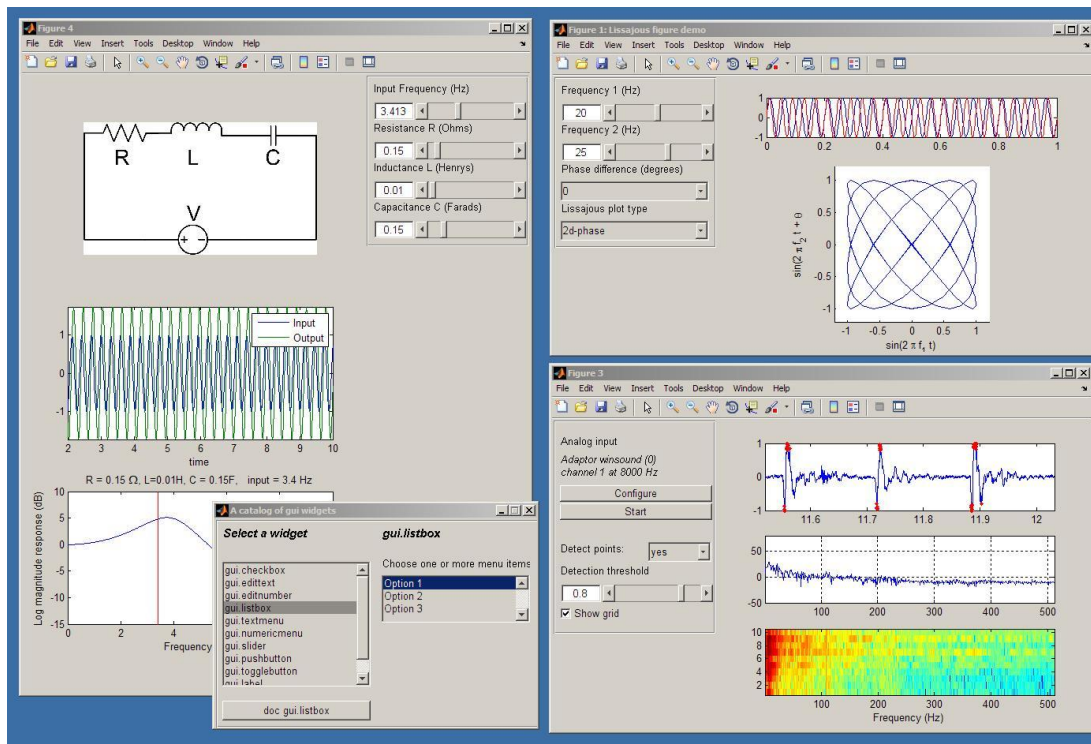


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WHAT IS EASYGUI?

EasyGUI is a set of tools to make GUIs quickly and easily in MATLAB. It provides:

- A set of “widgets” (UI controls) with a simple programming interface
- Automatic layout of the widgets
- An intuitive way to combine a GUI with MATLAB plotting and visualization

REQUIREMENTS

EasyGUI uses MATLAB [Object-Oriented Programming](#), so it requires at least R2008a. It does not need any specialized toolboxes. I have tested it on Windows XP with R2008a, R2008b and R2009a.

ADDING EASYGUI TO YOUR PATH

When you unzip EasyGUI_v1_0.zip, it will create a folder named `EasyGUI` with subfolders `+gui` and `examples`. You need to add the EasyGUI folder to your path. Here is one way to do it:

- 1) In the MATLAB window, select File -> Set Path ...
- 2) Click on “Add Folder” and find the EasyGUI folder
- 3) Click on “Save” in the “Set Path” window

PACKAGES AND CLASSES

All the EasyGUI classes are in a package named “gui” (see [here](#) for an introduction to packages in MATLAB). Consequently, all the EasyGUI class names have to be prefixed by `gui.`, like this:

```
>> myMenu = gui.textmenu; % create a textmenu widget
>> help gui.version
GUI.VERSION
Returns a struct containing the version of EASYGUI.
```

The dot-notation is also used in MATLAB to indicate the property of an object. For example:

```
>> mySlider = gui.slider; % 'gui' is a package, 'slider' is a class in the package
>> mySlider.Value % 'mySlider' is an object, 'Value' is its property
ans =
    0.5000
>> mySlider.Value = 0.1;
```

It is important not to confuse these different uses. Also, do not create a variable named `gui`, as the variable name will take precedence over the package name and can lead to confusing errors.

CREATING GUIS

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

The best way to get started is to create a GUI from the command line.

