



ECE 101 Exploring Electrical Eng.

■ ***MATLAB***

- Arithmetic Operators
- Elementary Math Functions

Arithmetic Operators (Scalar)

Operation	Operator	Key
addition	+	plus
subtraction & negation	-	minus
multiplication	*	asterisk
right division	/	slash
power	^	caret
grouping	()	parentheses

Operator Precedence:

Operation	Association	Precedence
parentheses raise to a power multiplication, division addition, subtraction	Left to Right Left to Right	highest ↑ lowest

- Precedence → specifies which operator is evaluated first when operators of *different* precedence are adjacent
- Association → specifies which operator is evaluated first when operators of the *same* precedence are adjacent

Try these examples (using MATLAB as calculator):

a) $3 + 4 \rightarrow 7$

b) $-1 + 3 \rightarrow 2$

c) $17.52 * 3.14 \rightarrow 55.0128$

d) $3^{1.5} \rightarrow 5.1962$

e) $3^{(3/2)} \rightarrow 5.1962$

f) $3^{3/2} \rightarrow 13.5$

g) $2 * (4+6) \rightarrow 20$

h) $2 * 4 + 6 \rightarrow 14$

j) $2 - 2 * 2 ^ 2 * 2 - 2 \rightarrow -16$

Elementary Math Functions

Function	Description	
abs (x)	Absolute value	$ x $
exp (x)	Exponential	e^x
factorial (x)	Factorial function	$x!$
log (x)	Natural logarithm	$\log_e(x) \equiv \ln(x)$
log10 (x)	Base 10 logarithm	$\log_{10}(x)$
sqrt (x)	Square root	\sqrt{x}

Note: classic mistake is to exchange or confuse $\log(x)$ and $\log_{10}(x)$!

Function	Description (x in degrees)	Inverse Function
sind(x)	Sine of x	asind(x)
cosd(x)	Cosine of x	acosd(x)
tand(x)	Tangent of x	atand(x) atan2d(x)
secd(x)	Secant of x	asecd(x)

MATLAB also supports radians versions of these trig functions, e.g. in `sind(x)` x is in degrees, but in `sin(y)` y is in radians.

Example:

sin(pi/2) $\rightarrow 1$	sind(90) $\rightarrow 1$
asin(1) $\rightarrow 1.5708$	asind(1) $\rightarrow 90$

Examples to try:

$$\text{a) } \frac{3^2 + (-4)^2}{\ln(2)} \rightarrow 3^2 + (-4)^2 / \log(2)$$

$$\text{b) } \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right)}{1 - 5^{1/3}} \rightarrow \cos(\pi/3) / (1 - 5^{1/3})$$

$$\text{c) } \sqrt{2}e^{-(0.2)^2} \rightarrow \text{sqrt}(2) * \exp(-0.2^2)$$

$$\text{d) } \log(|-5.2|) \rightarrow \log10(\text{abs}(-5.2))$$