3333 – best between fixed point and floating point
- `format long g` 1.333333333333333 – best between fixed and floating pt
- `format bank` 1.33 – currency format (dollar or euro)
- `format rat` 4/3 - ratio of small integers
- `format hex` 3ff5555555555555 - hexadecimal (double-precision)

Double precision values

- Only a number of double precision values can be represented
- There is always a **small gap** between two consecutive values
- The command **eps** provides the floating-point relative accuracy
- **eps** returns the distance from 1.0 to the next largest double-precision number, that is $\text{eps} = 2^{-52}$
- **eps(x)** is the positive distance from $\text{abs}(X)$ to the next larger in magnitude floating point number of the same precision as X
- **realmin** returns the smallest positive normalized floating-point number in IEEE double precision about **2.2251e-308** that is 2^{-1022}
- **realmax** returns the largest finite floating-point number in IEEE double precision, about **1.7976e+308** that is 2^{1023}

Matrices

- The simplest way to create a matrix is to use the matrix constructor operator `[]`
- Create a row in the matrix by entering elements within the brackets
- Separate **row elements** with a **comma** or **space**
- For a **new row**, terminate the current row with a **semicolon** or **return**

```
» A = [7 8; 8.9 7; 9 8]
```

```
A =
```

```
7.0000    8.0000
8.9000    7.0000
9.0000    8.0000
```

```
» B = [1 2 3
4 5 6]
```

```
B =
```

```
1 2 3
4 5 6
```

Matrices

- Examples of **functions** for creating **different kinds of matrices**
 - **zeros(n,m)** matrix $n \times m$ of all zeros
 - **ones(n,m)** matrix $n \times m$ of all ones
 - **eye(n,m)** matrix with ones on the diagonal (zeros elsewhere)
 - **rand(n,m)** matrix of uniformly distributed random numbers
 - **diag([a11, a22, a33, ..., aNN])** diagonal matrix
 -

Matrices

- Increase matrices by adding a row or a column having the correct size
- **Column**
 - Given $A = [1 \ 2; 3 \ 4; 5 \ 6]$;
 - Add the column of elements 7 8 9

$A = [A [7; 8; 9]]$ oppure $A = [A [7 \ 8 \ 9]']$

1 2		1 2 7
3 4	→	3 4 8
5 6		5 6 9

Matrices

To access elements of a matrix → matrices' name followed by round brackets containing a reference to the row and column number

- » `A = [7 8; 8.9 7; 9 8]`

`A =`

`7.0000 8.0000`

`8.9000 7.0000`

`9.0000 8.0000`

- **`A(n,m)`** access **element** (n,m) of matrix A

» `A(1,2)`

`ans =`

`8`

Note that elements of the matrix are displayed as 5-digit values

Matrices

The colon operator

- The colon operator (**first:last**) generates a 1-by-n matrix (or *vector*) of sequential numbers from the first value to the last

- The default sequence is made up of values **incrementing by 1**

A = 10:15 **→** **A = 10 11 12 13 14 15**

- The numeric sequence can include negative and fractional numbers

A = -2.5:2.5 **→** **A = -2.5000 -1.5000 -0.5000 0.5000 1.5000 2.5000**

Matrices

The colon operator

- You can also specify a **step** value with the colon operator in between the starting and ending value (**first:step:last**).

- To generate a series of numbers from 10 to 50 incrementing by 5:

A = 10:5:50 **→** **A = 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50**

- You can increment by **noninteger** values

A = 3:0.2:3.8 **→** **A = 3.0000 3.2000 3.4000 3.6000 3.8000**

- You can **decrement**, specifying a negative step value:

A = 9:-1:1 **→** **A = 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

Matrices

Accessing matrix rows or matrix columns

- $A(n,:)$ extracts **row n** of matrix A

» $A(2,:)$

ans =

8.9000 7.0000

- $A(:,m)$ extracts **column m** of matrix A

» $A(:,1)$

ans =

7.0000

8.9000

9.0000

The colon notation “:” allows to specify a sequence of values

The whole row (column) is extracted because the interval is not specified

Matrices

`diag(A)`

- If A is a square matrix, `diag(A)` returns the main diagonal of A

```
» A=[5 6 ; 7 8]
```

```
A =
```

```
5 6
```

```
7 8
```

```
» diag(A)
```

```
ans =
```

```
5
```

```
8
```