First, create the figure object (also called a *container*) that will automatically position the widgets.

```
myGui = gui.autogui;
```

Now create a widget (it is added to `myGui` by default) .

```
num = gui.slider('Number of points:', [5 50]);  
myGui.waitForInput()  
num.Value
```

Subsequent widgets are automatically positioned:

```
color = gui.textmenu('Choose a color', {'red', 'green', 'blue'});  
showgrid = gui.checkbox('Show grid?');
```

You can also set the values of the widgets

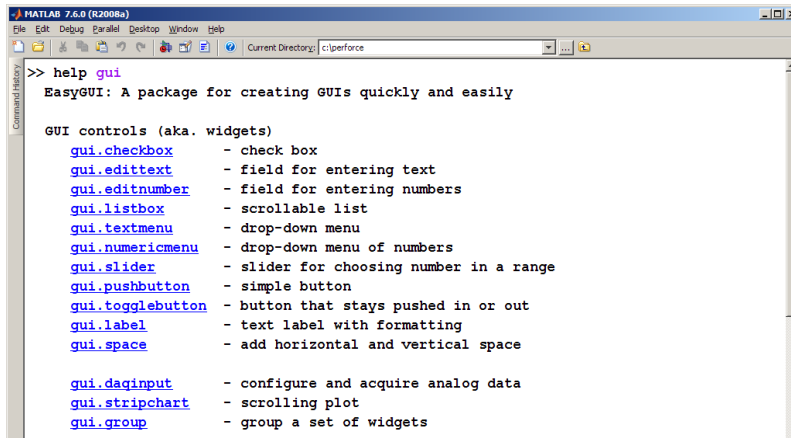
```
num.Value = 20;  
color.Value = 'green';  
showgrid.Value = true;
```

Get user input and use the widget values to do some plotting:

```
myGui.waitForInput();  
y = rand(1, round(num.Value));  
plot(y, 'color', color.Value(1)); % use first character of color name  
if showgrid.Value, grid on; end
```

WHAT KINDS OF WIDGETS ARE AVAILABLE?

To see a list of available widgets, type `help gui`. The widget names (e.g., `gui.checkbox`, `gui.editttext`) are hyperlinked to help text.



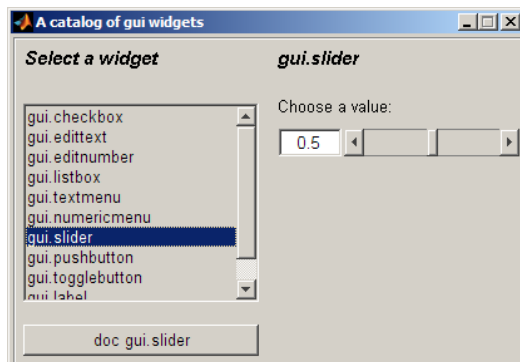
```

MATLAB 7.6.0 (R2008a)
>> help gui
EasyGUI: A package for creating GUIs quickly and easily

GUI controls (aka. widgets)
  gui.checkbox      - check box
  gui.editttext     - field for entering text
  gui.editnumber    - field for entering numbers
  gui.listbox       - scrollable list
  gui.textmenu      - drop-down menu
  gui.numericmenu   - drop-down menu of numbers
  gui.slider        - slider for choosing number in a range
  gui.pushbutton    - simple button
  gui.togglebutton  - button that stays pushed in or out
  gui.label         - text label with formatting
  gui.space         - add horizontal and vertical space

  gui.daqinput      - configure and acquire analog data
  gui.stripchart     - scrolling plot
  gui.group         - group a set of widgets
  
```

Another way to explore the widgets is to run `catalog` in `EasyGUI/examples`. This opens up the following GUI. When you select one of the widgets, that widget is created and shown on the right.



A widget can be created from the command line simply by typing its class name (its gets created with some reasonable defaults).

For example:

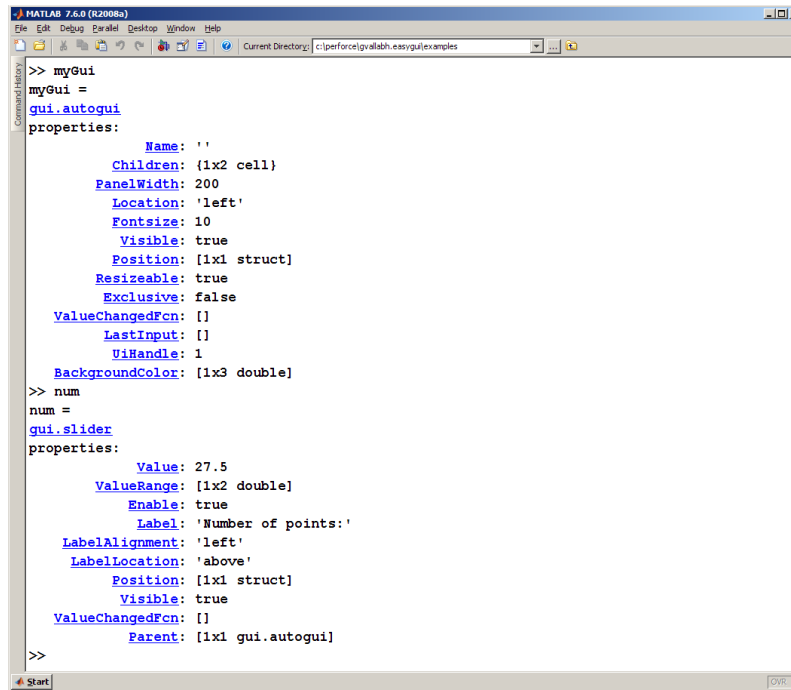
```

>> myGui = gui.autogui;
>> w1 = gui.slider;
>> w2 = gui.textmenu;
>> w3 = gui.togglebutton;
  
```

WHERE DO I GET MORE HELP WITH USING EASYGUI?

