

# Matlab primer

# A Matlab Cheat-sheet (MIT 18.06, Fall 2007)

## Basics:

save 'file.mat'      save variables to *file.mat*  
load 'file.mat'      load variables from *file.mat*  
diary on              record input/output to file *diary*  
diary off             stop recording  
whos                  list all variables currently defined  
clear                 delete/undefine all variables  
help command        quick help on a given *command*  
doc command         extensive help on a given *command*

## Defining/changing variables:

$x = 3$                 define variable  $x$  to be 3  
 $x = [1 \ 2 \ 3]$         set  $x$  to the  $1 \times 3$  row-vector (1,2,3)  
 $x = [1 \ 2 \ 3];$        same, but don't echo  $x$  to output  
 $x = [1; 2; 3]$         set  $x$  to the  $3 \times 1$  column-vector (1,2,3)  
 $A = [1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4; 5 \ 6 \ 7 \ 8; 9 \ 10 \ 11 \ 12];$   
                      set  $A$  to the  $3 \times 4$  matrix with rows 1,2,3,4 etc.  
 $x(2) = 7$             change  $x$  from (1,2,3) to (1,7,3)  
 $A(2,1) = 0$          change  $A_{2,1}$  from 5 to 0

## Arithmetic and functions of numbers:

$3*4$ ,  $7+4$ ,  $2-6$   $8/3$     multiply, add, subtract, and divide numbers  
 $3^7$ ,  $3^{(8+2i)}$           compute 3 to the 7th power, or 3 to the  $8+2i$  power  
sqrt(-5)              compute the square root of -5  
exp(12)                compute  $e^{12}$   
log(3), log10(100)    compute the natural log (ln) and base-10 log ( $\log_{10}$ )  
abs(-5)                compute the absolute value |-5|  
sin(5\*pi/3)            compute the sine of  $5\pi/3$   
besselj(2,6)          compute the Bessel function  $J_2(6)$

## Arithmetic and functions of vectors and matrices:

$x * 3$                 multiply every element of  $x$  by 3  
 $x + 2$                 add 2 to every element of  $x$   
 $x + y$                 element-wise addition of two vectors  $x$  and  $y$   
 $A * y$                 product of a matrix  $A$  and a vector  $y$   
 $A * B$                 product of two matrices  $A$  and  $B$   
 $x * y$                 not allowed if  $x$  and  $y$  are two column vectors!  
 $x .* y$                 element-wise product of vectors  $x$  and  $y$   
 $A^3$                   the square matrix  $A$  to the 3rd power  
 $x^3$                   not allowed if  $x$  is not a square matrix!  
 $x.^3$                 every element of  $x$  is taken to the 3rd power  
cos(x)                the cosine of every element of  $x$   
abs(A)                the absolute value of every element of  $A$   
exp(A)                 $e$  to the power of every element of  $A$   
sqrt(A)                the square root of every element of  $A$   
expm(A)                the matrix exponential  $e^A$   
sqrtm(A)                the matrix whose square is  $A$

## Transposes and dot products:

$x.'$ ,  $A.'$               the transposes of  $x$  and  $A$   
 $x'$ ,  $A'$               the complex-conjugate of the transposes of  $x$  and  $A$   
 $x' * y$                 the dot (inner) product of two column vectors  $x$  and  $y$   
dot(x,y), sum(x.\*y) ...two other ways to write the dot product  
 $x * y'$                 the outer product of two column vectors  $x$  and  $y$

## Constructing a few simple matrices:

rand(12,4)            a  $12 \times 4$  matrix with uniform random numbers in [0,1)  
randn(12,4)          a  $12 \times 4$  matrix with Gaussian random (center 0, variance 1)  
zeros(12,4)          a  $12 \times 4$  matrix of zeros  
ones(12,4)            a  $12 \times 4$  matrix of ones  
eye(5)                a  $5 \times 5$  identity matrix  $I$  ("eye")  
eye(12,4)            a  $12 \times 4$  matrix whose first 4 rows are the  $4 \times 4$  identity  
linspace(1.2, 4.7, 100)    row vector of 100 equally-spaced numbers from 1.2 to 4.7  
7:15                  row vector of 7,8,9,...,14,15  
diag(x)                matrix whose diagonal is the entries of  $x$  (and other elements = 0)

