

# Mid-term exam

**13:25 – 14:25**

**May 21**

- 
- **Short answer questions:** 9 problems, 58 points;
  - **Find the errors:** 1 problems, 10 points;
  - **Written response questions:** 2 problems, 22 points.



# Introduction to Scientific Computing

**File Input / Output**

**2D & 3D Plotting**

---



# Input Commands

---

- `input` **command**

```
in1 = input('Enter data: ');
```

Stores input value as a numerical value or array of values of type double

```
in2 = input('Enter data: ', 's');
```

Stores input value as a string (an array of characters)

[L14.m](#)



# Output Commands

---

- `disp` **command**

```
disp(variable)  
disp('text to print')
```

- `fprintf` **command**

```
fprintf(format, data)
```

- Formatted output placed on screen or saved to a file
  - Lots of options; see Help
    - More flexible way to display/handle output data
    - Many parameters control the way data is presented
- (Preview of something we will also examine later with C)



# Files in MATLAB

---

- **Files are stored as sequences of bytes on the HD**

- The file format is used to interpret the contents of a file, sometimes indicated by the file suffix  
`.txt, .m, .Mat, .doc, .ppt`

- **Files are stored in the context of a ‘File System’ which allows us to organize information in a directory structure**

- **Scripts and functions are stored in `.m` files which can be conveniently created and edited using the MATLAB `editor`. These are actually simple text files**

- **The variables in a MATLAB session can be saved and retrieved using the ‘`save`’ and ‘`load`’ commands respectively.**



# save and load Commands

---

- save
  - Save all variables in the workspace to a file

```
save('file_name'); or, save file_name;
```
  - Writes `file_name.mat` file in binary format
  - Save a few variables

```
save file_name var1 var2;
```
  - Save in readable format

```
save -ascii file_name;
```

    - Useful to read data from other applications
    - Platform independent
    - Easy way to transfer data



## save and load Commands (cont.)

---

- load
  - Load the variables in a file  
`load('file_name'); or, load file_name;`
  - Reads `file_name.mat` and restores variables
  - Load a few variables  
`load file_name var1 var2;`
  - Load from a text (.txt) file  
`load file_name.txt;`  
`var = load('file_name.txt');`
  - Options  
`mat, -ascii`



# Cell Arrays

---

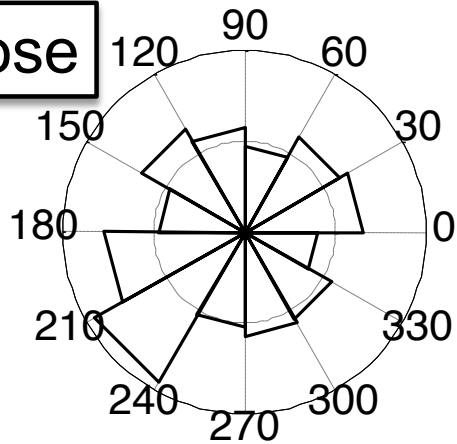
- A cell is the most general data object in MATLAB.
- An example. 14-11



