L2-Matlab manual

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Working with Matlab

To be able to work with L2, it is important to be familiar with the Matlab environment. If you have never worked with Matlab before, you should take some time to learn the basics of Matlab before continuing with this document. On the website, you can find the Matlab Primer for Matlab 2014. As most of the basic functionality has not changed recently, this guide can also be used for older versions of Matlab. Below is an overview of the relevant chapters to be able to work with L2.

Chapter 1: Quick Start *(p. 11-40)*

- *Desktop Basics*
- *Matrices and Arrays*
  not obligatory: *Matrix and Array Operations, Complex Numbers*
- *Character Strings*
- *Calling Functions*
- ***not obligatory:*** *2-D and 3-D Plots*
- *Programming and Scripts*
- *Help and Documentation*

Chapter 2: Language Fundamentals *(only p. 60-78)*

- *Indexing*
- *Types of Arrays*

Chapter 3: Mathematics ***(not obligatory)***

Chapter 4: Graphics ***(not obligatory)***

Chapter 5: Programming *(only p. 199-206)*

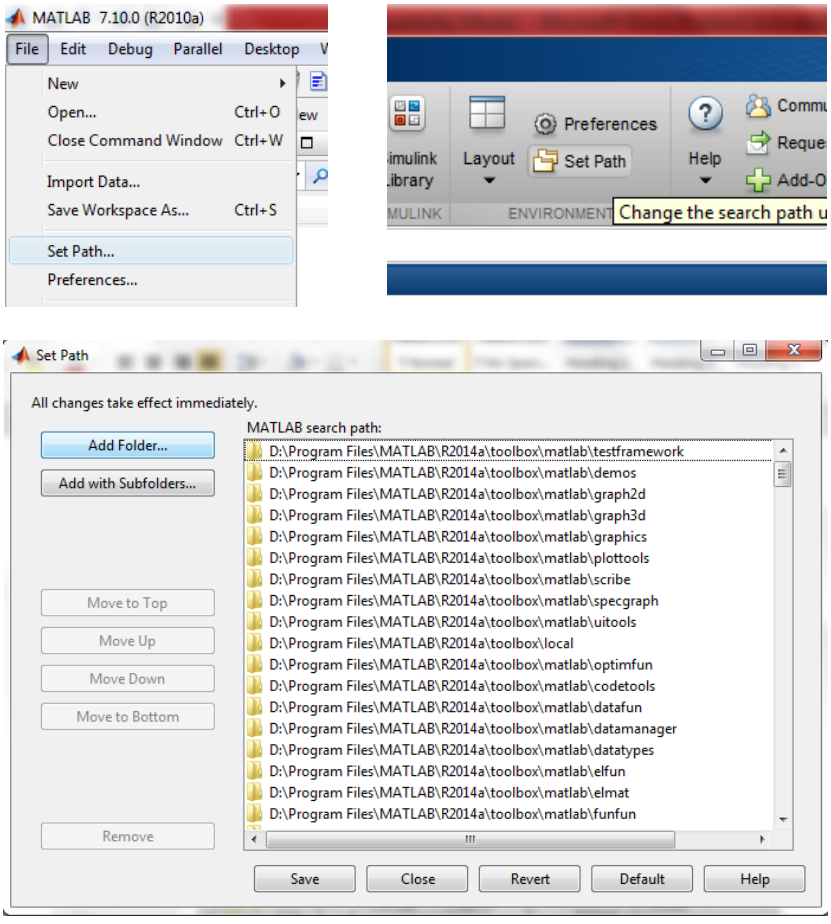
- *Control Flow*

Note, the distinction between arrays, cell arrays and structures is very important in L2. If you are not comfortable with these different data structures, please re-read Chapter 2, Types of Arrays and practice creating, accessing and manipulating them.

Installing L2

You can download the latest version of l2-matlab from `www.few.vu.nl/~jmn300/l2-matlab/`. There are three different versions available, choose the one that fits your needs. When you've downloaded the zip file, unzip it to some folder on your computer.

