
Problems NS-1

Plotting complex quantities in Octave/Matlab

Problem # 1: Consider the functions $f(s) = s^2 + 6s + 25$ and $g(s) = s^2 + 6s + 5$.

–Q 1.1

Find the zeros of functions $f(s)$ and $g(s)$ using the command `roots()`.

–Q 1.2: Show the roots of $f(s)$ as red circles and of $g(s)$ as blue plus signs.

The x-axis should display the real part of each root, and the y-axis should display the imaginary part. Use `hold on` and `grid on` when plotting the roots.

–Q 1.3 Give your figure the title ‘Complex Roots of $f(s)$ and $g(s)$ ’ Label the x- and y-axis ‘Real Part’ and ‘Imaginary Part.’

Hint: use `xlabel` and `ylabel`. Type `ylim([-10 10])` and `xlim([-10 10])`, to expand the axes.

Problem # 2: Consider the function $h(t) = e^{j2\pi ft}$ for $f = 5$ and $t = [0:0.01:2]$.

–Q 2.1: Use `subplot` to show the real and imaginary parts of $h(t)$

Make two graphs in one figure. Label the x-axes ‘Time (s)’ and the y-axes ‘Real Part’ and ‘Imaginary Part’.

–Q 2.2: Use `subplot` to plot the magnitude and phase parts of $h(t)$.

Use the command `angle` or `unwrap(angle())` to plot the phase. Label the x-axes ‘Time (s)’ and the y-axes ‘Magnitude’ and ‘Phase (radians)’.

Prime numbers, infinity, etc. in Octave/Matlab

Problem # 3: Prime numbers, infinity, etc.

–Q 3.1: Use the Matlab/Octave function `factor` to find the prime factors of 123, 248, 1767, and 999,999.

–Q 3.2: Use the Matlab/Octave function `isprime` to check if 2, 3 and 4 are prime numbers.

What does the function `isprime` return when a number is prime, or not prime? Why?

–Q 3.3: Use the Matlab/Octave function `primes.m` to generate prime numbers between 1 and 10^6

Save them in a vector `x`. Plot this result using the command `hist(x)`.

–Q 3.4: Now try `[n,bincenters] = hist(x)`.

Use `length(n)` to find the number of bins.

–Q 3.5: Set the number of bins to 100 by using an extra input argument to the function `hist`.

Show the resulting figure and give it a title and axes labels.

Problem # 4: `Inf`, `NaN` and logarithms in Octave/Matlab

–Q 4.1: Try `1/0` and `0/0` in the Octave/Matlab command window.

What are the results? What do these ‘numbers’ mean in Octave/Matlab?

–Q 4.2: Try $\log(0)$, $\log_{10}(0)$ and $\log_2(0)$ in the command window.

In Matlab/Octave, the natural logarithm $\ln(\cdot)$ is computed using the function `log`. Functions \log_{10} , and \log_2 are computed using `log10` and `log2`.

–Q 4.3: Try $\log(1)$ in the command window. What you expect for $\log_{10}(1)$ and $\log_2(1)$?

–Q 4.4: Try $\log(-1)$ in the command window. What do you expect for $\log_{10}(-1)$ and $\log_2(-1)$?

–Q 4.5: Show how Matlab/Octave arrives at the above answer because $-1 = e^{i\pi}$.

–Q 4.6: Try $\log(\exp(j*\sqrt{\pi}))$ (i.e., $\log e^{j\sqrt{\pi}}$) in the command window. What do you expect?

–Q 4.7: What does inverse mean in this context? What is the inverse of $\ln f(x)$?

–Q 4.8: What is a decibel? (Look up decibels on the internet.)

Problem # 5: Very large primes on Intel computers

–Q 5.1: Find the largest prime number that can be stored on an Intel 64 bit computer, which we call π_{\max} .

Hint: As explained in the Matlab/Octave command `help flintmax`, the largest positive integer is 2^{53} , however the largest integer that can be factored is $2^{32} = \sqrt{2^{64}}$. Explain the logic of your answer. Hint: `help isprime()`.

Problem # 6: Suppose you are interested in primes that are greater than π_{\max} . How can you find them on an Intel computer (i.e., one using IEEE-floating point)?

–Q 6.1: Thus consider a sieve containing only odd numbers, starting from 3 (not 2).

Hint 1: Since every prime number greater than 2 is odd, there is no reason to check the even numbers. $n_{\text{odd}} \in \mathbb{N}/2$ contain all the primes other than 2.

Problem # 7: The following identity is interesting:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= 1^2 \\ 1 + 3 &= 2^2 \\ 1 + 3 + 5 &= 3^2 \\ 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 &= 4^2 \\ 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 &= 5^2 \\ &\dots \\ \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} 2n + 1 &= N^2. \end{aligned}$$

–Q 7.1: Can you find a proof?¹

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¹This problem came from an exam problem for Math 213, Fall 2016.