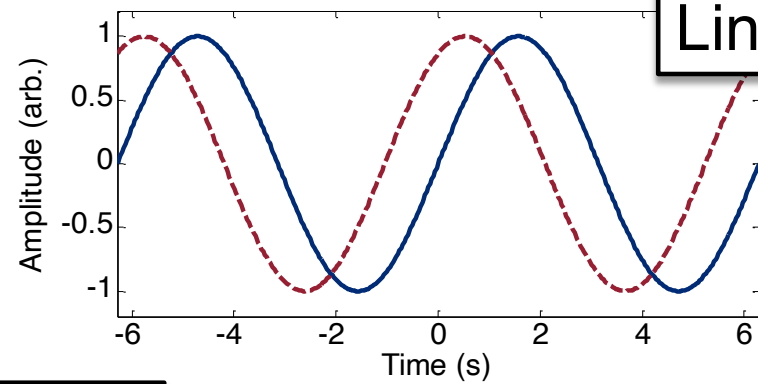


# Graphical representation of data

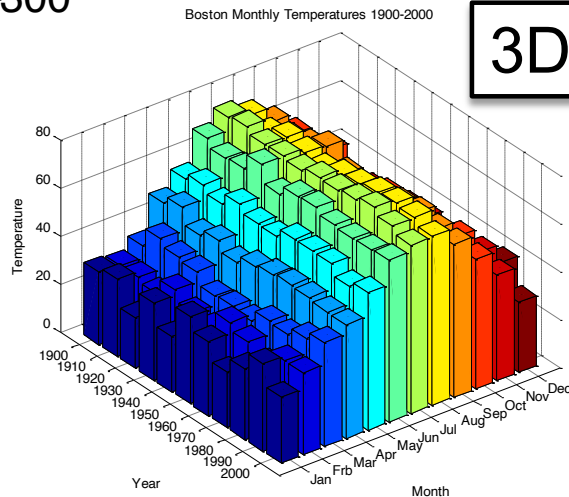
Rose



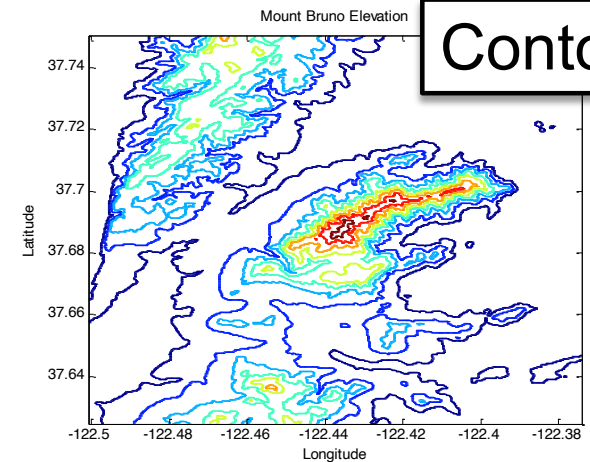
Line



3D Bar

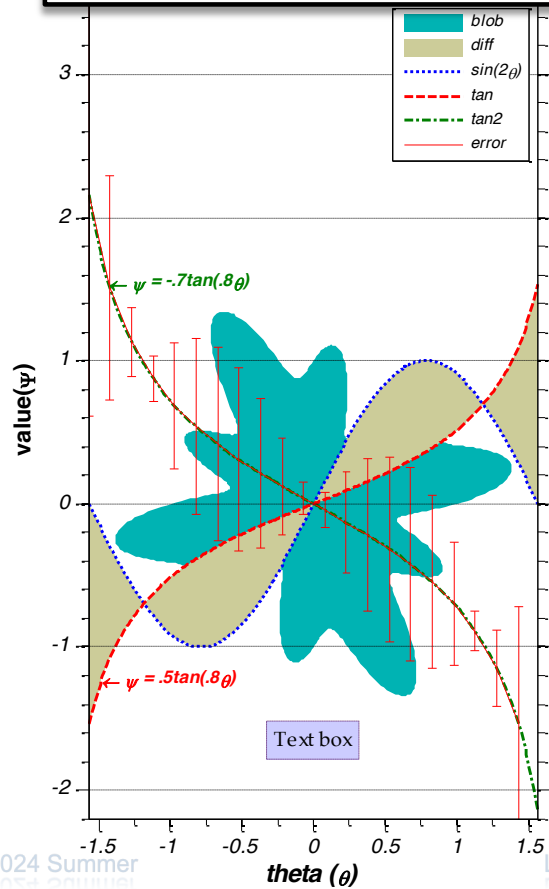


Contour

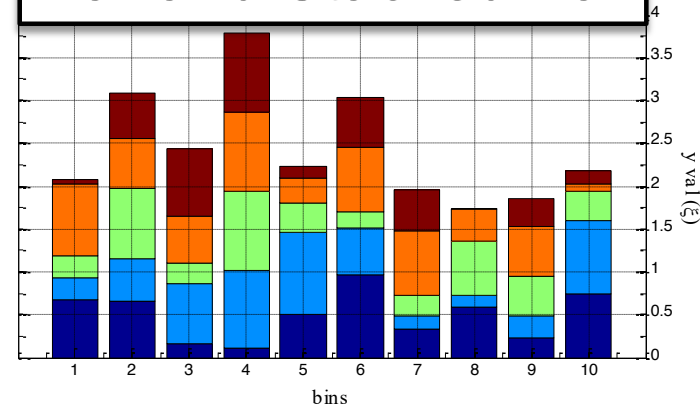


# Graphical representation of data

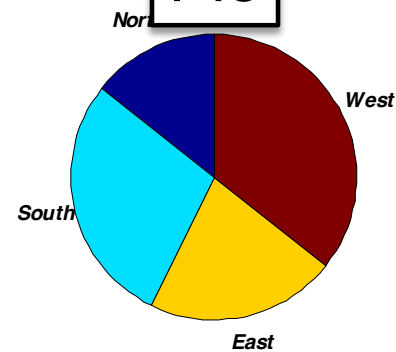
## Multiple Overlays



## Bar and Stacked Bar



## Pie



# What defines a pleasing plot?

---

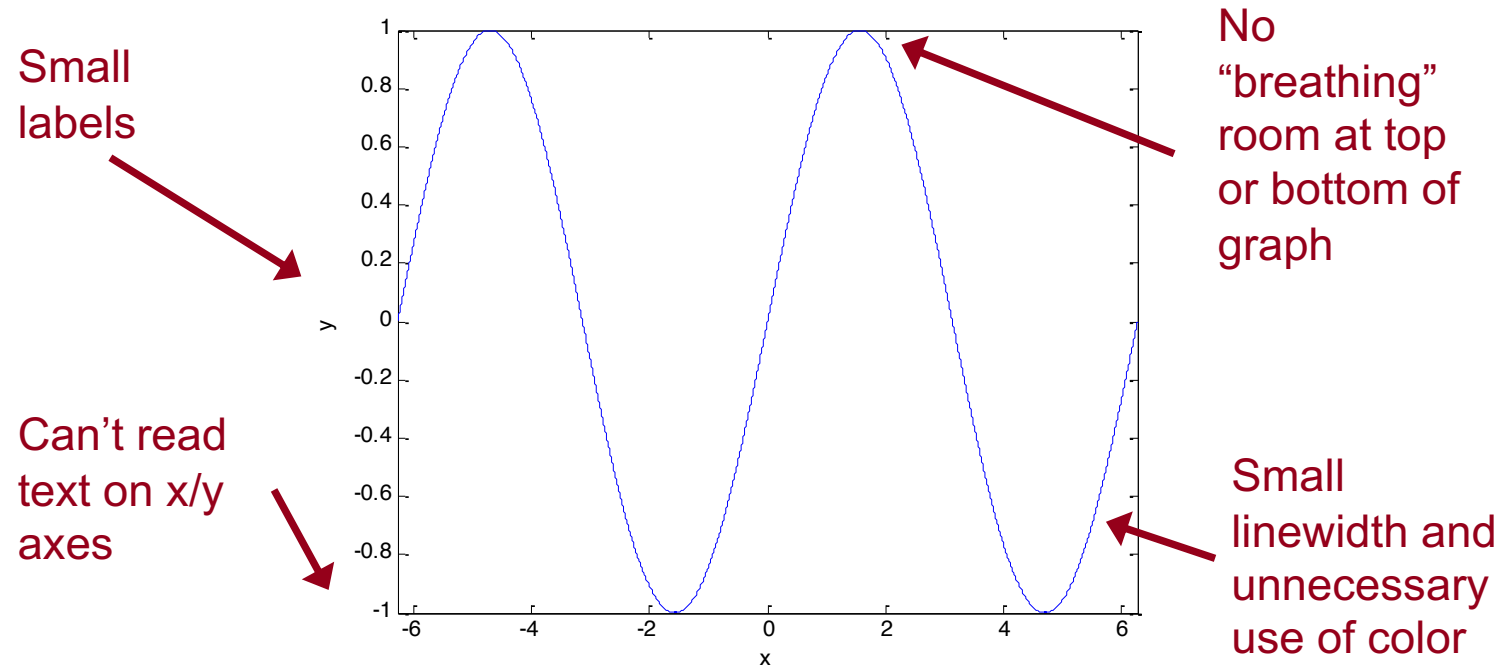
- **Although “pleasing” is subjective, there are several objective measures of a good plot**