In Matlab, you need to make sure that it knows where to find the `#l2-matlab` folder. This needs to be done by adding it to the `Matlab Path`. Depending on your version, there are multiple ways this can be done. In older versions, you can probably find a `Set path` under the File menu. More recent versions contain a button `set path` in the `home` bar under `environment`. Afterwards, you need to add the `#l2-matlab` folder and save it for future use. If this has been done correctly and you type `help l2` in the command window, a short explanation should appear.



Terminology

For creating models using l2-matlab, multiple terms are used to indicate something specific. To avoid any confusion, a list of such terms is given below, including an explanation of what is meant by these terms in this document.

`l2-matlab`	The package of Matlab functions used for creating and simulation models.
`model folder`	The folder containing all files for a particular model.
`atom`	A specific value.
`sort`	A set of atoms and/or predicates
`predicate`	A predicate has a name and one or more arguments. Each argument refers to a sort that specifies the possible instantiations for that argument. The term is used for both predicates that are and are not instantiated with specific values.
`scenario`	The initial situation for a simulation.
`rule`	A Matlab function specifying some particular dynamics of the model.
`parameter`	A particular value which is constant throughout a simulation.
`trace`	A description of simulation results.

Defining models in L2

Models in Matlab are defined using a number of `.l2` files containing the static description of the model and one .m file for implementing the dynamics. All these files are contained in a single folder, here after called the `model folder`, by which the model is identified. In this chapter, each of these files are explained, both their structure and function.

sorts.l2

Sorts define particular sets of instances which can be used in your model. In this file, both the possible sorts as well as their values are defined. Each line starts with the name of the sort, followed by a semi-colon and the possible values, separated by commas, enclosed in curly brackets (see below). Furthermore, a predicate can be used as a possible value for a sort, thus creating a possible nested structure for predicates. To indicate a predicate reference, angle brackets are used.

There are two sorts which do not need to be defined and can be used by default. These are `REAL` and `BOOLEAN`. `REAL` contains all real values while `BOOLEAN` contains `true` and `false` as possible values.

sorts.l2

```
sort;       {atom, <predicate>}
sort;       {atom, atom, atom}
…
```

`sort`	Name of the sort
`atom`	Possible value for the sort
`<predicate>`	A predicate that can be nested as a value for `sort`

predicates.l2

A predicate defines a named relation over one or more sorts and are implemented in a similar syntax as used for sorts. Predicates are the main building blocks for your model for which you will define dynamical relations to simulate a particular scenario. Below is the generic structure of a predicates file shown.

predicates.l2

```
predicate;        sort
predicate;        {sort, sort}
…
```

`predicate`	Name of the predicate
`sort`	Sort used in the predicate, as defined in `sorts.l2`

scenarios.l2

A scenario defines the initial situation when you start simulating the model. Therefore, it is possible to define multiple scenarios in a single file. Each scenario is given a unique name, followed by a round (opening) bracket. It is good practice to always define a scenario named `default` first. If during a simulation no specific scenario is given, this default scenario will be used. On the subsequent lines,

predicates and the time points for which these predicates holds are given. Here, a predicate is always completely instatiated, that is for each of its arguments a specific value is given. Time points are given in a Matlab array notation and can make use of the various ways such arrays can be defined in Matlab (see for examples below). At the end of a scenario, a closing round bracket is added, after which any number of other scenarios can be defined. If only a single scenario needs to be defined, the scenario name and round brackets can be left out and each line will be read as part of the default scenario.

```
scenarios.l2
scenario (
      predicate;        time
      predicate;        time
      …
)

scenario (
      …
)
…
```

`scenario`	Name of the scenario
`predicate`	A predicate with values specified
`time`	Timepoints for which the previous atom will hold

- x a single time point x
- [x:y] from timepoint x until y
- [x y ..] for timepoints x, y, etcetera

parameters.l2

Parameters are values that remain constant during a simulation. They are defined similar to scenarios, such that various different sets of parameters can be defined.

```
parameters.l2
set (
      parameter;        value
      parameter;        {value, value}
      …
)

set (
      …
)
…
```

