

that describe the program written in the script file.

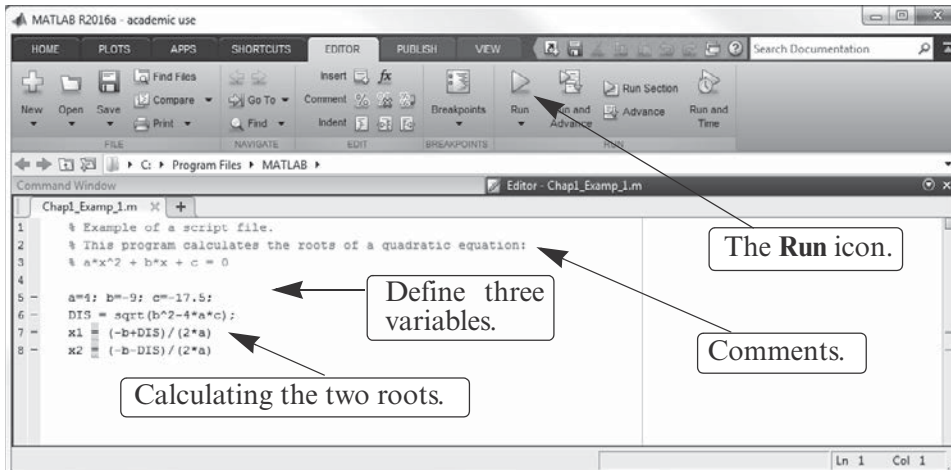


Figure 1-7: A program typed in the Editor/Debugger Window.

Before a script file can be executed it has to be saved. This is done by clicking **Save** in the Toolstrip and selecting **Save As...** from the menu that opens. When saved, MATLAB adds the extension `.m` to the name. The rules for naming a script file follow the rules of naming a variable (must begin with a letter, can include digits and underscore, *no spaces*, and up to 63 characters long). The names of user-defined variables, predefined variables, and MATLAB commands or functions should not be used as names of script files.

1.8.3 Running (Executing) a Script File

A script file can be executed either directly from the Editor Window by clicking on the **Run** icon (see Figure 1-7) or by typing the file name in the Command Window and then pressing the **Enter** key. For a file to be executed, MATLAB needs to know where the file is saved. The file will be executed if the folder where the file is saved is the current folder of MATLAB or if the folder is listed in the search path, as explained next.

1.8.4 Current Folder

The current folder is shown in the "Current Folder" field in the desktop toolbar of the Command Window, as shown in Figure 1-8. If an attempt is made to execute a script file by clicking on the **Run** icon (in the Editor Window) when the current folder is not the folder where the script file is saved, then the prompt shown in Figure 1-9 opens. The user can then change the current folder to the folder where the script file is saved, or add it to the search path. Once two or more different current folders are used in a session, it is possible to switch from one to another in the **Current Folder** field in the Command Window. The cur-

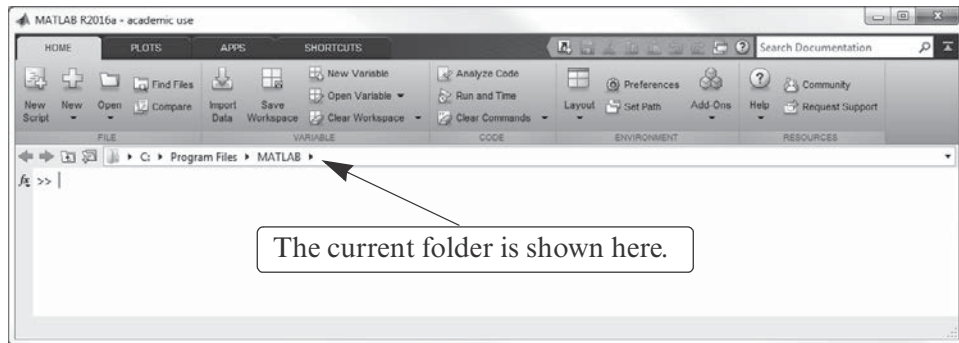


Figure 1-8: The Current folder field in the Command Window.

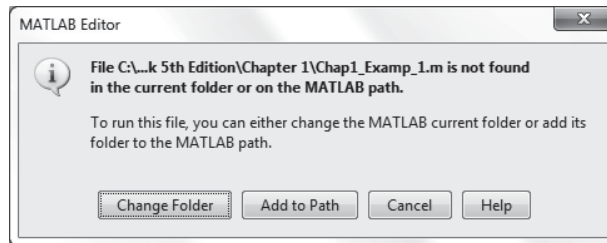


Figure 1-9: Changing the current directory.

rent folder can also be changed in the Current Folder Window, shown in Figure 1-10, which can be opened from the **Desktop** menu. The Current Folder can be changed by choosing the drive and folder where the file is saved.

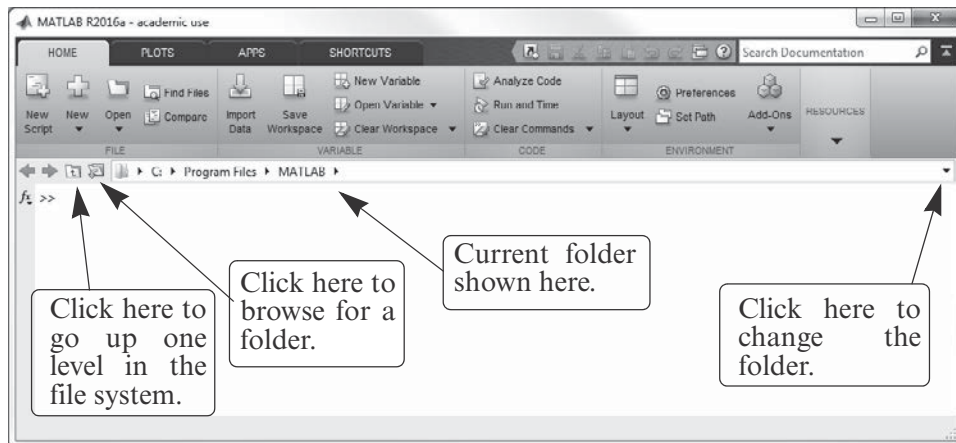


Figure 1-10: The Current Folder Window.