- Labels with units
- Minimum amount of information to convey the objective (don’t double label objects unless necessary, extraneous callouts should be avoided)
- Avoid overuse of eye candy
- Scatter plots for measured data and line plots for fits or closed form equations
- Sufficient resolution on domain to represent solution
- Line widths, data point sizes, and text large enough to read



## Examples of “pleasing” plots

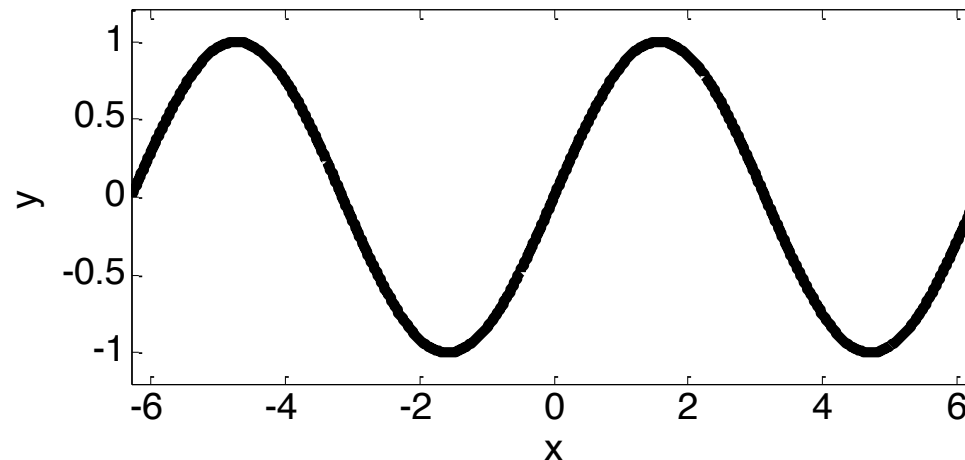
Data generated from a “continuous” function  
 $y = \sin(x)$



