Nonlinear Equations in Matlab

Jake Blanchard
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Introduction

- Nonlinear algebraic equations are encountered in many scientific applications
- fzero will solve single equations
- Matlab's fsolve command can solve these
- Nonlinearity implies potential for
 - No solution
 - Multiple solutions
- You may need a pretty good guess at solution

Model Problem

$$x^{2} + 2y^{2} - 5x + 7y = 40$$
$$3x^{2} - y^{2} + 4x + 2y = 28$$

Convert to Functions

$$x^{2} + 2y^{2} - 5x + 7y - 40 = 0$$
$$3x^{2} - y^{2} + 4x + 2y - 28 = 0$$

How Does fsolve work?

- This command finds the roots of systems of functions
- We supply a set of functions and Matlab will find all the independent variables such that all the functions are zero (or nearzero)
- Solution is iterative, so we must provide guess

Define Functions

```
function fcns=eqns(z)

x=z(1);

y=z(2);

fcns(1)=x.^2+2*y.^2-5*x+7*y-40;

fcns(2)=3*x.^2-y.^2+4*x+2*y-28;

end
```

Save this to a file called eqns.m

Define Functions

```
function fcns=eqns(z)

x=z(1);

y=z(2);

fcns(1)=x.^2+2*y.^2-5*x+7*y-40;

fcns(2)=3*x.^2-y.^2+4*x+2*y-28;

end
```

Save this to a file called eqns.m

Calling the solver

```
guess=[2 3];
result=fsolve(@eqns, guess)
```

Or

The Full Code

```
function solveeqs()
guess=[2 3];
[result, fval, exit, output]=fsolve(@eqns, guess);
result
fval
eqns(guess)
output
end
function fcns=eqns(z)
x=z(1);
y=z(2);
fcns(1)=x.^2+2*y.^2-5*x+7*y-40;
fcns(2)=3*x.^2-y.^2+4*x+2*y-28;
end
```