`set`	Name of the set of parameters
`parameter`	Name of the parameter
`value`	The value for the parameter

rules.m

Rules specify the dynamics of the model and are written in Matlab functions. In every rules file, a function as shown below needs to be added at the top. Below that, the custom rules for the model dynamics are added. As this is a major part of the model, more on this will be explained later on.

rules.m

```
function [ fncs ] = rules()
    %DO NOT EDIT
    fncs = l2.getRules();
    for i=1:length(fncs)
        fncs{i} = str2func(fncs{i});
    end
end

%ADD RULES BELOW
function result = rule( trace, params, t )
    %some calculation of new value
    result = {'predicate', time, value};
end
…
```

`function [ fncs ] = rules() … end`
Always add this function exactly as written here to your rules.m file.[1]

```
function result = rule( trace, parameters, t )
    %some calculation of new <value>
    result = {'predicate', time, value};
end
```

`rule`	The name of your rule.
`predicate`	The predicate as defined in predicates.l2 you are setting a new value for.
`time`	The time point this value is true for, usually t+1.
`value`	The value.

[1] As of Matlab 2013b this can be changed to `fncs = localfunctions();` and removing the for loop.

Writing rules

The rules are very important, as they define the dynamic part of a model. However, before we can start writing rules, an understanding is required of how predicates and the trace are represented in Matlab. Therefore, the next two sections will explain more on that, after which the global requirements of a rule are presented and some useful functions in the last two sections.

Predicate format

A predicate is implemented as a separate class in Matlab. A predicate contains a name as well as a list of arguments. There are various ways of creating a predicate in Matlab:

Creating predicates

The most basic way of creating a predicate is with no arguments. In that case, a predicate with no name and an empty argument list is returned.

```
>> p = predicate()

p =

  predicate with properties:

    name: ''
     arg: {}
```

A predicate can be created based on a string. This string contains both the name and the values for that predicate. Here, each of the values will be automatically transformed to the most suitable format; numbers will be stored as numeric values, `true` and `false` as boolean values and anything else as string values.

```
>> p = predicate('name{value1, 2}')

p =

  predicate with properties:

    name: 'name'
     arg: {'value1'  [2]}
```

In the last method, the name and values are given separately, whereby the values are passed on in a cell array with each particular value already in its required format. The name of the predicate is provided as the first argument in a string format.

```
>> p = predicate('name', {'value1', 2})

p =

  predicate with properties:
```

```
    name: 'name'
     arg: {'value1'  [2]}
```

Accessing predicates

The values of a predicate can be accessed via the `name` and `arg` properties. To retrieve the name of a predicate `p`, type `p.name`. Similarly, the arguments of a predicate can be accessed via `p.arg`. As these arguments are stored in a cell array, a particular argument can be retrieved using its index and curly brackets, i.e. `p.arg{2}`.

Operations on predicates

Predicates are implemented in such a way that simple Matlab operations can be performed on predicates that contain a single argument. In that case, values are cast to the required format and the resulting value is returned.

```
>> p = predicate('number{2}');
>> p+2

ans =

     4
```

Note, that due to how Matlab is implemented, some operations will provide you with an answer although it might be different than you might expect.

```
>> p = predicate('text{value1}');
>> p+2

ans =

   120    99   110   119   103    51
```

Currently the following Matlab operators have been implemented:

```
a+b     -a      a.*b    a./b    a/b     a.^b    a<b     a<=b    a~=b    a&b     ~a
a-b     +a      a*b     a.\b    a\b     a^b     a>b     a>=b    a==b    a|b
```

Predicate functions

There are various functions available to work with predicates.

`pred2str`	Convert a predicate to its string representation.
`str2pred`	Convert a string to its predicate representation.
`ispredicate`	Test if a particular variable is a predicate
`predcmp`	Compare two predicates for equality, both can be in either string or predicate format.

Trace format

All simulation results are stored in the model's trace. This trace starts with only that which is defined in the scenario, but is enriched with simulation results at each time step. To access these values within the rules, it is important to understand its structure.