## Examples of “pleasing” plots

---

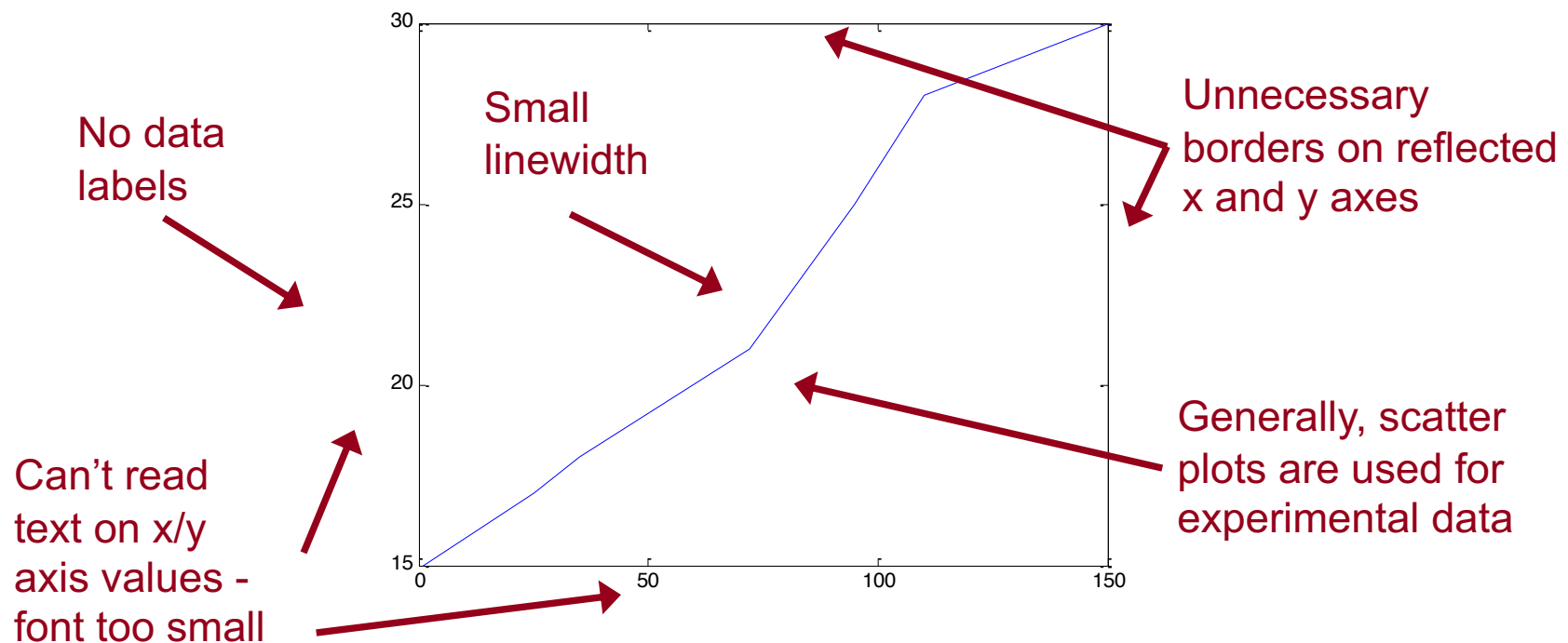
Data generated from a “continuous” function  
 $y = \sin(x)$



A better version of the previous plot

# Examples of “pleasing” plots

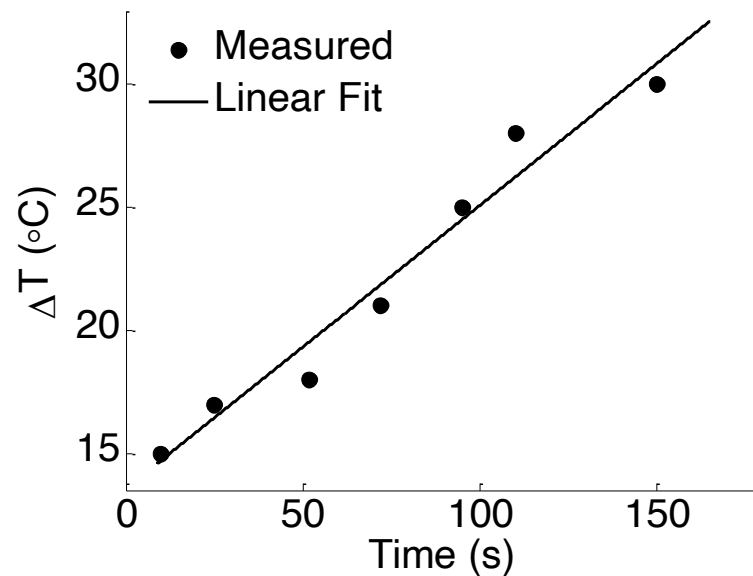
## Data from discrete measurements



## Examples of “pleasing” plots

---

Data from discrete measurements



A better version of the previous plot

# Examples of “pleasing” plots

---

Code used to generate the previous plot:

```
x = [10 25 52 72 95 110 150];
y = [15 17 18 21 25 28 30];
p1 = plot(x,y, 'ko');
set(p1, 'MarkerFaceColor', 'k')
set(p1, 'MarkerSize', 8)
axis([0 1.2*max(x) 0.9*min(y) 1.1*max(y)])
set(gca, 'FontSize', 20)
xlabel('Time (s)')
ylabel('\Delta T (\circ C)')
xfit = 0.9*min(x):.1:1.1*max(x);
fitComp = polyfit(x,y,1);
yfit = fitComp(1)*xfit+fitComp(2);
hold on
p2 = plot(xfit,yfit, 'k-');
set(p2, 'LineWidth', 2)
hold off
lg = legend('Measured', 'Linear Fit');
set(lg, 'Location', 'NorthWest')
legend boxoff
set(gcf, 'Color', 'w')
set(gca, 'box', 'off')
```

