1.1   MATLAB: General properties

MATLAB stands for MATrix LABoratory, its main use is numerical computation, including graphical output. By default, it works as an interpreter and can be used both interactively as well as to parse script files. Additionally, a compiler is available to generate programs that can be run outside the MATLAB environment.

MATLAB is a commercial product that is available for many operating systems. Its first release appeared already 1984. Meanwhile, MATLAB has found widespread use in science, engineering, industry, and economics.