

1 Overview

[Org-mode](#) and [matlab-mode](#) provide an efficient and effective system for creating scientific documents which contain MATLAB code and results intermixed with natural language descriptions. You use [org babel](#) to execute source code within org-mode files and insert the results back into the org-mode file. You place source code in code blocks:

```
#+begin_src LANGUAGE <HEADER_OPTIONS>
  <CODE>
#+end_src
```

If you type `C-c C-c` in a matlab code block, org-mode will evaluate the code in the `*MATLAB*` matlab-shell buffer and insert the results into the org file, below the code block. See [Setup and Export](#) below for instructions on how to setup org babel for matlab code blocks and how to use this example as a template.

2 matlab-code blocks

With org-mode you can embed semantically colored code such as MATLAB within your document and semantically edit it using "Org -> Editing -> Edit Source Example" menu or `C-c '`. For example,

```
x = [12, 64, 24];
plotType = 'pie3';

switch plotType
case 'bar'
    bar(x)
    title('Bar Graph')
case {'pie', 'pie3'}
    pie3(x)
    title('Pie Chart')
otherwise
    warning('Unexpected plot type. No plot created.')
end
```

2.1 matlab code block evaluation with output results

The `":results output"` matlab code block header option instructs org to insert the MATLAB command window output. The `":exports both"` header option says, keep the MATLAB code and also the results when exporting. If you want to see only the results, leave off the `":exports both"` option.

```
disp('The results are:')
a = [1, 2; 3, 4]
b = a * 2
```

The results are:

a =

1	2
3	4

b =

2	4
6	8

2.2 org matlab code block evaluation reuses the *MATLAB* shell buffer

MATLAB code block evaluation reuses the *MATLAB* buffer created by M-x `matlab-shell`. The MATLAB workspace state is maintained between evaluations. To avoid reuse of state, you can clear the MATLAB workspace. You can see the history of the evaluations in the *MATLAB* buffer. For example, evaluation of the following in order illustrates how state is maintained between the code blocks.

1. First code block

```
a = 123  
  
a =  
  
123
```

2. Second code block uses the variable `a` created by the first code block.

```
b = a + 1000  
  
b =  
  
1123
```

3. Third code block clears the workspace and references 'b' which is known:

```
clear  
c = b * 2  
  
Unrecognized function or variable 'b'.
```

2.3 matlab code block evaluation with verbatim results

When the matlab code block header contains `":results verbatim"`, the value of the MATLAB `ans` variable is saved using `writematrix(ans, orgTmpFile, 'Delimiter', 'tab')` and then the contents of the *orgTmpFile* is inserted under the `"#+RESULTS:"`.

```
a = 2 + 3;  
ans = magic(a);
```

17	24	1	8	15
23	5	7	14	16
4	6	13	20	22
10	12	19	21	3
11	18	25	2	9

2.4 matlab code block evaluation with latex results

With the [Symbolic Math Toolbox](#), you can produce L^AT_EX using the header option `":results output latex"`:

```
m = [4*pi, 3*pi; 2*pi, pi];  
result = latex(sym(m));  
disp(result)
```

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4\pi & 3\pi \\ 2\pi & \pi \end{pmatrix}$$

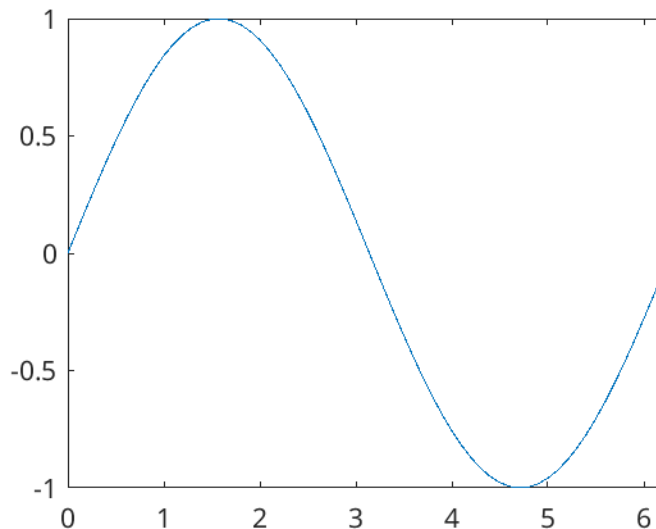
You can use L^AT_EX directly, for example:

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= f_o(t, x_c, x_d, u, P) && \text{-- outputs} && (1) \\ \dot{x}_c(t) &= f_d(t, x_c, x_d, u, P) && \text{-- derivatives} && (2) \\ x_d(t+h) &= f_u(t, x_c, x_d, u, P) && \text{-- update} && (3) \end{aligned}$$

2.5 matlab code block evaluation with figure results

You can use org-mode babel evaluate MATLAB code blocks to plot and insert figures back into this file as well as the published (exported) html, L^AT_EX, pdf, odx (word), etc. file. To do this we use a matlab code block with "results file graphics" header option. After evaluating the code block, org babel will print the current figure, `gcf`, using "print -dpng FILE.png" where the name of FILE.png comes from the ":file FILE.png" header option. In this example, we place the ":file FILE.png" header option on a separate line prior to the matlab code block to aid in clarity.

```
t = [0 : 0.1 : 2*pi];
y = sin(t);
plot(t, y);
set(gcf, 'PaperUnits', 'inches', 'PaperPosition', [0 0 4 3]) % Set the size to 4" x 3"
```



3 Setup and Export

1. Enable MATLAB code block export.

To enable exporting of org containing matlab code blocks, you need to

```
M-x customize-variable RET org-babel-load-languages RET
```

and add matlab, then 'Save for future sessions' using the 'State' button.

If matlab has not been added to org-babel-load-languages, when you try to evaluate a matlab code block, you will see

```
org-babel-execute-src-block: No org-babel-execute function for matlab!
```

2. Use these files as a template for your org files.

```
cd your-working-directory
cp /path/to/Emacs-MATLAB-Mode/examples/matlab-and-org-mode.org your-file.org
cp -r /path/to/Emacs-MATLAB-Mode/examples/css .      # If exporting to html
```

Notice that within the *.org file there are several `#+<comments>`. These setup for L^AT_EX/PDF and HTML export.

3. Configure HTML export.

You need the `htmlize` package (<https://melpa.org/#/htmlize>) to get coloring for HTML export. For HTML export we set the `"#+html_head_extra"` properties in our org file to configure CSS.

HTML export uses

- `css/styles-from-org.css`. This is generated by running
`M-x org-html-htmlize-generate-css`
and you'll want to update this for your version of Emacs.
- `css/styles.css`. This contains customizations which you can edit as desired.

4. Configure PDF export.

To get colored, better looking PDF, use the minted package. This setup can go in your `~/.emacs`:

```
(defun setup-org-pdf ()
  "Customize org PDF generation for color and more."
  (if (not (boundp 'org-latex-src-block-backend))
      (message "Unable to configure org PDF export because it is too old.")
      (setq org-latex-src-block-backend 'minted
            org-latex-packages-alist '(("cache=false" "minted"))
            org-latex-minted-options '(("xleftmargin" "1em")
                                       ("breaklines" "true")
                                       ("fontsize" "\\small"))
            org-latex-image-default-width ""
            ;; Default value of org-latex-pdf-process does not include -shell-escape which is
            ↪ needed for minted
            ;; Also improve latex log file error messages by adding -file-line-error
            org-latex-pdf-process '("%latex -file-line-error -shell-escape -interaction
            ↪ nonstopmode -output-directory %o %f"
                                   "%latex -file-line-error -shell-escape -interaction
            ↪ nonstopmode -output-directory %o %f"
                                   "%latex -file-line-error -shell-escape -interaction
            ↪ nonstopmode -output-directory %o %f")
            ;; Keep *.log files to aid in debugging.
            org-latex-logfiles-extensions (remove "log" org-latex-logfiles-extensions))

  ;; Color the hyperlinks, see
  ;;
  ↪ https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/823/remove-ugly-borders-around-clickable-cross-referenc
  (add-to-list 'org-latex-default-packages-alist
               ↪ '("colorlinks=true,linkcolor={red!50!black},citecolor={blue!50!black},urlcolor={blue!50!black},
                  "hyperref" nil))))

(eval-after-load "ox-latex"
  '(setup-org-pdf))
```

5. Export.

After this setup, you can use the "Org -> Export/Publish" or `C-c C-e` to export to HTML, PDF, etc.