TC-Toolbox for MATLAB®

SDK Programmer's Guide

Thermo-Calc Version 2021a

Introduction to the TC-Toolbox for MATLAB®

Thermo-Calc is a general software package for manipulation of thermodynamic quantities and multicomponent phase equilibrium calculations. Currently, there are three application programming interfaces available for Thermo-Calc: TQ-Interface, TC-API and TC-Toolbox for MATLAB. In this guide TC-Toolbox for MATLAB, the interface between Thermo-Calc and MATLAB® is discussed.

In this section:

About TC-Toolbox for MATLAB®

The concept of the application programming interfaces for Thermo-Calc is that an application programmer does not need to understand the Thermo-Calc kernel but can use its powerful features in other programs.

MATLAB® is a flexible software for technical computing and visualization of data. The software has more than 600 mathematical, statistical and engineering functions, and graphical capabilities. It is a matrix-oriented programming language and contains compilers, links and libraries for different scientific applications. This flexibility is enhanced with being able to retrieve thermodynamic and kinetic quantities through the TC-Toolbox for MATLAB®. This programming interface is ideal for fast realization of ideas during research and development activities.
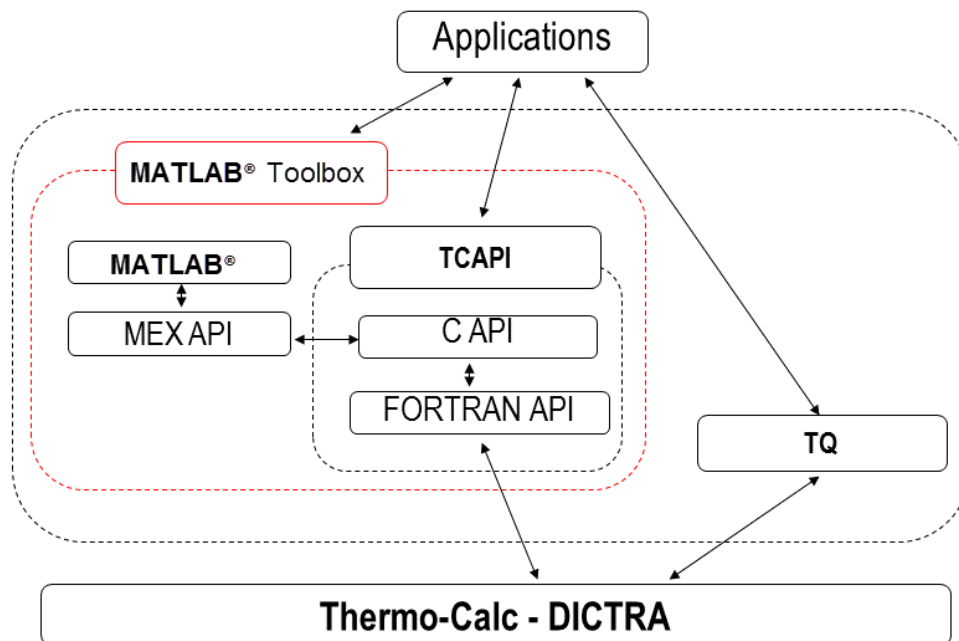
To be able to call MATLAB from programs written in C or FORTRAN there are MEX-files (MATLAB Executable) included with the MATLAB software. These MEX-files were utilised when interfacing MATLAB with Thermo-Calc.

For every Thermo-Calc function implemented in the MEX-files there is a corresponding m-file, making it possible to call Thermo-Calc from MATLAB just by running the corresponding m-file.

More than 50 commands are available for the application programmer. For more information, general functionality and applications of the MATLAB software refer to the documentation provided by the MathWorks Ltd. (www.mathworks.com/help/).

Installing TC-Toolbox for MATLAB®

TC-Toolbox for MATLAB® needs to be installed on the same computer or on a server with the Thermo-Calc software and database package. TC-Toolbox for MATLAB is available for Windows operating systems.

For installation details, see in the *Thermo-Calc Installation Guide* .

How to Test the Installation

Once the installation is complete, you can test the connectivity in MATLAB®.

Start MATLAB and type: **tc_init_root** in the command window and press return. This should result in no return message for a successful installation. All of the commands available in the toolbox are described in this document.

To get a short description of each command type in the command window **help Thermo-Calc-Toolbox** *X* (where *X* is the installed version number of the toolbox).

TC-Toolbox for MATLAB Examples

Examples for the TC-Toolbox are placed under MATLAB® in the same documents folder as the Thermo-Calc files (Documents folder):

    ..\Documents\MATLAB\Thermo-Calc-Toolbox-*X*\Examples

Where *X* is the installed version number of the toolbox.

