sort

syntax: `sort(data)`

purpose: Sorts a vector of numerical data in ascending order.

example: ≫ `data = [3 5 2 3 1 4 5 3];`

Sorting the data puts the values in ascending order. Here we will create a new variable, `sdata`, to hold the sorted data set.

≫ `sdata = sort(data)`

ans: *1 2 3 3 3 4 5 5*

It's important to realize that the sort function, like almost every other MATLAB function, does not change the value of its argument. `data` remains exactly as it was:

≫ `data` ⇒ *ans:* *3 5 2 3 1 4 5 3*

The sorted data is in the variable we created to hold the result of `sort(data)`:

≫ `sdata` ⇒ *ans:* *1 2 3 3 3 4 5 5*

To sort in descending order, you can use a quick trick:

≫ `-sort( -data )` ⇒ *ans:* *5 5 4 3 3 3 2 1*

or, you can simply reverse the order of the sorted elements:

≫ `reverse(sort(data))` ⇒ *ans:* *5 5 4 3 3 3 2 1*

`sort` is a built-in MATLAB function.

See also: TAGSORT, DEDUP, REVERSE