

Graphical User Interface Design in MATLAB

Zachary Hamida, PhD Student

Polytechnique Montreal

March 26, 2018

Graphical User Interface (GUI):

- GUI is a visual way of interacting with a computer program.
- The purpose of a GUI is to make things as easy as possible from the user end.

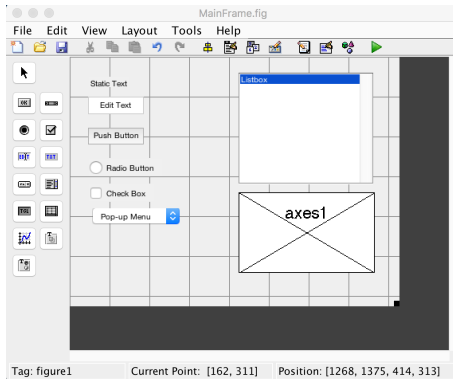
MATLAB GUI Main Components

1. Visual Components.
2. Code Components.

MATLAB GUI Visual Components

1. Figures (Frames).
2. Objects (i.e. Text box, drop down menu... etc.).

MATLAB GUI Visual Components



MATLAB GUI Code Components

1. Callback functions: sensors for the user actions, in which when it detects the action, it triggers a response.
(response=**execute** your code!) (i.e. Mouse Click, Button Down, Click and hold... etc.).
2. Developer Code (you).

MATLAB GUI Code Components

```
% --- Executes on button press in pushbutton1.
function pushbutton1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject    handle to pushbutton1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata  reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles    structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

My functions goes here, they will be excuted once the callback is triggered

% --- Executes on button press in checkbox1.
function checkbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject    handle to checkbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata  reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles    structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% Hint: get(hObject,'Value') returns toggle state of checkbox1

% --- Executes on selection change in listbox1.
function listbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject    handle to listbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata  reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles    structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

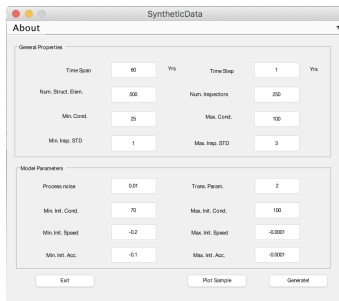
% Hints: contents = cellstr(get(hObject,'String')) returns listbox1 contents as cell array
%        contents{get(hObject,'Value')} returns selected item from listbox1
```


MATLAB GUI Code Components

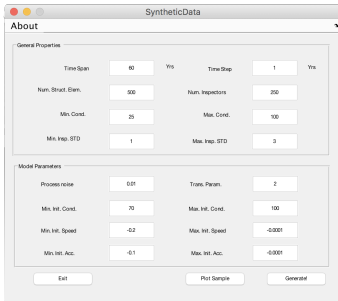
Callback function input arguments: (MathWorks)

1. hObject: the UI component that triggered the callback.
2. eventdata: a variable that contains detailed information about specific mouse or keyboard actions.
3. handles: a struct that contains all the objects in the UI.
GUIDE uses the guidata function to store and maintain this structure.

Communicating with Objects:



Communicating with Objects:



```
% --- Executes on button press in pushbutton1.
function pushbutton1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to pushbutton1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% My functions goes here, they will be executed once the callback is triggered

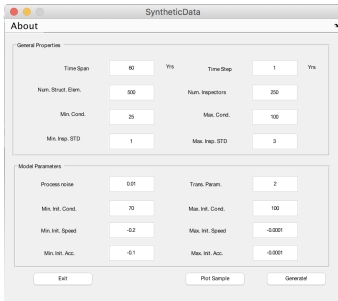
% --- Executes on button press in checkbox1.
function checkbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to checkbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% Hint: get(hObject,'Value') returns toggle state of checkbox1

% --- Executes on selection change in listbox1.
function listbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to listbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% Hint: contents = cellstr(get(hObject,'String')) returns listbox1 contents as cell array
% contents{get(hObject,'Value')} returns selected item from listbox1
```

Communicating with Objects:



```
% --- Executes on button press in pushbutton1.
function pushbutton1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to pushbutton1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% My functions goes here, they will be executed once the callback is triggered

% --- Executes on button press in checkbox1.
function checkbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to checkbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

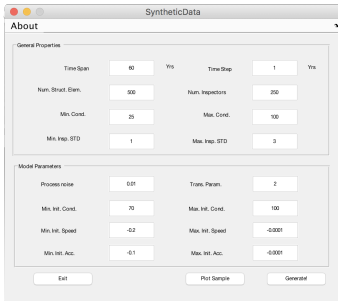
% Hint: get(hObject,'Value') returns toggle state of checkbox1

% --- Executes on selection change in listbox1.
function listbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to listbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% Hint: contents = cellstr(get(hObject,'String')) returns listbox1 contents as cell array
% contents{get(hObject,'Value')} returns selected item from listbox1
```

-In which callback function I should place **my code**?