## Portions of matrices and vectors:

$x(2:12)$              the 2nd to the 12th elements of  $x$   
 $x(2:end)$             the 2nd to the last elements of  $x$   
 $x(1:3:end)$           every third element of  $x$ , from 1st to the last  
 $x(:)$                   all the elements of  $x$   
 $A(5,:)$                 the row vector of every element in the 5th row of  $A$   
 $A(5,1:3)$              the row vector of the first 3 elements in the 5th row of  $A$   
 $A(:,2)$                 the column vector of every element in the 2nd column of  $A$   
diag(A)                column vector of the diagonal elements of  $A$

## Solving linear equations:

$A \setminus b$               for  $A$  a matrix and  $b$  a column vector, the solution  $x$  to  $Ax=b$   
inv(A)                the inverse matrix  $A^{-1}$   
[L,U,P] = lu(A)        the LU factorization  $PA=LU$   
eig(A)                the eigenvalues of  $A$   
[V,D] = eig(A)        the columns of  $V$  are the eigenvectors of  $A$ , and  
                          the diagonals diag(D) are the eigenvalues of  $A$

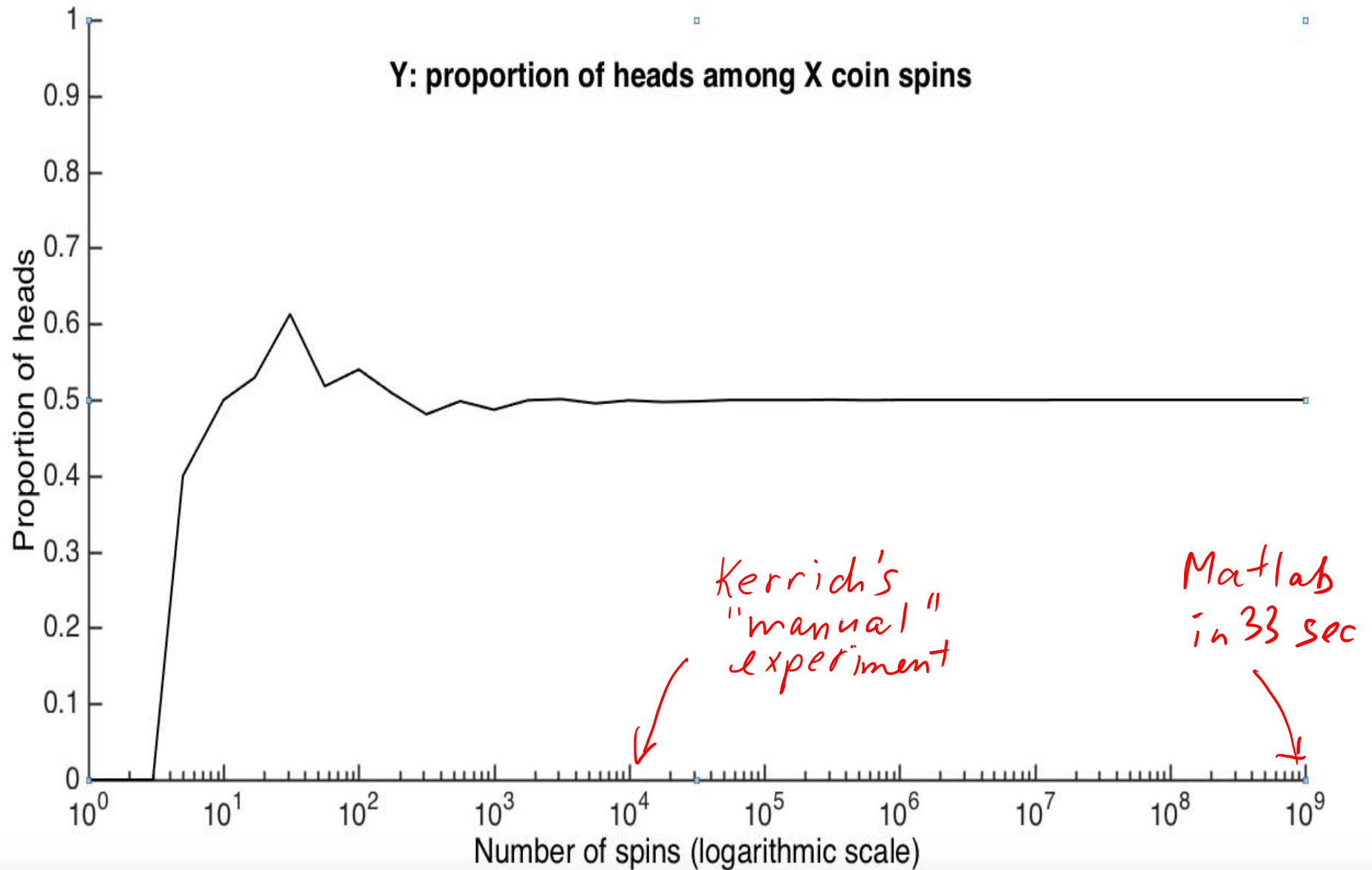
## Plotting:

plot(y)                plot  $y$  as the  $y$  axis, with 1,2,3,... as the  $x$  axis  
plot(x,y)              plot  $y$  versus  $x$  (must have same length)  
plot(x,A)              plot columns of  $A$  versus  $x$  (must have same # rows)  
loglog(x,y)            plot  $y$  versus  $x$  on a log-log scale  
semilogx(x,y)          plot  $y$  versus  $x$  with  $x$  on a log scale  
semilogy(x,y)          plot  $y$  versus  $x$  with  $y$  on a log scale  
fplot(@(x) ...expression..., [a,b])  
                          plot some expression in  $x$  from  $x=a$  to  $x=b$   
axis equal             force the  $x$  and  $y$  axes of the current plot to be scaled equally  
title('A Title')        add a title  $A$  Title at the top of the plot  
xlabel('blah')          label the  $x$  axis as *blah*  
ylabel('blah')          label the  $y$  axis as *blah*  
legend('foo', 'bar')    label 2 curves in the plot *foo* and *bar*  
grid                    include a grid in the plot  
figure                  open up a new figure window

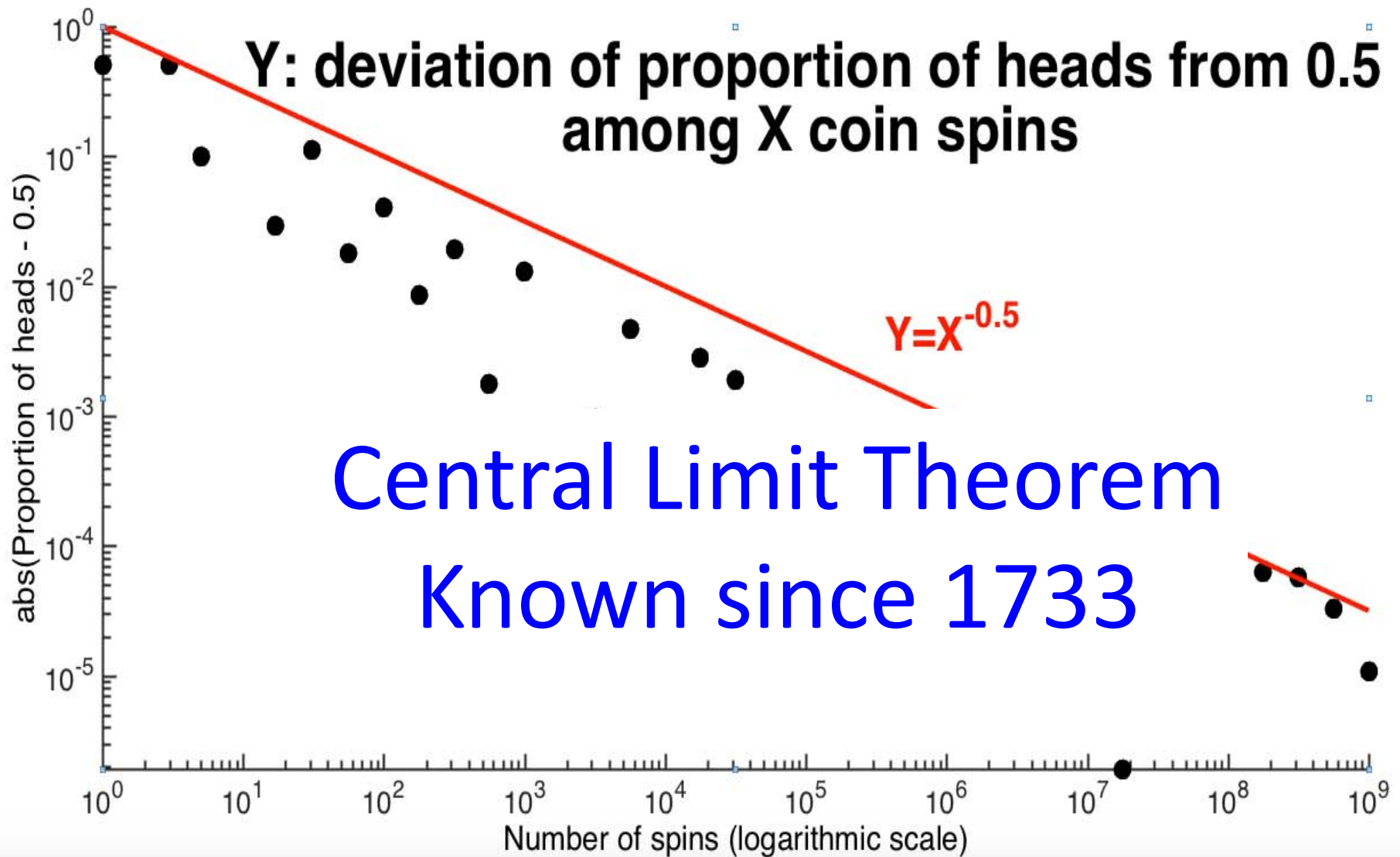
<http://web.mit.edu/18.06/www/Spring09/matlab-cheatsheet.pdf>

