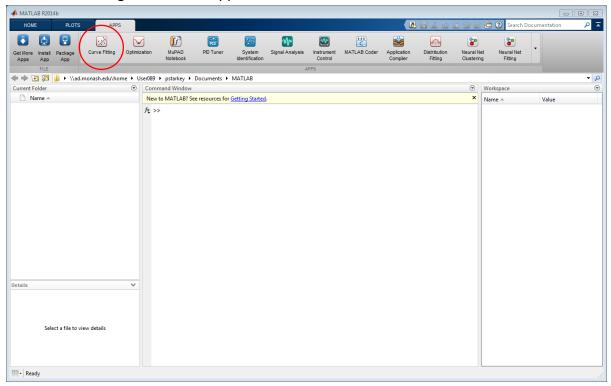
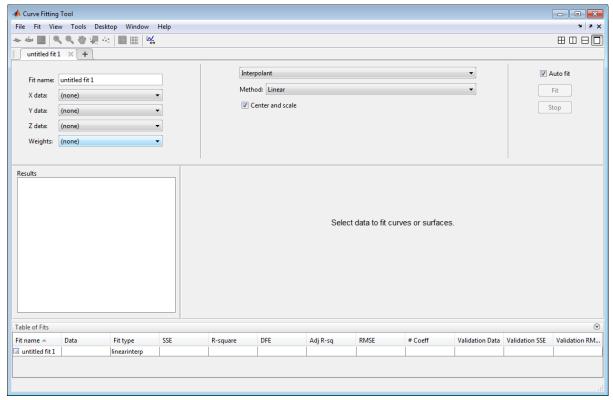
Curve fitting in MATLAB

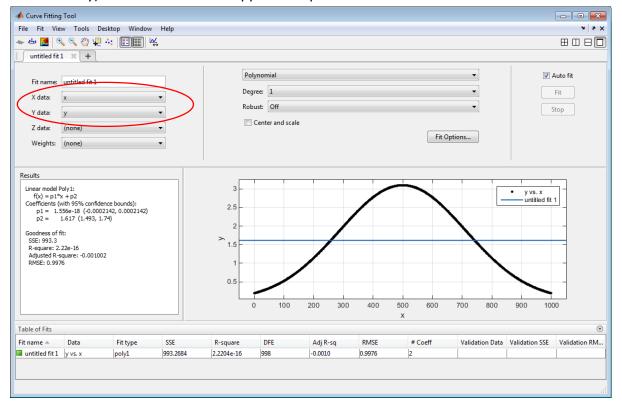
MATLAB has a curve fitting tool which, as well as fitting to standard models such as linear, polynomial, exponential, etc., can fit to custom equations. To launch the curve fitting tool, click "Curve fitting" under the "Apps" menu.



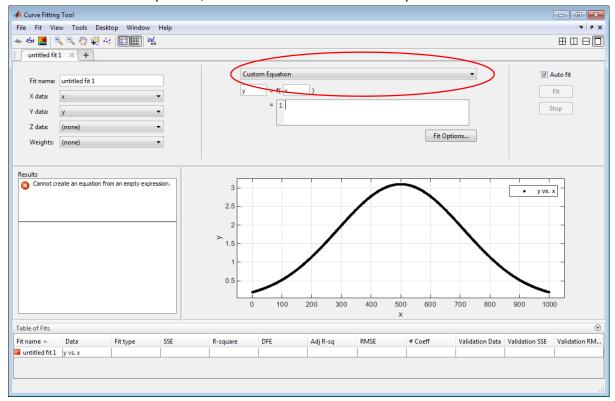
This will launch the Curve Fitting Tool.



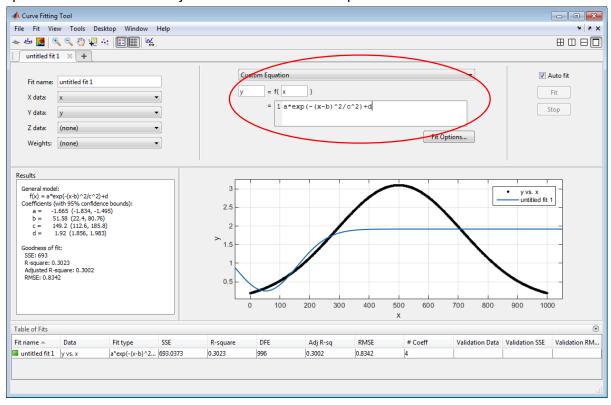
First, select the data arrays (MATLAB arrays) you wish to fit to (in this case we have called them x and y). Your data will then appear in a plot:



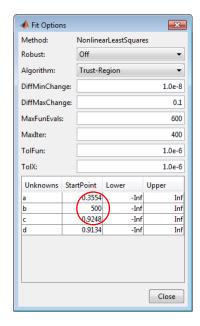
You can then select the type of fit (for example, polynomial, linear, etc.). In this case, we want to fit a custom equation, so we select that from the drop down menu.



We are then presented with a box in which we can type a custom equation (Note: you don't use the MATLAB variable names you selected for the x/y data here. Instead use the names specified in the text boxes just above the "custom equation" box.



The fit may not immediately work. In this case, you may need to provide better initial guesses for the *free parameters*. You can do this via the "Fit Options" button, which opens a dialog allowing you to specify the initial guess and the boundaries of these parameters. Here we provided a better initial guess for "b", the x offset in our equation.



This then results in an excellent fit, and you can read off the values (and the 95% confidence bounds) from the results text box on the left hand side of the curve fitting tool window.

