

Single program, multiple data – spmd

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The `spmd` statement defines a block of code to be run simultaneously on multiple workers that should be reserved using `parpool`.

The first couple of slides are a gentle adaptation of the text in: <https://se.mathworks.com/help/distcomp/spmd.html>

The general form of an `spmd` (single program, multiple data) statement is:

```
spmd
    statements
end
```

MATLAB® executes the `spmd` body denoted by `statements` on several MATLAB workers simultaneously.

Open pool, `parpool`, `labindex`, `numlabs`

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First open a pool of MATLAB workers using `parpool` or have your parallel preferences allow the automatic start of a pool. Inside the body of the `spmd` statement, each MATLAB worker has a unique value of `labindex`, while `numlabs` denotes the total number of workers executing the block in parallel. Within the body of the `spmd` statement, communication functions for communicating jobs (such as `labSend` and `labReceive`) can transfer data between the workers.

```
nlabs=2;    % laptop
% nlabs=16; % Triton
parpool(nlabs)
spmd
    % build magic squares in parallel
    q = magic(labindex + 2);
    % for ii=length(q);figure,imagesc(q{ii});end
    % Works, as q{ii} brings it to the client.
end
```

The variable `q` is a **Composite object**. The value `q{k}` is the value stored in the k^{th} worker.

Composite objects

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```
>> q
q =
  Lab 1: class = double, size = [3 3]
  Lab 2: class = double, size = [4 4]

>> q{1:nlabs}
ans =
     8     1     6
     3     5     7
     4     9     2

ans =
    16     2     3    13
     5    11    10     8
     9     7     6    12
     4    14    15     1
```

Composite objects to cell arrays, results from workers to client

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The variable `q` “behaves” like a cell array. After closing the pool it isn’t available (the workers are gone). Here’s how to bring `q` into the client:

```
Q=cell(1,nlabs);           % Create a cell arrays Q.  
Q(1:nlabs)=q(1:nlabs);    % Copy q to cell array Q.  
% Q=q;                     % Not allowed.  
delete(gcf)               % q no more available, Q remains.  
cellplot(Q), figure  
imagesc(Q{nlabs})         % Plot the last (largest) magic.
```