The trace is stored as a Matlab structure, with each time point in its own layer. Thus while trace contains all simulation results, `trace(1)` gives only the results for the first time point and `trace(x)` those for time point *x*. Furthermore, predicates are sorted based on their name. Thus, each predicate has its own field in the trace; `trace.name` gives you all predicates with name `name` for all time points, while `trace(1).name` gives you only those for time point 1 and `trace(1).name(1)` gives you only the first result for time point 1.

At each time point, predicates with a similar name are stored in an array of predicates. Thus `trace(1).name` returns a single predicate array. However, as different time points are stored in separate layers of the trace, retrieving results for multiple time points results in a so-called comma separated list where each time point is returned one after the other. It is possible to 'catch' all these results in a cell array by adding curly brackets around the targeted results; `{trace.name}` returns a single cell array with each cell containing the results for name for a particular time point.

Parameter format

Parameters are stored in a structure similar to the trace. However, as parameters stay constant throughout the simulation, no different time points exist. Thus, if the parameter file defines a parameter *p*, this value can be accessed via `parameters.p`.

Rule format

Each rule is implemented as a single function and follows a similar format. Take a look at the following (empty) rule:

```
function result = rule( trace, parameters, t )
    …
end
```

As can be seen the rule returns a result *result,* is named *rule* and receives three variables. The results will be explained below. The name that is given to each rule can be chosen freely, as long as it does not violate any naming rules of Matlab and each rule is given a unique name. As for the three variables that are provided – *trace, parameters, t* – different names may be chosen as well. The *parameters* contain the parameters in a structure as explained above. The *trace* contains the simulation results up to and including the current time point *t*, again in the structure as explained above.

Using the information provided, any Matlab code can be used to derive results, which are returned by the function. A result can be given in three different formats, but always contain the time point(s) for which the result holds and the predicate itself. The variants are shown below, whereby the first is a cell array with the time point(s) for which the result holds in the first location and the predicate as a string in the second. Alternatively, the predicate can also be given in the predicate format. And lastly, a cell array

can be provided with again the time points in the first place, the targeted predicate name in the second and a cell array of the values in the last place. For the time points, a single time point is sufficient, but alternatively an array of numbers may be used instead in order for the result to hold for multiple time points.

```
result = {t+1, 'name{value1, 2}'}
result = {t+1, predicate('name', {'value1', 2})}
result = {t+1, 'name', {'value1', 2}}
```

To return multiple results, a cell array of results should be created and returned. This can be done in various ways, for example in a for loop as shown below.

```
result = {};
for i=1:

    result = { result{:} {t+1, predicate('name{value1, 2}')} }
end
```

L2 functions

As mentioned, any Matlab code can be used to derive results. However, two functions are available for convenient access to the trace. l2.getall returns all predicates that match a particular pattern, while l2.exists does the same but as a primary result returns a boolean value indicating if any values exist.

The pattern is a predicate, but any value can be substituted by a `~` to indicate any value is ok for that argument. In the predicate these blanks will be represented by a `NaN`, which can be seen as a null value for Matlab. For example, `predicate('name{value1, ~}')` represents a pattern whereby the predicate should be named *name*, the first argument should contain the value *value1*, but any value may be contained at the second argument. Besides such a pattern, a targeted trace and time point are required inputs for the functions.

```
predicates = l2.getall(trace, t, pattern)
```

This function returns all predicates for time point *t* in the trace *trace* that match the pattern *pattern*.

```
[tf, predicates] = l2.exists(trace, t, pattern)
```

This function returns primarily a truth value *tf* indicating if any predicates exists for time point *t* in the trace *trace* that match the pattern *pattern*. If required, the matching predicates are returned as well as a second output.

Similar to the results, the pattern can also be given in string format or as two arguments, one containing the targeted predicate name and the other a cell array with the values. Take notice that you do need to use the `NaN` value instead of the `~`, for example:

```
predicates = l2.getall(trace, t, 'name', {'value1', NaN})
```

L2 models in Matlab

To open, simulate and work with l2-models in Matlab, the `l2` class is used. This class takes care of reading the files, running the simulations and plotting the results. In the following sections each of these aspects are explained.