- If A is a vector with n components, returns an n-by-n diagonal matrix having A as its main diagonal

```
» diag(ans)
```

```
ans =
```

```
5 0
```

```
0 8
```

Matrices

- **sum(A)**
- If A is a **vector**, then sum(A) returns the sum of the elements
 - » **sum(A)**
 - ans =**
 - 36**
- If A is a **matrix**, then sum(A) treats the columns of A as vectors and returns a row vector whose elements are the sums of each column

```
» A=[0 1 2 ;3 4 5 ;6 7 8 ]
```

```
A =
```

```
0 1 2  
3 4 5  
6 7 8
```

```
» B=sum(A)
```

```
B =
```

```
9 12 15
```

Vectors

- A matrix with only one row or column (that is, a **1-by-n** or **n-by-1** array) is a **vector**, such as:

$C = [1, 2, 3]$ row vector

$D = [10; 20; 30]$ column vector

- An array can be created with the colon operator

$x = 1:6$ \rightarrow $x = 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \quad 6$

$x = 0.5:0.1:0.7$ \rightarrow $x = 0.5000 \quad 0.6000 \quad 0.7000$

Vectors

- A vector can be created by using **linspace(a,b)** or **linspace(a,b,N)** that generates vectors of (N) points linearly spaced between and including a and b

x = linspace(-1,1) → -1 0 1

x = linspace(-1,1,4) → -1.0000 -0.3333 0.3333 1.0000

- The logspace functions – **logspace(a,b)** or **logspace(a,b,N)** – generate *logarithmically spaced vectors*
- The logspace function is useful for creating frequency vectors
- It is a logarithmic equivalent of linspace and the ":" or colon operator

Vector Indexing

- **IMPORTANT:** MATLAB indexing starts with **1, not 0**
- The **index argument can be a vector**
- In this case, each element is looked up individually, and returned as a vector of the same size as the index vector

```
»x=[12 13 5 8];
```

```
»a=x(2:3);           →      a=[13 5];
```

```
»b=x(1:end-1);      →      b=[12 13 5];
```

Matrix Indexing

- Matrices can be indexed in two ways
 - using subscripts(row and column)
 - using linear indices(as if matrix is a vector)
- Matrix indexing: **subscripts** or **linear indices**

$$\begin{array}{l}
 b(1,1) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 32 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow b(1,2) \\
 b(2,1) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 81 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow b(2,2)
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 b(1) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 32 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow b(3) \\
 b(2) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 81 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow b(4)
 \end{array}$$

Picking submatrices

»A = rand(5)

»A(1:3,1:2)

»A([1 5 3], [1 4])

% shorthand for 5x5 matrix

% specify contiguous submatrix

% specify rows and columns 143398

Matrix Indexing

- MATLAB contains functions to help you find desired values within a vector or matrix
 - » **vec = [5 3 1 9 7]**
- To get the minimum value and its index:
 - » **[minVal,minInd] = min(vec);**
- Max works the same way

- To find any the indices of specific values or ranges
 - » **ind = find(vec == 9);**
 - » **ind = find(vec > 2 & vec < 6);**
- To convert between subscripts and indices, use **ind2sub** and **sub2ind**

Scalar operators and functions

- Mathematical operators on scalars
add +, subtract -, divide /, multiply *, power ^
- Trigonometric function
 - sin, cos
 - tan
 - asin, acos
 - atan

The list of ***elementary math functions***

- help **elfun**: trigonometric, exponential, complex, rounding and remainder

The list of ***specialized math functions***

- help **specfun**: specialized, number theoretic, coordinate transforms

Scalar operators and functions

- Some mathematical operators on scalars:
 - **abs** Absolute value and complex magnitude
 - **conj** Complex conjugate
 - **real, imag** Real and Imaginary part of complex number
 - **exp** Exponential
 - **log, log10** Natural and base 10 logarithm
 - **sqrt** Square root
 - **ceil** Round toward positive infinity
 - **floor** Round toward negative infinity
 - **round** Round to nearest integer
- Variables **i** and **j** are both functions denoting the **imaginary unit** and are the square-root of -1

