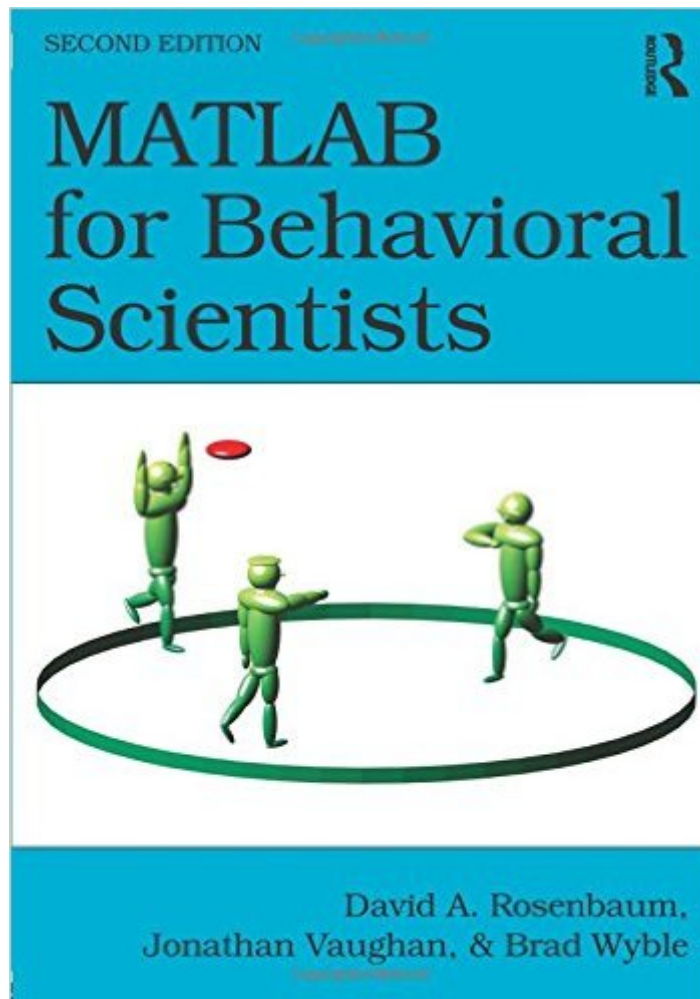


The book was found

MATLAB For Behavioral Scientists, Second Edition



Synopsis

Written specifically for those with no prior programming experience and minimal quantitative training, this accessible text walks behavioral science students and researchers through the process of programming using MATLAB. The book explores examples, terms, and programming needs relevant to those in the behavioral sciences and helps readers perform virtually any computational function in solving their research problems. Principles are illustrated with usable code. Each chapter opens with a list of objectives followed by new commands required to accomplish those goals. These objectives also serve as a reference to help readers easily relocate a section of interest. Sample code and output and chapter problems demonstrate how to write a program and explore a model so readers can see the results obtained using different equations and values. A web site provides solutions to selected problems and the book's program code output and examples so readers can manipulate them as needed. The outputs on the website have color, motion, and sound. Highlights of the new edition include:

- Updated to reflect changes in the most recent version of MATLAB, including special tricks and new functions.
- More information on debugging and common errors and more basic problems in the rudiments of MATLAB to help novice users get up and running more quickly.
- A new chapter on Psychtoolbox, a suite of programs specifically geared to behavioral science research.
- A new chapter on Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs) for user-friendly communication.
- Increased emphasis on pre-allocation of memory, recursion, handles, and matrix algebra operators.

The book opens with an overview of what is to come and tips on how to write clear programs followed by pointers for interacting with MATLAB, including its commands and how to read error messages. The matrices chapter reviews how to store and access data. Chapter 4 examines how to carry out calculations followed by a review of how to perform various actions depending on the conditions. The chapter on input and output demonstrates how to design programs to create dialogs with users (e.g., participants in studies) and read and write data to and from external files. Chapter 7 reviews the data types available in MATLAB. Readers learn how to write a program as a stand-alone module in Chapter 8. In Chapters 9 and 10 readers learn how to create line and bar graphs or reshape images. Readers learn how to create animations and sounds in Chapter 11. The book concludes with tips on how to use MATLAB with applications such as GUIs and Psychtoolbox. Intended as a primary text for Matlab courses for advanced undergraduate and/or graduate students in experimental and cognitive psychology and/or neuroscience as well as a supplementary text for labs in data (statistical) analysis, research methods, and computational modeling (programming), the book also appeals to individual researchers in these disciplines who wish to get up and running in MATLAB.

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Customer Reviews

If you've never programmed before, you have access to the MATLAB computing environment, and you are willing to really work and tinker at programming, this is an excellent book. It starts you from the very first lesson and walks you through the beginnings of MATLAB. I'm biased, as I took the course as Dr. Rosenbaum taught it many years ago, but I'm thoroughly confident that his course and this book are the reason I have a job today. Keep in mind that you're not going to learn everything you need from this book. In fact, the main thing you'll learn are how to ask the right questions of your preferred search engine or online forum! As we might expect, though, from the literature on problem-solving, sometimes being able to define and mentally represent the problem itself is one of the biggest steps in solving the problem. That's what this book gets you -- a way to define and mentally represent the problems you'll be trying to solve as a programmer. MATLAB is a powerful tool for any scientist, and provided you will have access to the MATLAB computing environment, you will be well-served to familiarize yourself with MATLAB. That way when you find yourself thinking, "I don't want to manually tabulate this column" or "if only there were a way to do these data transformation tasks automatically and quickly without involving a spreadsheet program..." -- you'll have another tool in your toolkit! Now, just a quick rundown of who this book is for: if you already know how to program, you might find this book a little irritatingly basic, or you might find that it doesn't tell you the differences between MATLAB and other languages (at least, not in a way that helps you much).

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