For most installations the examples are available in the MATLAB window when the software is opened.

For installation details, see in the *Thermo-Calc Installation Guide*.

Example Descriptions

Example Name	Description
ex01.m	Calculation of a single equilibrium in Fe-Cr-C at 1200 K.
ex02.m	Calculation of a molar Gibbs energy surface in an Al-Cu-Si alloy.
calc_para_ eq.m paraf.m qparaf.m	Example 3. calc_para_eq.m (calls the functions paraf.m and qparaf.m) Calculation of paraequilibrium and quasi-paraconditions for an alloy with at least one interstitial component (e.g. N or C). Demonstrates also the coding of an interactive program.
ex04.m	Calculation of the so-called T-zero line in Fe-C.
ex05.m	Calculation of the influence of composition on the A3 temperature in an Fe-Cr-C alloy. The A3 temperature is calculated for a large number of uniformly distributed compositions in composition space. The carbon content belongs to the interval [1E-4:5E-3] (weight fraction) and the cromium content belongs to the interval [1E-2,3E-2]. The relative frequency (the fraction) of compositions belonging to a certain A3 temperature interval is then plotted.
ex06_ interfacial_ energy.m	Calculation of interfacial energy between BCC and M7C3 for a Fe-12Cr-0.1C alloy.

Commands in TC-Toolbox for MATLAB®

To avoid conflict with reserved names all commands in the TC-Toolbox for MATLAB® start with **tc_** and the DICTRA module commands start with **dic_**.

Group	Description
"tc_root" on the next page	General information and miscellaneous commands
"tc_database" on page 8	Information and commands in the database module
"tc_system" on page 9	Information and commands in the database module
"tc_util" on page 12	Various commands e.g. "tc_define_system"
"tc_ges5" on page 13	Information and commands in the GES5 module
"dic_dictra" on page 14	Information and commands in the DICTRA module

tc_root

Name	Arguments	Description
tc_init_root	None	Initialise the Thermo-Calc subsystem. Must be called before any other command in the Toolbox.
tc_deinit	None	Closes the Thermo-Calc session and returns the license key.
tc_version	string: version_name	Returns the current version of the Thermo-Calc subsystem.
tc_poly3_command	string: command	Sends a command to the POLY-3 module.
tc_read_poly3_file	string: file_name	Reads stored POLY-3 file name.
tc_save_poly3_file	string: file_name	Saves a POLY-3 file name.

tc_database

Name	Arguments	Description
tc_append_database	string: database_name	Appends database name.
tc_element_select	string: element_name	Selects an element name from the current database.
tc_get_data	None	Executes the GET_DATA command.
tc_open_database	string: database_name	Opens a named database.
tc_phase	integer: no_phases string array phase_names	Returns the number (no.) of phases and the phase names.
tc_phase_reject	string: phase_name	Rejects phase name in the current database.
tc_phase_select	string: phase_name	Selects phase name in the current database.

tc_system

Name	Arguments	Description
tc_error	integer: error_code string: error_message	Checks if an error occurred, then returns an error code and message.
tc_reset_error	None	Resets the error handling in the Thermo-Calc subsystem
tc_compute_equilibrium	None	Executes the COMPUTE_EQULIBRIUM command in POLY-3
tc_component_status	string: status string: comp_name	Returns the status for component (comp) name. The status can be ENTERED or SUSPENDED.
tc_create_new_equilibrium	integer: eq_number	Create a new equilibrium with equilibrium number.
tc_define_components	string: new_components	Changes the set of components to those in new components.
tc_degrees_of_freedom	integer: number	Returns the degrees of freedom number in the system.
tc_delete_condition	string: condition_name	Deletes the named condition.
tc_delete_symbol	string: symbol_name	Deletes the named symbol.
tc_enter_constant	string: constant_name double: value	Enters a symbol of type CONSTANT with constant_name and value.
tc_enter_function	string: function_name string: function_expression	Enters a symbol of type FUNCTION with function_name and expression.
tc_enter_symbol	string: symbol_name string: symbol_type integer: argument_type integer: int_value double: double_value string: char_value	Enters a named symbol and type (=CONSTANT, FUNCTION, TABLE or VARIABLE) with an argument type (=1 for integer, 2 for double or 3 for string).
tc_enter_table	string: table_name string: table_expression	Enters a symbol of type TABLE with table_name and expression.
tc_enter_variable	string: variable_name	Enters a symbol of type VARIABLE with variable_name and value.

