



Computer II (MATLAB)

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Lecture 7

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Learning Objectives

- Understand Function Basics.
- Identify and describe built-in, user-defined, and anonymous functions.
- Write user-defined functions with input and output arguments
- Understand how to return and use multiple values from a function.





What Are Functions?

- Definition: Functions in MATLAB are reusable blocks of code designed to perform a specific task.
- **Benefits:** Code reusability.
 - Better organisation and readability.
 - Easier debugging and maintenance.
- Example

```
function output = myFunction(input)
    output = input^2;
end
```





Types of MATLAB Functions

- **Built-in Functions:**
 - Functions provided by MATLAB, e.g., sum, mean, plot.
- **User-defined Functions:**
 - Functions created by users for specific tasks.
- **Anonymous Functions:**
 - One-line functions defined in the command window or script.





Anatomy of a MATLAB Function

- **Structure of a User-defined Function:**

```
function [output1, output2] = functionName(input1, input2)
```

```
% Function Description
```

```
% Code
```

```
end
```

- **Components:**

- **function:** Keyword to define a function.
- **[output1, output2]:** Output arguments (**optional**).
- **functionName:** Name of the function (same as the **filename**).
- **(input1, input2):** Input arguments.





Creating and Using a Function

- Steps to Create a Function:
 - Create a new file with .m extension.
 - Define the function using the function keyword.
 - Save the file with the same name as the function.

- Example:

```
function area = calculateArea(radius)
    % Calculate the area of a circle
    area = pi * radius^2;
end
```

- Usage:

```
r = 5;
A = calculateArea(r);
disp(A);
```





Built-in vs User-defined Functions

Feature	Built-in Functions	User-defined Functions
Availability	Always available	Created by the user
Examples	sin, cos, sum	Custom calculations
Modification	Not modifiable	Fully customizable



Anonymous Functions

- Definition: One-line functions defined without a .m file.
- Syntax:
 $f = @(x) x^2;$
 $result = f(4);$ % Output: 16
- Use Cases:
 - Quick calculations.
 - Inline expressions for plotting.





Input and Output Arguments

- Input Arguments:
 - Variables passed into the function.

- Example:

```
function greet(name)
    disp(['Hello, ', name]);
end
```

- Output Arguments:
 - Variables returned by the function.

- Example:

```
function c = add(a, b)
    c = a + b;
End
```

```
A = add(2,4);
disp(A);
```





Functions with Multiple Outputs

- **Example:**

```
function [sumVal, prodVal] = calculate(a, b)
    sumVal = a + b;
    prodVal = a * b;
end
```

- **Usage:**

```
[s, p] = calculate(3, 4);
disp(s); % 7
disp(p); % 12
```





Practical Example

- **Task:** Create a function to calculate the factorial of a number.

- **Code:**

```
function f = factorial(n)
    if n == 0
        f = 1;
    else
        f = n * factorial(n - 1);
    end
end
```

- **Usage:**

- `result = factorial(5);` % Output: 120





Common Errors and Debugging Tips

- Errors:
 - Mismatched input/output arguments.
 - File name and function name mismatch.
- Debugging Tips:
 - Use the **disp** commands.
 - Check the workspace for variable values.





Summary



- Functions improve modularity and reusability.
- MATLAB supports different types of functions:
 - Built-in, user-defined, anonymous.
- Practice by creating and testing simple function