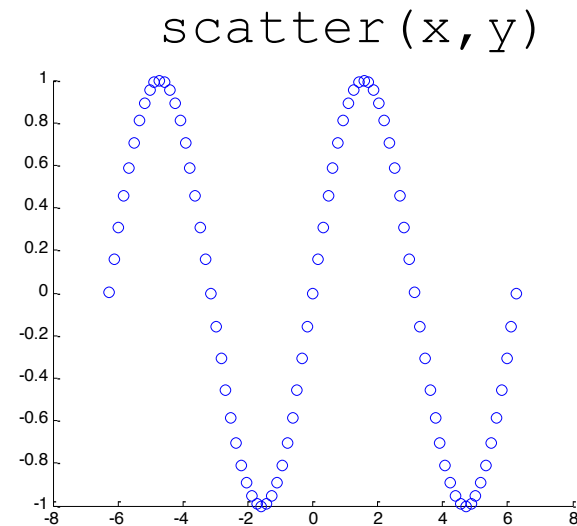
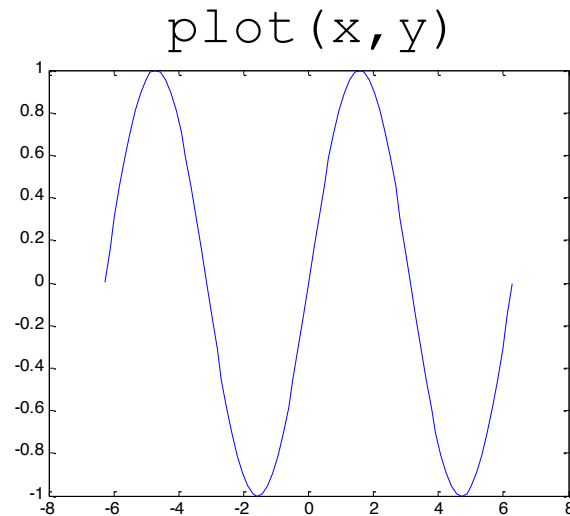




## Basic plot commands – `plot()` and `scatter()`

The two most commonly used 2D plot commands are `plot()` and `scatter()`

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);
```



## Basic plot commands – `plot()` and `scatter()`

---

`plot()` and `scatter()` require vectors of equal length

The default plot attributes are blue lines or circular blue data points, respectively

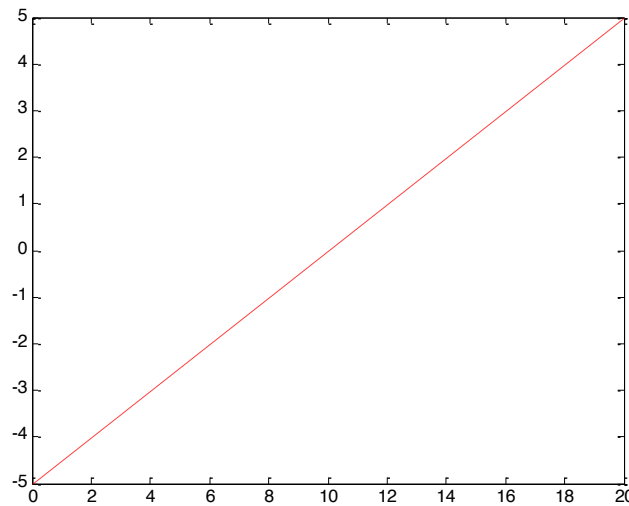
These attributes can be modified by adjusting the line specifications of the `plot(linetype)`

## Basic plot commands – `plot()`

---

Straight lines may also be plotted by specifying the beginning and end points of the line

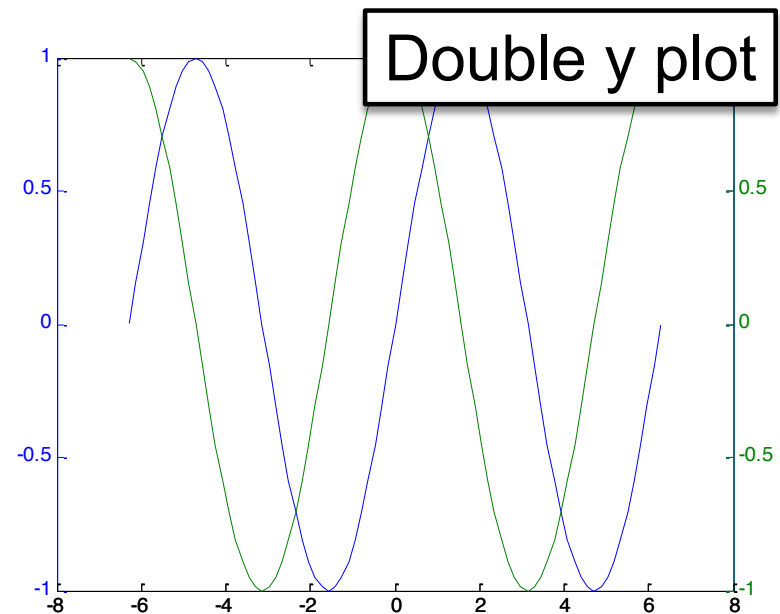
```
plot([0 20], [-5 5], 'r--')
```



## Other 2D plot commands

Matlab offers a variety of pre-built 2D plot types

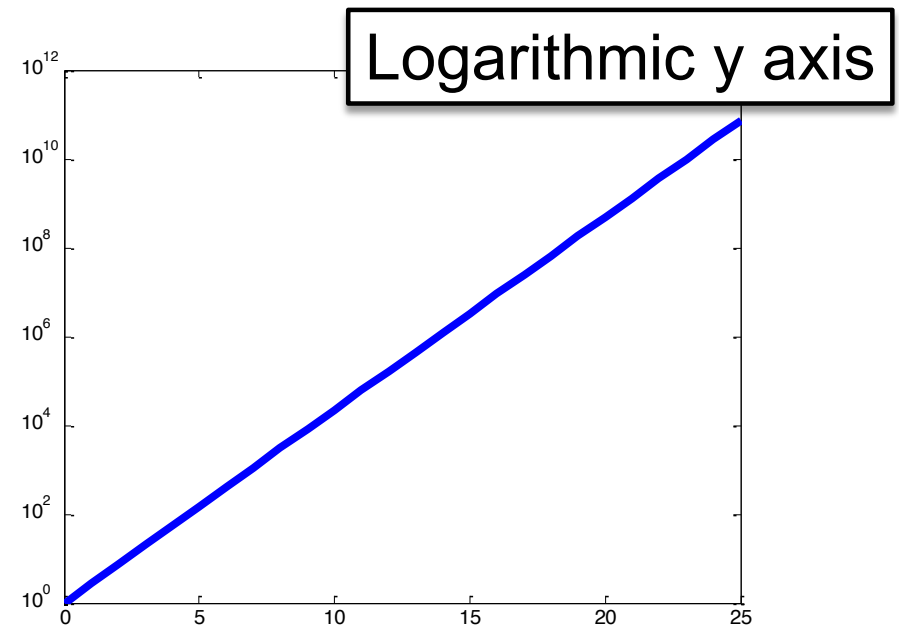
```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y1 = sin(x);  
y2 = cos(x);  
plotyy(x,y1,x,y2)
```



## Other 2D plot commands

Matlab offers a variety of pre-built 2D plot types