# How I did it

- Stats=1e7;
- r0=rand(Stats,1);
- r1=floor(2.\*r0);
- n\_heads(1)=r1(1);
- for t=2:Stats; n\_heads(t)=n\_heads(t-1)+r1(t); end;
- tp=[1, 10,100,1000, 10000, 100000, 1000000, 10000000]
- np=n\_heads(tp)
- fp=np./tp
- figure; semilogx(tp,fp,'ko-');
- hold on; semilogx([1,10000000],[0.5,0.5],'r--');
- figure; loglog(tp,abs(fp-0.5),'ko-');
- hold on; loglog(tp,0.5./sqrt(tp),'r--');



Proportion of heads among 1,000,000,000 coin tosses  
(10<sup>5</sup> more than Kerrich) took me 33 seconds on my Surface Book



ABS(Proportion of heads-0.5)  
among 100,000,000 coin tosses

# Two definitions of probability

- (1) **STATISTICAL PROBABILITY**: the relative frequency with which an event occurs in the long run
- (2) **INDUCTIVE PROBABILITY**: the degree of belief which it is reasonable to place in a proposition on given evidence

# Inductive Probability

An inductive probability of an event the degree of belief which it is rational to place in a hypothesis or proposition on given evidence.

Logical

# Principle of indifference

- **Principle of Indifference** states that two **events are equally probable** if we have **no reason to suppose** that one of them will happen rather than the other. (Laplace, 1814)

- Unbiased coin:  
probability Heads =  
probability Tails =  $\frac{1}{2}$

- Symmetric die:  
probability of each side =  $\frac{1}{6}$

**Pierre-Simon,  
marquis de Laplace**  
(1749 –1827)  
French mathematician,  
physicist, astronomer





# Inductive probability can lead to trouble

- Glass contains a mixture of wine and water
- We know: proportion of water to wine can be anywhere between 1:1 and 2:1
- We can argue that the proportion of water to wine is equally likely to lie between 1 and 1.5 as between 1.5 and 2.
- Consider now the ratio of wine to water. This quantity must lie between 0.5 and 1, and we can use the same argument to show that it is equally likely to lie between  $1/2$  and  $3/4$  as it is to lie between  $3/4$  and 1.
- But this means that the water to wine ratio is equally likely to lie between 1 and  $4/3=1.333...$  as it is to lie between 1.333.. and 2
- This is clearly inconsistent with the previous calculation