Matrix operations

Matrix operations:

- + **addition** of vectors or matrices (element-by-element)
- - **subtraction** of vectors or matrices (element-by-element)
- * **multiplication** of vectors or matrices (row-by-column)

Note that:

- **addition / subtraction**: matrices with the same number of rows and columns
- **addition / subtraction** with a **scalar**: the scalar is added/subtracted to each element of the matrix
- **multiplication**: the number of columns in the first matrix must be the same as the number of rows in the second matrix

Matrix operations

Matlab has a set of **dot operators**, a dot and a normal algebraic operator, performing element-wise algebraic operations on a matrix

- `.*` element-wise product
- `./` element-wise division
- `.^` element-wise power

\ and / operators for the **solution of linear systems**:

- $x = B/A$ is the solution of the equation $x*A = B$
- $x = A\B$ denote the solution to the equation $A*x = B$

Systems of Linear Equations

- Given a system of linear equations

$$x+2y-3z=5$$

$$-3x-y+z=-8$$

$$x-y+z=0$$

- Construct matrices so the system is described by $Ax=b$

$$\gg A=[1 \ 2 \ -3; -3 \ -1 \ 1; 1 \ -1 \ 1];$$

$$\gg b=[5; -8; 0];$$

- And solve with a single line of code!

$$\gg x=A\b;$$

- x is a 3×1 vector containing the values of x , y , and z
- The **** will work with square or rectangular systems
 - Gives least squares solution for rectangular systems

Matrix functions

- **Matrix functions:**
 - Transpose matrix **A'**
 - Inverse matrix **inv(A)**
 - Matrix determinant **det(A)**
 - Eigenvalues **eig(A)**
 - Rank of matrix **rank(A)**
 - Dimensions **size(A)**

The list of elementary matrices and matrix manipulation

- help **elmat**: elementary matrices, basic array information, matrix manipulation, special variables e costants, specialized matrices, ...

MATLAB Programming

Script and Function

- The simplest type of MATLAB program is called a *script*
- A script is a file that contains multiple sequential lines of MATLAB commands and function calls
- You can run a script by typing its name at the command line
- **Script** and **Function** are **M-files** with a **.m extension**
- **Scripts**
 - have no input or output arguments
 - use workspace data
- **Functions**
 - accept input arguments and produce output
 - have their own workspace, separate from the base workspace
 - function variables are local

MATLAB Programming

You can:

- Add **comments** to code using the percent symbol `%`.
- Create **help text** by inserting **comments at the beginning** of your program.
- Help text appears in the Command Window when you use the help function → **help *ProgramName***
- If your program includes a **function**, position the help text immediately below the function definition line (the line with the *function keyword*)

MATLAB Programming

Function - The definition statement is the first executable line

Each function definition includes:

- **function** keyword (*required*) (lowercase characters)
- Output arguments (*optional*)
 - `function output= myfunction(x)`
 - `function [one,two,three] = myfunction(x)`
 - `function myfun(x) or function []=myfunction(x)`
- Function name (*required*)
- Input arguments (*optional*)
 - `function y = myfunction(one,two,three)`

Remark: use the same name for both the file and the function

MATLAB Programming

Example

```
% mean computes the  
% mean of a random  
% values array and the  
% mean among the  
% minimum and maximum  
v=rand(50,1)  
mean=valmean(v)  
meanmm=minmax(v)
```

```
function m=valmean(v)  
  
n=length(v)  
m=sum(v)/n  
  
function mm=minmax(v)  
  
mini=min(v)  
maxi=max(v)  
mm=(mini+maxi)/2
```

Relational and logical operators

The **relational operators** are:

- **<**, **>**, **<=**, **>=**, **==**, and **~=**

Relational operators perform element-by-element comparisons between two arrays

They return a logical array of the same size, with elements set to:

- logical **1** (true) where the relation is true
- logical **0** (false) where the relation is false

The **logical operators** are:

- **&** (and), **|** (or), **~** (not)
- **xor** (xor), **all** (all true), **any** (any true)

Relational and logical operators

- **Examples**

```
>> a=10; b=3; c=25;
```

```
>> a==b
```

```
ans=
```

```
0
```

```
>> a>b
```

```
ans=
```

```
1
```

```
>> a+b > c
```

```
ans=
```

```
0
```

Programming: loop control

With *loop control statements*, you can repeatedly execute a block of code

for statements loop a specific number of times, and keep track of each iteration with an incrementing index variable

- **for** `index=starting value:increment:final value`
 program statements
end

Remark *indent* the loops for readability, especially when they are nested

Programming: loop control

- **Example**

```
x = ones(1,10);  
for n = 2:10  
    x(n) = 2 * x(n - 1);  
end
```

- **Example**

```
for i=1:m  
    for j=1:n  
        H(i,j)=1/(i+j-1);  
    end  
end
```

Programming: loop control

while repeatedly executes one or more program statements in a loop as long as an expression remains true

```
while expression  
    statements  
end
```

- Expressions can include *relational operators* (such as < or ==) and *logical operators* (such as &&, ||, or ~)
- To programmatically **exit the loop**, use a **break** statement
- To skip the rest of the instructions in the loop and begin the next iteration, use a **continue** statement

Programming: loop control

Examples

- `x = 3.;`
`while x < 25`
 `x = x + 2`
`end`
- Fibonacci
`a(1)=1; a(2)=1; c=15;`
`n=2;`
`while a(n) < c`
 `a(n+1) = a(n) + a(n-1);`
 `n=n+1;`
`end`

Programming: loop control

- ***if expression, statements, end***
evaluates an expression, and executes the statements when the expression is true
- ***elseif*** and ***else*** are optional, and execute statements only when previous expressions in the if block are false
- An *if block* can include multiple ***elseif*** statements

```
if expression  
    statements  
elseif expression  
    statements  
else  
    statements  
end
```

Programming: loop control

Example

```
if x > 0
    y = sqrt(x);
elseif x == 0
    y = 0;
else
    y = NaN;
    disp('y undefined')
end
```

Programming: loop control

switch case otherwise

Switch among several cases based on expression

```
switch switch_expr
case case_expr
    statements
case {case_expr1,case_expr2,case_expr3,...}
    statements
...
otherwise
    statements
end
```

Programming: loop control

Example

```
name='rose';  
switch name  
case 'rose'  
    disp('the flower is a rose')  
case 'tulip'  
    disp('the flower is a tulip')  
case 'daisy'  
    disp('the flower is a daisy')  
otherwise  
    disp('it's a flower')  
end
```

Strings

- **strcat** *Concatenate strings*

`t = strcat(s1, s2, s3, ...)` horizontally concatenates corresponding rows of the character arrays `s1`, `s2`, `s3` etc.

All input arrays must have the same number of rows (or any can be a single string). When the inputs are all character arrays, the output is also a character array

- **strcmp** *Compare strings*

`tf = strcmp(s1, s2)` compares the strings `s1` and `s2` and returns logical 1 (true) if they are identical, and 0 (false) otherwise

- **strfind** *Find one string within another*

`k = strfind(text, pattern)` returns the starting indices of any occurrences of the string `pattern` in the string `text`