```
x = 0:1:25;  
y = exp(x);  
semilogy(x,y , 'LineWidth', 4);
```

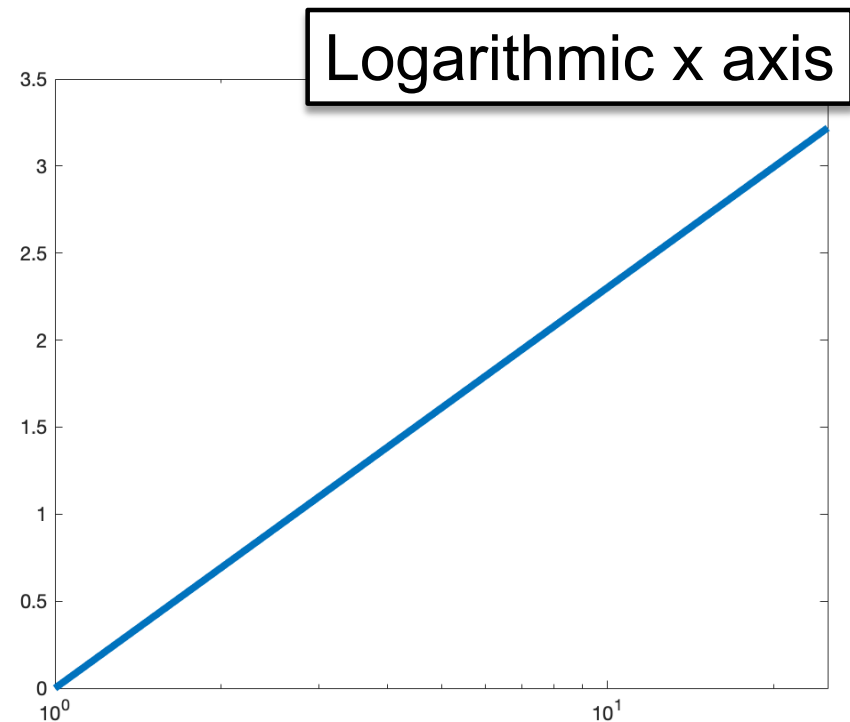


## Other 2D plot commands

---

Matlab offers a variety of pre-built 2D plot types

```
x = 0:1:25;  
y = log(x);  
semilogx(x, y, 'LineWidth', 4);
```

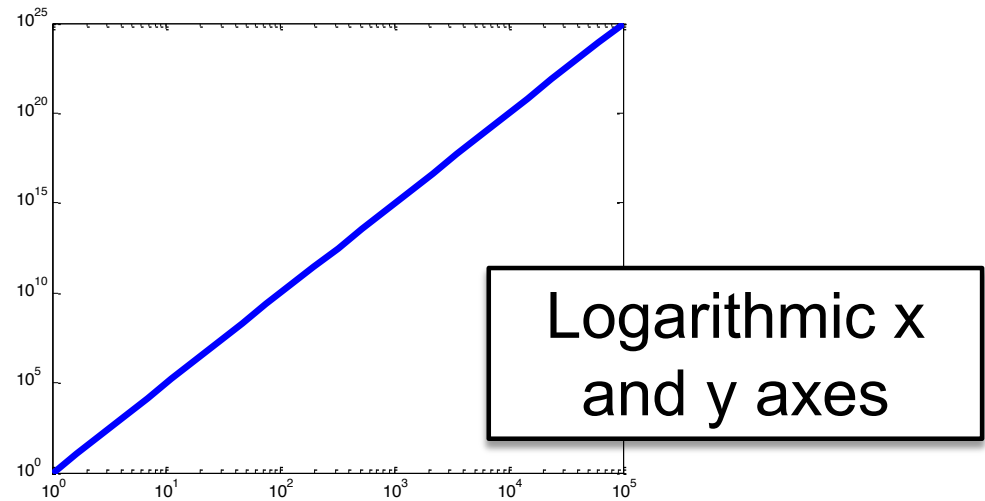


## Other 2D plot commands

---

Matlab offers a variety of pre-built 2D plot types

