

[9.18] Use multiple commands on entry line with ":"

The colon separator ":" can be used to enter multiple commands or function calls on the entry line. For example this keystroke sequence

```
[3] [STO] [x] [:] [4] [STO] [y] [ENTER]
```

stores the values 3 and 4 to variables *x* and *y*, respectively. This doesn't save any keystrokes, but if you find yourself repeating the same sequence of commands, it can save time, as well as lines in the history display. Note that only the answer of the last command is shown in the history display. In the example above, 4 is shown.

You can also use this feature to write small programs on the command line. This contrived example shows a loop which creates a list of values:

```
For k,1,10:sin(k)→l[k]:EndFor:delvar k:l
```

Actually, it is easier to use the *seq()* function for this, but the example shows the basic idea. The loop creates a list of $\sin(x)$ for x from 1 to 10. The list is shown in the history display by the last *l* in the entry line. The global variable *k* is deleted with the command *delvar k*.

As a final example, suppose that you have a several sets of data, and you want to find the minimum and maximum residuals that result from fitting a straight-line regression to the data sets. If the data is saved in lists *a* and *b*, this entry-line sequence finds the results:

```
linreg a,b:regeq(a)-b→t:{min(t),max(t)}
```

For each regression, store the *x*- and *y*-data to lists *a* and *b*, then use the [UP] and [ENTER] keys to paste the expression to the entry line and execute it. Alternatively, you can use [2nd] [ENTRY] to choose and paste the expression.

For expressions which generate large results on the history display, you can terminate the command with :0, then only 0 will be displayed. For example, to suppress the display of the 10 x 10 matrix created with *newMat()*, use

```
newMat(10,10):0
```