Advanced Data Structures

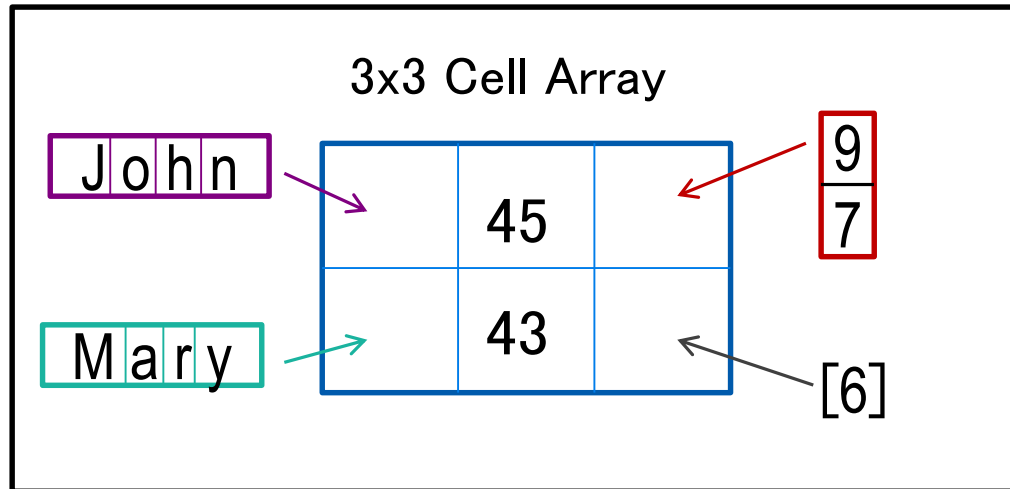
- We have used 2D matrices
 - Can have n-dimensions
 - Every element must be the same type (ex. integers, doubles, characters...)
 - Matrices are space-efficient and convenient for calculation

Sometimes, more complex data structures are more appropriate

- **Cell array**: it's like an array, but elements don't have to be the same type
- **Structs**: can bundle variable names and values into one structure

Cell

- A cell is just like a matrix, but each field can contain anything (even other matrices):



- One cell can contain people's names, ages, and the ages of their children

Cell

- To initialize a cell, specify the size

```
»a=cell(3,10);
```

- a will be a cell with 3 rows and 10 columns

- or do it manually, with curly braces {}

```
»c={'hello world',[1 5 6 2],rand(3,2)};
```

- c is a cell with 1 row and 3 columns

- Each element of a cell can be anything

- To access a cell element, use curly braces {}

```
»a{1,1}=[1 3 4 -10];
```

```
»a{2,1}='hello world 2';
```

```
»a{1,2}=c{3};
```

Structs

- **Structs** allow you to name and bundle relevant variables
 - Like C-structs, which are objects with fields
- To **initialize** an empty struct:

```
»s=struct;
```

- size(s) will be 1x1
 - initialization is optional but is recommended when using large structs
- To add fields:

```
»s.name = 'Jack Bauer';
```

```
»s.scores = [95 98 67];
```

```
»s.year = 'G3';
```

- **Fields can be anything:** *matrix*, *cell*, even *struct*
- Useful for keeping variables together

Structs

- To initialize a struct array, give field, values pairs

```
»ppl=struct('name',{'John','Mary','Leo'},...
'age',{45,43,32},'childAge',{[9;7],6,[]});
```

- `size(s2)=1x3`
- every cell must have the same size

```
»person=ppl(2);
```

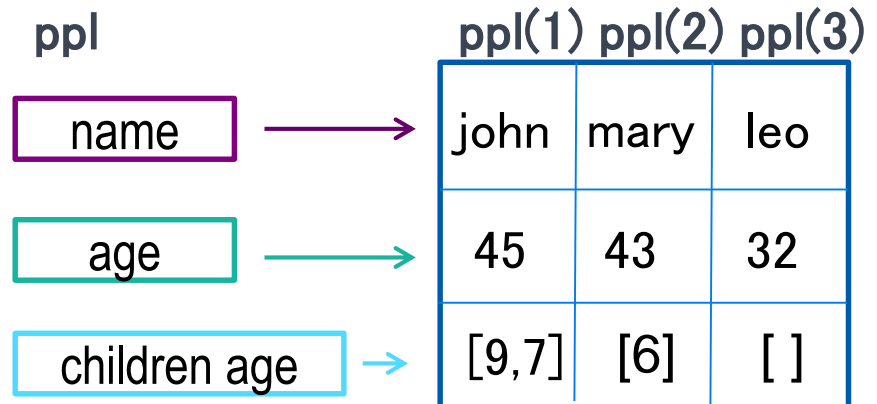
- person is now a struct with fields name, age, children
- the values of the fields are the second index into each cell

```
»person.name
```

- returns 'Mary'

```
»ppl(1).age
```

- returns 45



Structs

- To access 1x1 struct fields, give name of the field

```
»stu=s.name;
```

```
»scor=s.scores;
```