```
x = logspace(0,5,25);  
y = x.^5;  
loglog(x,y,'LineWidth',4)
```

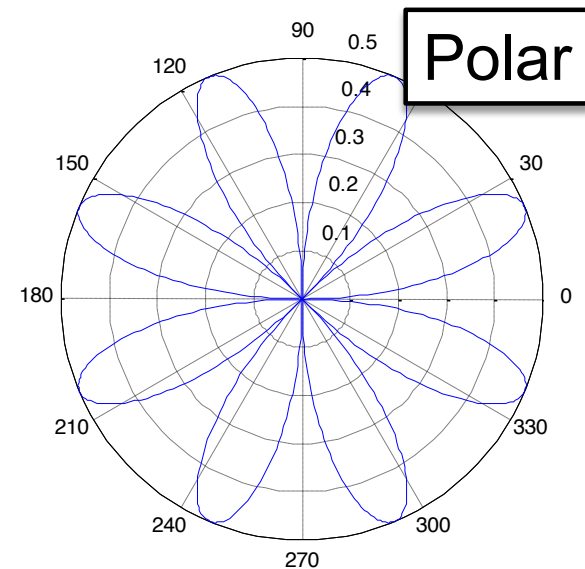


## Other 2D plot commands

---

Matlab offers a variety of pre-built 2D plot types

```
theta = 0:0.01:2*pi;  
rho = sin(2*theta).*cos(2*theta);  
polar(theta,rho)
```

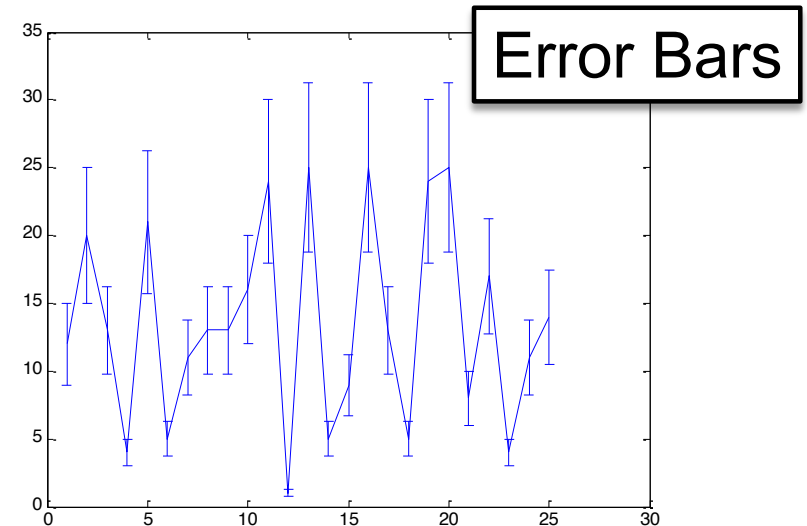




## Other 2D plot commands

Matlab offers a variety of pre-built 2D plot types

```
x = 1:25; y = randi(25,1,length(x));  
y_err = 0.25*y;  
errorbar(x,y,y_err)
```



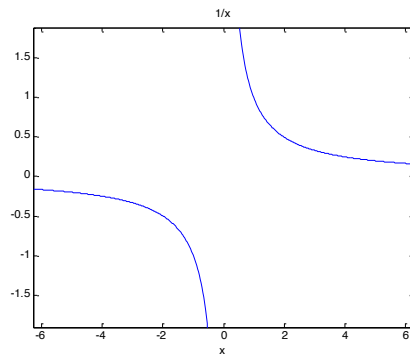
## Other 2D plot commands

---

`ezplot` produces simple plots without the need for discrete input of x/y vectors

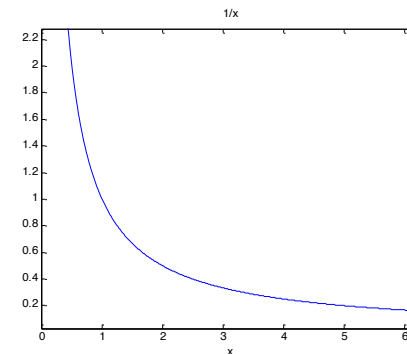
The default domain is  
 $-2\pi$  to  $2\pi$