Communicating with Objects:



```
% --- Executes on button press in pushbutton1.
function pushbutton1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to pushbutton1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% My functions goes here, they will be executed once the callback is triggered

% --- Executes on button press in checkbox1.
function checkbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to checkbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

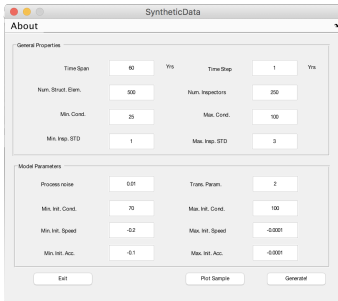
% Hint: get(hObject,'Value') returns toggle state of checkbox1

% --- Executes on selection change in listbox1.
function listbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to listbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% Hint: contents = cellstr(get(hObject,'String')) returns listbox1 contents as cell array
% contents{get(hObject,'Value')} returns selected item from listbox1
```

-In which callback function I should place **my code**?
(A better question is:)

Communicating with Objects:



```
% --- Executes on button press in pushbutton1.
function pushbutton1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to pushbutton1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% My functions goes here, they will be executed once the callback is triggered

% --- Executes on button press in checkbox1.
function checkbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to checkbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% Hint: get(hObject,'Value') returns toggle state of checkbox1

% --- Executes on selection change in listbox1.
function listbox1_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% hObject handle to listbox1 (see GCBO)
% eventdata reserved - to be defined in a future version of MATLAB
% handles structure with handles and user data (see GUIDATA)

% Hint: contents = cellstr(get(hObject,'String')) returns listbox contents as cell array
% contents{get(hObject,'Value')} returns selected item from listbox1
```

-In which callback function I should place **my code**?
(A better question is:)

-What change (or actions) I want to happen **instantly** when the user interact with **EACH OBJECT** alone?

Communicating with/between Objects:

If I need to get information from other GUI objects or I need to send information to other GUI objects:

1. `set(handles.ObjectTagName, 'property', $X_{variable}$).`
2. `$X_{variable}$ = get(handles.ObjectTagName, 'property').`

Build a Simple GUI for a Function

Let's consider building a GUI to the following function.

```

%%Code snippet - Matlab
function [ y ] = ProductFun( x1, x2 )
y=x1.*x2;
end
  
```

*Matlab Tutorial 1

Loading and Extracting Data

```
% Loading Data in Matlab GUI
```

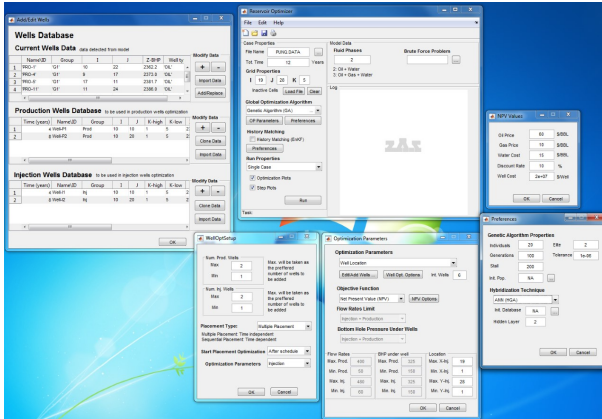
```
FilterExt={'*.mat';'*..*'};
[FileName, FilePath]=uigetfile(FilterExt, '
    Select...');
MyData=load(fullfile(FilePath,FileName));
```

```
% Saving Data in Matlab GUI
```

```
FilterExt={'*.mat';'*..*'};
[FileName, FilePath] = uiputfile(FilterExt,
    'Save as', 'My Output');
save(fullfile(pathname,filename),'My GUI
    Output');
```

***Matlab Tutorial 2**

Build Multiple Frame GUI



*Matlab Tutorial 3

Exchanging Data Between Callbacks/Frames

1. Exchange data among callbacks:

```
setappdata(handles.MyObj, 'X', var);  
MyVar=getappdata(handles.MyObj, 'X');
```

2. Exchange data among GUIs:

```
setappdata(0, 'X', var);  
MyVar=getappdata(0, 'X');
```

3. Exchange data among GUIs and among Callbacks:

```
global MyVar
```

Load Data at the Start

To start with with a set of default values, the code should be placed under the following function:

GUIFunctionName_**OpeningFcn**(hObject, eventdata, handles, varargin)

Graphical User Interface (GUI)

Summary:

1. GUI: main components are frames and objects.
2. A frame is a container for a set of objects.
3. Each object has a set of properties.
4. Objects properties are stored in "handles".
5. A change in the property of one of the objects may trigger a callback function.
6. We write code at the callback when an action (from the program) is expected to happen right after the user interaction with the object.