Bertrand's paradox

Inductive probability  
relies on combinatorics  
or the art of counting  
combinations

# Counting – Multiplication Rule

- Multiplication rule:
  - Let an operation consist of  $k$  steps and
    - $n_1$  ways of completing step 1,
    - $n_2$  ways of completing step 2, ... and
    - $n_k$  ways of completing step  $k$ .
  - Then, the total number of ways or outcomes are:
    - $n_1 * n_2 * \dots * n_k$
- Example:
  - $S = \{A, C, G, T\}$  the set of 4 DNA bases
  - Number of  $k$ -mers is  $4^k = 4 * 4 * 4 \dots * 4$  ( $k$  –times)  
Important example: 64 triplets in the genetic code
  - A protein-coding part of the gene is typically 1000 bases long  
There are  $4^{1000} = 2^{2000} \sim 10^{600}$  possible sequences of  
**just one gene**. Or  $(10^{600})^{25,000} = 10^{15,000,000}$  of 25,000 human genes.  
For comparison, the Universe has between  $10^{78}$  and  $10^{80}$  atoms and is  $4 * 10^{17}$  seconds old.

# Counting – Permutation Rule

- A permutation is a unique sequence of distinct items.
- If  $S = \{a, b, c\}$ , then there are 6 permutations
  - Namely: abc, acb, bac, bca, cab, cba (**order matters**)
- # of permutations for a set of  $n$  items is  $n!$
- $n!$  (factorial function) =  $n * (n-1) * (n-2) * \dots * 2 * 1$
- $7! = 7 * 6 * 5 * 4 * 3 * 2 * 1 = 5,040$
- By definition:  $0! = 1$

# Counting - Similar Item Permutations

- Used for counting the sequences when not all the items are different.
- The number of permutations of:
  - $n = n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_r$  items of which
    - $n_1$  are identical,
    - $n_2$  are identical, ... , and
    - $n_r$  are identical.
- Is calculated as: 
$$\frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! \dots n_r!}$$

# WHY ARE THERE SLAVES IN THE BIBLE

WHY DO TWINS HAVE DIFFERENT FINGERPRINTS  
WHY ARE AMERICANS AFRAID OF DRAGONS  
WHY IS HTTPS CROSSED OUT IN RED  
WHY IS THERE A LINE THROUGH HTTPS  
WHY IS THERE A RED LINE THROUGH HTTPS ON FACEBOOK  
WHY IS HTTPS IMPORTANT

Credit: XKCD  
comics

## QUESTIONS FOUND IN GOOGLE AUTOCOMPLETE



WHY ARE THERE WEEKS IN MAY DO I FEEL DIZZY

WHY DO WHALES JUMP  
WHY ARE WITCHES GREEN  
WHY ARE THERE MIRRORS ABOVE BEDS  
WHY DO I SAY UH  
WHY IS SEA SALT BETTER  
WHY ARE THERE TREES IN THE MIDDLE OF FIELDS  
WHY IS THERE NOT A POKEMON MMO  
WHY IS THERE LAUGHING IN TV SHOWS  
WHY ARE THERE DOORS ON THE FREEWAY  
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY SVCHOST.EXE RUNNING  
WHY AREN'T THERE ANY COUNTRIES IN ANTARCTICA  
WHY ARE THERE SCARY SOUNDS IN MINECRAFT  
WHY IS THERE KICKING IN MY STOMACH  
WHY ARE THERE TWO SLASHES AFTER HTTP  
WHY ARE THERE CELEBRITIES  
WHY DO SNAKES EXIST  
WHY DO OYSTERS HAVE PEARLS  
WHY ARE DUCKS CALLED DUCKS  
WHY DO THEY CALL IT THE CLAP  
WHY ARE KYLE AND CARTMAN FRIENDS  
WHY IS THERE AN ARROW ON AANG'S HEAD  
WHY ARE TEXT MESSAGES BLUE  
WHY ARE THERE MUSTACHES ON CLOTHES  
WHY ARE THERE MUSTACHES ON CARS  
WHY ARE THERE MUSTACHES EVERYWHERE  
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY BIRDS IN OHIO  
WHY IS THERE SO MUCH RAIN IN OHIO  
WHY IS OHIO WEATHER SO WEIRD  
WHY ARE THERE MALE AND FEMALE BIKES