Constructor

We can construct a l2-model by creating an instance of the l2 class in Matlab. There are various ways this can be done, for example an empty model is created as follows.

```
model = l2();
```

However, most often an l2-model of some description in a model folder has to be created. In that case, the location of the model has to be passed on to the l2 constructor. This can either be relative from the current working directory or an absolute path. In either case, l2 will save this path as an absolute directory, such that the model after creation is independent of the working directory.

```
model = l2('model-folder')
model = l2('C:/path/to/model-folder')
```

Files

L2 looks for a number of files in the model folder. These filenames are by default `sorts.l2`, `predicates.l2` , `parameters.l2`, `scenarios.l2` and `rules.m`. These filenames can be changed, for example by adding the file to be changed and the new filename as additional arguments.

```
model = l2('model-folder', 'sorts', 's.l2', 'rules', 'generic.m')
```

Alternatively, if the model has already been created, the files structure can be accessed directly and change the filenames in that way.

```
model.files.sorts = 's.l2'
model.files.rules = 'generic.m'
```

When using this method, it is important to make sure that the .l2 files are read before the model is simulated. This can be done using the reset function explained below.

Functions

Below, functions to simulate a model and show or save the results are explained. Furthermore, a number of other functions are covered which might be useful in some circumstances.

Simulate

To simulate a model, this function is needed. For a simulation, a maximum number of time steps needs to be provided as well as a scenario and parameter set. For each time step, each of the functions in the rules file will be called once and results are added to the trace as the simulation progresses. Assuming there is only one scenario and parameter set defined (or a 'default' has been created in both), the most basic way of running a simulation is by providing solely the maximum number of time steps. To run the

simulation using another scenario, the name of that scenario is added as a second argument. To use a different parameter set, its name can be added as a third argument. Therefore, when using a different set of parameters, the scenario name always needs to be added. Examples are shown below.

```
model.simulate(10);
model.simulate(10, 'alternative');
model.simulate(10, 'alternative', 'extreme');
model.simulate(10, 'default', 'extreme');
```

Plot

After running a simulation, the results can be shown using the plot command. This can also be used when errors occurred during the simulation to see what results were successfully derived. In its most basic form, this function can be called without any arguments to plot all results. Alternatively, a cell array can be passed along containing a set of predicates to be plotted. If the results do not fit on the screen, multiple windows will be created.

```
model.plot();
model.plot({'pred2', 'pred4'});
```

When plotting results, the graph differs depending on the sorts used in a predicate. Predicates with a single boolean value are plotted with a dark blue line on top when that predicate is true during that time point, a greenish line at the bottom if it is false, or nothing if it is unknown or does not exist. Predicates with a single real value are plotted as a graph, and predicates with a real value and one other sort are combined using multiple lines in the same graph. More default plotting functions might be added in the future, but if these results do not suffice you can add custom plotting functions. This is explained in the advanced features chapter below.

Export

Exporting results is similar to plotting results, but instead of showing the results on the screen, they are saved to one or more files. Therefore, a filename needs to be provided to the function, and in line with the plot function a cell array of predicates to plot may be added if desired. The resulting files will roughly be of size A4 or smaller and if results do not fit, multiple files are created. For the filetype, an attempt is made to read the extensions given in the filename. If this fails, a png will be created by default.

```
model.export('filename.pdf');
model.export('filename', {'pred2', 'pred4'});
```

Reset

If an instance of l2 is created, .l2 files are read. In some cases, the external file may change or a different file should be used. In those cases the reset function should be called to force the l2 class to reread these external files. It is possible to change the model folder or filenames while using reset by providing pairs of names and filenames. In contrast with the constructor, a model folder cannot be simply added as the first argument, but needs to be preceded by a `'model'` argument.

```
model.reset();
model.reset('model', 'new_model_folder', 'sorts', 's.l2');
```

Validate

Each predicate that is added to the trace is validated against the definitions in the sorts and predicates files. If for some reason you would like to validate any predicate against a model description, this can be done by using this function and passing a predicate (in predicate form only) to this method. Returned is a boolean value indicating if the predicate adheres to the model definition and if not, the resulting error is returned as an optional second output value.

```
model.validate( predicate('name{value1,2}') );
[tf, err] = model.validate( predicate('name', {'value1',2}) );
```

Advanced features

The section below explains some more advanced uses of l2-matlab. For regular use, this functionality is not required, but it may be useful in some project.