There are several ways to get more information.

- 1) Type the name of the EasyGUI object (container or widget) at the command line. You will get a list of properties with hyperlinks to help text, as shown below. Explore what happens when you change the various properties.



```

MATLAB 7.6.0 (R2008a)
File Edit Debug Parallel Desktop Window Help
Current Directory: c:\perforce\gvalab\easygui\examples

>> myGui
myGui =
gui.autogui
properties:
    Name: ''
    Children: {1x2 cell}
    PanelWidth: 200
    Location: 'left'
    Fontsize: 10
    Visible: true
    Position: [1x1 struct]
    Resizable: true
    Exclusive: false
    ValueChangedFcn: []
    LastInput: []
    UiHandle: 1
    BackgroundColor: [1x3 double]
>> num
num =
gui.slider
properties:
    Value: 27.5
    ValueRange: [1x2 double]
    Enable: true
    Label: 'Number of points:'
    LabelAlignment: 'left'
    LabelLocation: 'above'
    Position: [1x1 struct]
    Visible: true
    ValueChangedFcn: []
    Parent: [1x1 gui.autogui]
>>
  
```

- 2) Type `help gui` at the command line, and click on the hyperlinks for help text. You can also get help on a single class, or on a method or property in the class:


```

help gui.slider           % help on the gui.slider class
help gui.slider.Value     % help on the 'Value' property
help gui.autogui.waitForInput % help on the 'waitForInput' method
      
```
- 3) Look through the examples in the folder EasyGUI/examples. Start with `autodemo` for a simple gui, then look at `autodemo2` and `autodemo3` for more sophisticated versions of that gui. For an index of examples, type `help EasyGUI/examples`

HOW DOES THE AUTOMATIC POSITIONING WORK?

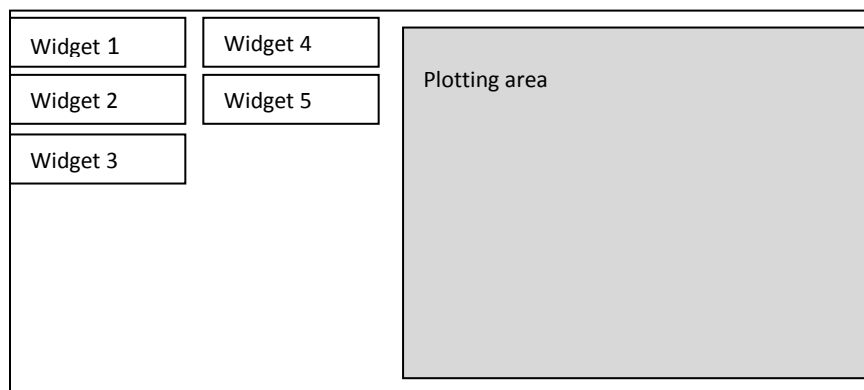
The `gui.autogui` class automatically positions all the widgets in it. This positioning follows two very simple rules.

- 1) A new widget is positioned *below* the most recent widget.
- 2) To start a new "column" of widgets, invoke the `addPanel()` method.

For example, consider the following sequence of commands:

```
myGui = gui.autogui;
widget1 = gui.slider;
widget2 = gui.textmenu;
widget3 = gui.pushbutton;
myGui.addPanel;      % start a new column of widgets
widget4 = gui.slider;
widget5 = gui.numericmenu;
```

The above sequence will produce the following layout:



Sometimes you may not be satisfied with the default vertical and horizontal spacing. The **vertical spacing** may be adjusted by using the `gui.space` widget – this simply inserts blank space.

```
myGui = gui.autogui;
widget1 = gui.slider;
spacer1 = gui.space; spacer1.Position.height = 30;
widget2 = gui.textmenu;
```

The **horizontal spacing** (the space between adjacent "columns") can be tweaked with the `PanelWidth` property, which sets the width of the current panel. For example:

```
myGui = gui.autogui;
myGui.PanelWidth = 150;
widget1 = gui.slider; % will have a width of 150
widget2 = gui.textmenu; % will have a width of 150
myGui.PanelWidth = 200; % widens the current panel but not the widgets in it
myGui.addPanel;
widget3 = gui.slider;
```

WHAT IF I WANT TO POSITION WIDGETS MANUALLY?

To position widgets manually, use the `gui.manualgui` class (see `examples\manualdemo.m`).

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR SUGGESTIONS?

Send an email to Gautam Vallabha (gautam.vallabha@mathworks.com).