Name	Arguments	Description
	double: value	
`tc_get_derivatives`	string: phase string array: arr1 string array: arr2	Returns the Gibbs energy and the first and second derivatives with respect to site-fractions for phase. The array arr1 contains the Gibbs energy and the first derivatives and the array arr2 contains the second derivatives.
`tc_get_surface_energy`	Input parameters: string with matrix phase name string with precipitate phase name integer index of dependent component in u-fractions (where component list is sorted alphabetically) double with the temperature array of doubles containing the u-fractions (where component list first is sorted alphabetically) double with the molar volume of the matrix phase double with the molar volume of the precipitating phase	The list of components should be sorted alphabetically and special components (e.g VA) removed. See the *ex06_interfacial_energy.m* example for more detail. Retrieves the surface energy with unit J/m^2
`tc_get_value`	string: expression double: value	Retrieves the current value of any state variable, function or variable set in expression.
`tc_list_component`	integer: no_components string array: components	Returns the number (no.) of components and a list of all components.
`tc_list_conditions`	integer: no_conditions string array: conditions	Returns the number (no.) of conditions and a list of all conditions.
`tc_list_phase`	integer: no_phases string array: phases	Returns the number (no.) of phases and a list of all phases.
`tc_list_species`	integer: no_species string array: species	Returns the number (no.) of species and a list of all species.

Name	Arguments	Description
tc_list_symbols	integer: no_symbols string array: symbols	Returns the number (no.) of symbols and a list of all defined symbols.
tc_phase_status	string: status string: phase_name	Returns the status for the named phase.
tc_select_equilibrium	integer: eq_number	Command to switch to another set of conditions and equilibria. The desired set of conditions and equilibria are indicated by its equilibrium (eq) number.
tc_set_component_status	string: comp_name string: status	Sets the status (ENTERED or SUSPENDED) for a named component.
tc_set_condition	string: expression double: value	Sets a condition for expression to value.
tc_set_minimization	string: flag	Turns global minimization on or off by setting the string flag to on or off.
tc_set_phase_addition	string: phase_name double: value	Command to add a value to the Gibbs energy expression of a named phase.
tc_set_phase_status	string: phase_name string: status double: value	Sets status (ENTERED, DORMANT, FIXED or SUSPENDED) to a named phase. A value is to set for status ENTERED and FIXED.
tc_set_start_value	string: name double: value	Sets a start value for a state variable name.
tc_species_status	string: status string: species_name	Returns the status for a named species.

tc_util

Name	Arguments	Description
`tc_check_error`	string:	Checks for errors and resets them. It is a combination of tc_error and tc_reset_error.
`tc_define_system`	string: database_name string: element_names string: reject_phases string: restore_phases	Define a system with a named database, element names, phases to reject and phases to restore.
`tc_prompt`	string: tprompt integer: defval	Prompt to input an integer value.
`tc_promptr`	string: tprompt double:defval	Prompt to input a double value.
`tc_prompts`	string: tprompt string: defval	Prompt to input a string.
`tc_promptsn`	string: tprompt string array: defval	Prompt to input a string array.

tc_ges5

Name	Arguments	Description
`tc_enter_ges5_parameter`	string: parameter_name string: parameter_expression	Enters a named parameter in parameter_expression.
`tc_ges5_command`	string: command	Sends a command to the GES5 monitor.
`tc_get_ges5_parameter`	string: parameter_expression string: parameter_name	Returns a parameter_expression for parameter_name.

dic_dictra

📝 A Diffusion Module (DICTRA) license is required to use these commands.

Name	Arguments	Description
dic_command	string: command	Sends a command to the DICTRA module.
dic_convert_sitefractions	double array: new_fractions string: phase_name double array: sitefractions integer: fraction_type	Convert site fractions in for a named phase. Set new fractions and fraction type=1, 2, 3 return mole-, mass- or u-fractions, respectively.
dic_get_independent_component	integer: no_idepc string array: comp_names string region_name	Returns the number (no.) of independent components (idepc) and a list of component names for a named region.
dic_list_profile	integer: no_gridpoints integer: no_sitefractions double: sitefractions double array: gridpoints string: region_name string: phase_name	Returns a stored profile for a named phase and region.
dic_list_timesteps	integer: no_timesteps double array: timesteps	Returns the number (no.) of time steps and a list of time steps.
dic_read_workspace	string: file_name	Reads the stored simulation file name.
dic_region_info	integer: no_gridpoints double: region_size double: start_coordinate string: region_name	Returns information about the named region: the size of the region, number (no.) of grid points and value of the first (start) coordinate.
dic_save_workspace	string: file_name	Saves a simulation file to a new name.
dic_select_timestep	integer: time_step	Selects a time step from a stored simulation file.
dic_simulate_reaction	None	Start the simulation.