Custom plot functions

There is a limited number of plotting functions available by default. In some circumstances, it can be useful to create your own function to plot some predicate. Therefore, l2-matlab tries to figure out before plotting what the best method is for a particular method. On top of that list are custom plotting functions defined in the model folder. Thus, for any predicate *X*, l2-matlab first checks the model folder for a function `plot_X.m`. If that function exist, it is used to plot that predicate, otherwise l2-matlab falls back on any of the default plotting functions.

When creating such a plotting function, two variables are passed to the function, the complete model and the predicate to be plotted. To be returned is an array of one or more figure handles and an equally long array of heights of those figures (in mm). L2-matlab will copy each of these figures in the overview, whereby the x-axis is changed to match simulation length (and any labels are cleared). The ylabel is printed in bold face and should contain the title of the graph. Any legend in the graph is copied as well and placed horizontally in the best position.

```
function [figs, heights] = plot_X( model, pred )

end
```

How the figure or figures are created within the function is up to you. It might be helpful to base any custom function on any of the default plotting functions, which can be found in the `#l2-matlab` folder, under `@l2/private`. Furthermore, the example `03_IAPS_picures` also uses a custom plot function for the emotion predicate and can be used as an example.

Parameter tuning *(beta)*

Using a custom fitness function for your model, it is possible to tune one or more parameters using an evolutionary algorithm. In the following sections an explanation is given on how to write this fitness functions and subsequently how to use both the evaluate and tune functions.

fitness.m

To start to evaluate your simulation results or tune any of the parameters, an fitness function is required. This consists of a separate .m file in your model folder, containing a fitness function using the following format.

```
function [ score ] = fitness( model )

end
```

As you can see, the model is provided and only a single score should be returned. The model itself always contains a trace file containing the simulation results to be scored. Furthermore, it is necessary to write your fitness function in such a way that a score of 0 represents a perfect result, with higher scores representing worse results.

evaluate

The function evaluate is used to calculate the fitness of a particular trace. The basic way of using this function is as follows, resulting in a fitness score of the current trace.

```
model.evaluate()
```

However, it is also possible to provide additional information, in which case those arguments will be used to first simulate the model after which the resulting trace will be evaluated. Thus, any method of using the simulate function can be used for calling the evaluate function as well.

tune

When a fitness function is available, it is possible to tune one or more parameters of your model. For this, an evolutionary algorithm is used to come up with a good set of parameters based on that fitness function. Take note that using this function might require a large amount of time as many simulations have to be run in order to evaluate numerous parameter values. Furthermore, as this method is made to be as generic as possible, there is no guarantee what so ever that the resulting parameters are optimal or even very good. Having said that, let's take a look at how to use this function.

```
model.tune({'param1', [0 1], 'param2', [1:10], 'param3', 'SORT1'}, 5)
```

As a first argument, a cell array of parameters to be tuned is given. Following each of the parameter names in the cell array, the possible values of that parameter are given. For numeric parameters either a range of real numbers is given by its minimal and maximal value as for `param1` above, or the precise set of possible values as is done for `param2`. The last possibility is to provide a specific (non-numeric) sort as the possible values for a parameter, for example BOOLEAN or a custom sort as is done for `param3`. As a second argument for tuning, the simulation length for each evaluation is given. Thus, in this example, three parameters are tuned on simulations of length 5.

Above, the model is tuned on the default scenario. However, it is also possible to tune on a different scenario or even multiple scenarios at once. As a third argument, the name or names of those scenarios are given, as shown below.

```
model.tune({..}, 5, 'alternative')
model.tune({..}, 5, {'default' 'alternative'})
```

Optionally, a fourth and last argument can be added to change the base parameter set used for simulating the model. As it is not required to tune all parameters, this provides the flexibility to change the remaining parameters using the parameter sets as defined in `parameters.l2`. As with simulating models, this requires the scenario to be specified even when the default scenario should be used.

```
model.TUNE({..}, 5, 'default', 'extreme')
```