

Packaging Octave in Debian

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Debian for Scientific Facilities Days
ESFR, Grenoble
2012-06-25

What is Octave?

Octave is:

- ▶ a “Matlab clone” (sort of)
- ▶ a scripting language (\neq Matlab, but compatible)
- ▶ a library for linear algebra and scientific applications

Octave is **not** (in contrast to Matlab and Scilab):

- ▶ a program for creating GUI applications
- ▶ an Integrated Development Environment (IDE)

At the end of the day, Octave is just:

- ▶ a software for geeks (according to S. Ledru)

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Octave language & extensions in C++

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 11 \\ 17 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
b = [1; 2];  
A = [3, 4; 5, 6];  
C = A * b;
```

Octave

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ColumnVector b (2);  
b(0) = 1; b(1) = 2;  
Matrix A (2, 2);  
A(0,0) = 3; A(0,1) = 4;  
A(1,0) = 5; A(1,1) = 6;  
Matrix C = A * b;
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Them (Matlab)

MATLAB
ing the pace of engineering and science

Products & Services Industries Academia Support User Communities

About The MathWorks

Overview

The MathWorks is the leading developer and supplier of software for technical computing and Model-Based Design. Employing more than 2,000 people, The MathWorks was founded in 1984 and is headquartered in Natick, Massachusetts, with offices and representatives throughout the world. The company has been profitable every year since its inception and is privately held.

Over 1,000,000 engineers and scientists in more than 100 countries, on all seven continents, use MATLAB® and Simulink®. These products have become fundamental tools for work at the world's most innovative technology companies, government research labs, financial institutions, and at more than 3,500 universities.

MATLAB and Simulink users are making better and faster progress in vital areas; they are advancing our knowledge of the earth, the environment, and the universe; they are making our cars safer and more fuel efficient, and improving air travel safety; they are making our phone calls clearer and measurement devices more accurate; they are making



Us (Octave upstream author)



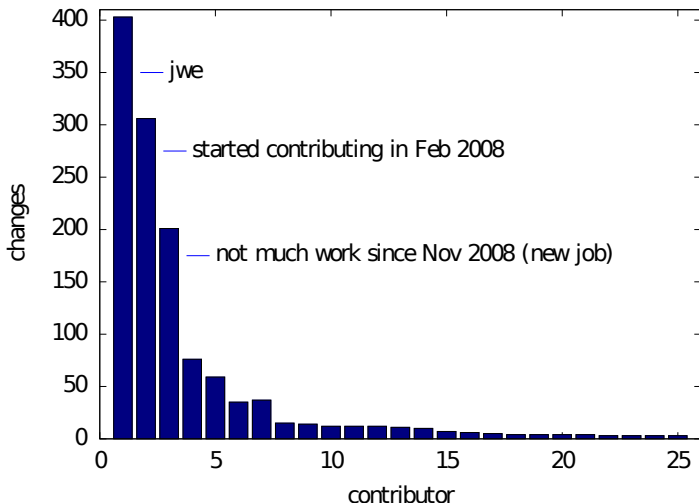
John W. Eaton

Us (Octave contributors)



(credits J. W. Eaton — Libre Planet 2009)

Us (changes per contributor since January 2008)



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- 01/1993 First announcement on web (version 0.60)
- 02/1994 First real release (ready for wider distribution?)
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- 05/2011 Version 3.4
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- ▶ First release (version 2.0.5) in 03/1997
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- ▶ Versioned package names (octave2.0, octave2.1, octave2.9, octave3.0, octave3.1, octave3.2)
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- ▶ Creation of the `octave-pkg-dev` helper, reducing `debian/rules` to a one-line file:

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- ▶ I retired from Debian in 2009, work slowed down, `octave3.4`, in experimental, was never released
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- ▶ 3.2 → 3.6 transition

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ad	ga	nnet	secs2d
ann	general	nurbs	secs3d
audio	generate-html	ocs	signal
benchmark	geometry	oct2mat	simp
bim	gnuplot	octcdf	sockets
bioinfo	gsl	octclip	specfun
civil-engineering	ident	octgpr	special-matrix
combinatorics	image	octproj	spline-gcvspl
communications	informationtheory	odebvp	splines
control	integration	odepkg	statistics
data-smoothing	io	openmpi-ext	strings
database	irsa	optim	struct
dataframe	java	optiminterp	syband
dicom	linear-algebra	outliers	symbolic
econometrics	mapping	parallel	tcl-octave
engine	mechanics	pdb	time
es	miscellaneous	physicalconstants	tsa
fenv	missing-functions	plot	video
financial	msh	pt-br	vrml
fits	multicore	quaternion	windows
fl-core	nan	queueing	zenity
fpl			

● in wheezy (56), ● in squeeze (19), ● not packaged (24)

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mapping
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miscellaneous
missing-functions
msh
multicore
nan

nlwing2
nnet
nurbs
ocs
oct2mat
octcdf
octclip
octgpr
octproj
odebvp
odepkg
openmpi-ext
optim
optiminterp
outliers
parallel
pdb
physicalconstants
plot
pt-br
quaternion
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secs3d
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simp
sockets
specfun
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Other packages in Debian depending on Octave

cantor-backend-octave
dynare
education-mathematics
fsl-4.1
h5utils
med-physics
mrtrix
mwrap
octave-epstk
octave-lhapdf
octave-pfstools
octave-psychtoolbox-3

octave-sundials
python-scitools
qtoctave
sbmltoolbox
science-mathematics
science-numericalcomputation
science-robotics
sdpam
texmacs
wims
xmds

Future of the DOG

- ▶ We usually do not bark, we just work
- ▶ “We” = 9 members of the pkg-octave project at Alioth, but only 3 are active (1 DD, 1 DM, 1 retired DD)
- ▶ Package the rest of Octave-Forge (?)
- ▶ Better integrate the other Debian packages (?)
- ▶ Huge amount of Matlab code around: package them (?)
- ▶ Key issue: bring new blood into the Group

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- ▶ Better integrate the other Debian packages (?)
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Links

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Future of the DOG

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