- 1x1 structs are useful when passing many variables to a function. put them all in a struct, and pass the struct

- To access nx1 struct arrays, use indices

```
»person=pp1(2);
```

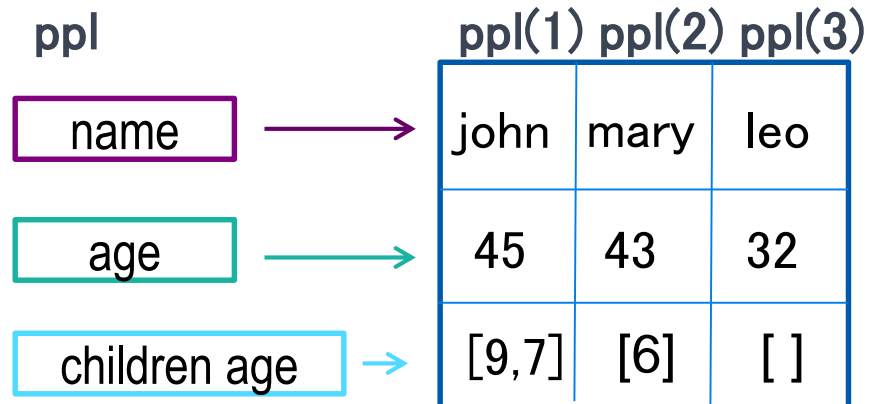
- person is a struct with name, age, and child age

```
»personName=pp1(2).name;
```

- personName is 'Mary'

```
a=[pp1.age];
```

- a is a 1x3 vector of the ages



Polynomial

- A polynomial is represented by an array containing the coefficients of the polynomial in descending powers of the polynomial decreasing order
- The polynomial $3x^3 + 2x + 8$ can be represented as:

```
» pol = [3 0 2 8]
```
- To evaluate a polynomial in x , where x can be a vector, you can use `polyval(p, x)` where p is the polynomial

```
» polyval(pol, 1)
ans =
    13
```

Polynomial

- `roots` computes the roots of the polynomial
- `r=roots (p)` returns a column vector whose elements are the roots of the polynomial `p`
- Row vector `p` contains the coefficients of the polynomial
- Example: the polynomial $x^3 - 6x^2 + 11x - 6$

```
» p= [1 -6 11 -6]; format long;
```

```
» roots (p)
```

```
ans =
```

```
3.0000000000000000
```

```
3.0000000000000000
```

```
3.0000000000000000
```

Polynomial

Remark There are some complications with **multiple roots**

The polynomial r^3+3r^2+3r+1 have just one root $r = -1$, but

```
roots([1 3 3 1])
```

returns three different (though close) values

```
ans =
```

```
-1.00000913968880
```

```
-0.99999543015560 + 0.00000791513186i
```

```
-0.99999543015560 - 0.00000791513186i
```

Even worse for $p(x)=(x+1)^7$ (coefficients [1 7 21 35 35 21 7 1])

Polynomial

Operations with polynomials

- $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{conv}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ multiplication of the polynomials whose coefficients are the elements of \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v}
- $[\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}] = \mathbf{deconv}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ polynomial division - the quotient is returned in vector \mathbf{q} and the remainder in vector \mathbf{r} such that $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{conv}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{r}$
- $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{polyfit}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n})$ finds the coefficients of a polynomial $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x})$ of degree \mathbf{n} that fits the data, $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{i}))$ to $\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{i})$, in a least squares sense. The result \mathbf{p} is a row vector of length $\mathbf{n}+1$ containing the polynomial coefficients in descending powers

Polynomial

- `poly` gives the polynomial with specified roots
- `p=roots(r)` where `r` is a vector, returns a row vector whose elements are the coefficients of the polynomial whose roots are the elements of `r`
- `p=roots(A)` where `A` is an n-by-n matrix, returns an n+1 element row vector whose elements are the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial, $\det(\lambda I - A)$

Remark `poly(A)` generates the characteristic polynomial of `A`, and `roots(poly(A))` finds the roots of that polynomial, which are the **eigenvalues** of `A`