WHY ARE THERE BRIDESMAIDS  
WHY DO DYING PEOPLE REACH UP  
WHY AREN'T THERE VARIOUS PRIETIES  
WHY ARE OLD KLINGONS DIFFERENT



WHY IS PROGRAMMING SO HARD  
WHY IS THERE A 0 OHM RESISTOR  
WHY DO AMERICANS HATE SOCCER  
WHY DO RHYMES SOUND GOOD  
WHY DO TREES DIE  
WHY IS THERE NO SOUND ON CNN  
WHY AREN'T POKEMON REAL  
WHY AREN'T BULLETS SHARP  
WHY DO DREAMS SEEM SO REAL

WHY AREN'T ECONOMISTS RICH  
WHY DO AMERICANS CALL IT SOCCER  
WHY ARE MY EARS RINGING  
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY AVENGERS  
WHY ARE THE AVENGERS FIGHTING THE X MEN  
WHY IS WOLVERINE NOT IN THE AVENGERS

## WHY ARE THERE ANTS IN MY LAPTOP

WHY IS EARTH TILTED  
WHY IS SPACE BLACK  
WHY IS OUTER SPACE SO COLD  
WHY ARE THERE PYRAMIDS ON THE MOON  
WHY IS NASA SHUTTING DOWN



WHY IS THERE AN OWL IN MY BACKYARD  
WHY IS THERE AN OWL OUTSIDE MY WINDOW  
WHY IS THERE AN OWL ON THE DOLLAR BILL  
WHY DO OWLS ATTACK PEOPLE  
WHY ARE AK 47s SO EXPENSIVE  
WHY ARE THERE HELICOPTERS CIRCLING MY HOUSE  
WHY ARE THERE GODS  
WHY ARE THERE TWO SPOCKS

WHY ARE THERE TINY SPIDERS IN MY HOUSE  
WHY DO SPIDERS COME INSIDE  
WHY ARE THERE HUGE SPIDERS IN MY HOUSE  
WHY ARE THERE LOTS OF SPIDERS IN MY HOUSE  
WHY ARE THERE SPIDERS IN MY ROOM  
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY SPIDERS IN MY ROOM  
WHY DO SPIDER BITES ITCH  
WHY IS DYING SO SCARY

WHY IS THERE NO GPS IN LAPTOPS  
WHY DO KNEES CLICK  
WHY AREN'T THERE E GRADES  
WHY IS ISOLATION BAD  
WHY DO BOYS LIKE ME  
WHY DON'T BOYS LIKE ME  
WHY IS THERE ALWAYS A JAVA UPDATE  
WHY ARE THERE RED DOTS ON MY THIGHS  
WHY IS LYING GOOD



WHY IS MT VESUVIUS THERE  
WHY DO THEY SAY T MINUS  
WHY ARE THERE OBELISKS  
WHY ARE WRESTLERS ALWAYS WET  
WHY ARE OCEANS BECOMING MORE ACIDIC  
WHY IS ARWEN DYING  
WHY AREN'T MY QUAIL LAYING EGGS  
WHY AREN'T MY QUAIL EGGS HATCHING  
WHY AREN'T THERE ANY FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN AMERICA

WHY ARE CIGARETTES LEGAL  
WHY ARE THERE DUCKS IN MY POOL  
WHY IS JESUS WHITE  
WHY IS THERE LIQUID IN MY EAR  
WHY DO Q TIPS FEEL GOOD  
WHY DO GOOD PEOPLE DIE



WHY ARE ULTRASOUNDS IMPORTANT  
WHY ARE ULTRASOUND MACHINES EXPENSIVE  
WHY IS STEALING WRONG

WHY ARE DOGS AFRAID OF FIREWORKS  
WHY IS THERE NO KING IN ENGLAND