```
ezplot('1/x')
```



The domain may also be specified  
by a two element vector

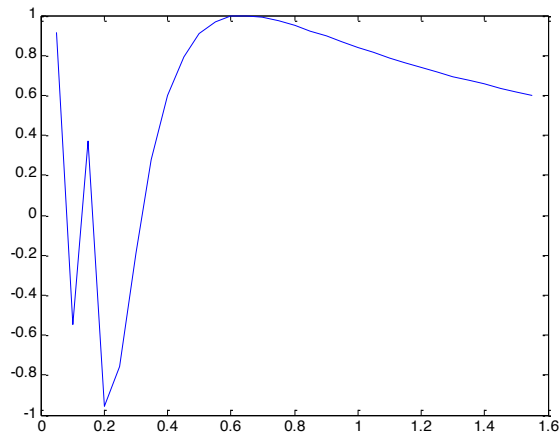
```
ezplot('1/x', [0 2*pi])
```



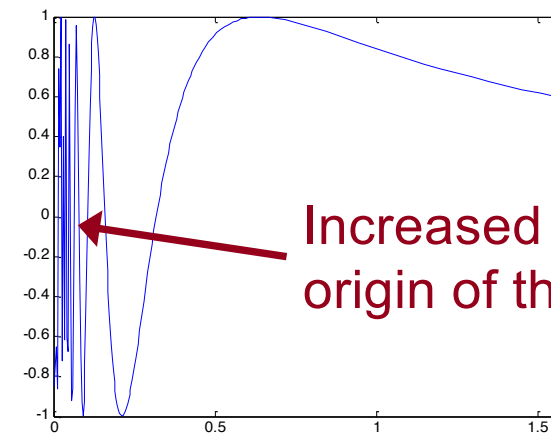
## Other 2D plot commands

`fplot` intelligently selects  $x$  values based on changes to a function and may be used for rapidly changing functions

```
x = 0:.05:0.5*pi;  
y = sin(1./x);  
plot(x,y)
```



```
fplot('sin(1/x)',...  
      [0 0.5*pi]);
```



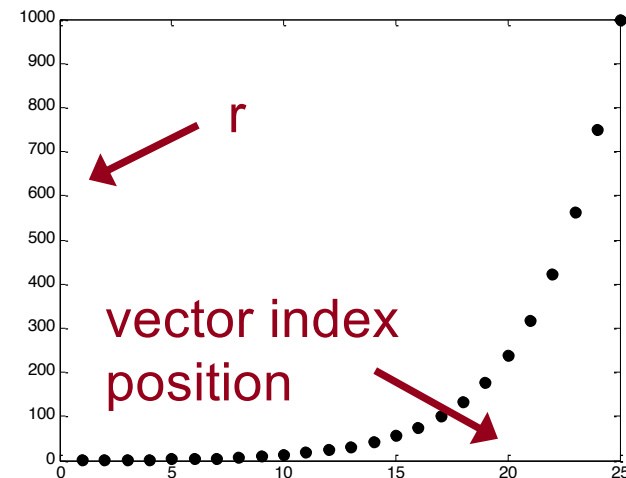
Increased detail near origin of this function

## Plotting a vector

Most 2D plot commands can be called with a single vector, which is often useful for debugging

The  $x$  values are then assigned the index location

```
r = logspace(0, 3, 25)
plot(r, 'ko', ...
     'MarkerFaceColor', 'k')
```



# Specifying plot attributes

---

The canonical plot call is

```
plot(x, y, 'LineSpecifiers', ...  
      'PropertyName', PropertyValue)
```



## Line specifiers

- Line style: solid, dash, dot, dash-dot
- Line color: red, green, blue, cyan, etc.
- Marker: plus, circle, asterisk, etc.

## Property names

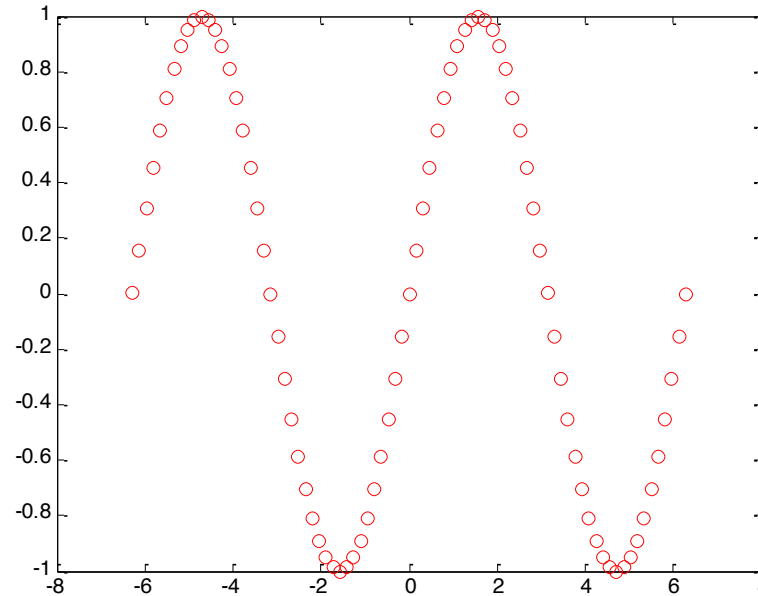
- LineWidth
- MarkerSize
- MarkerEdgeColor
- MarkerFaceColor

# Specifying plot attributes

## Specifying marker and line styles

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x,y, 'ro')
```

Red circles

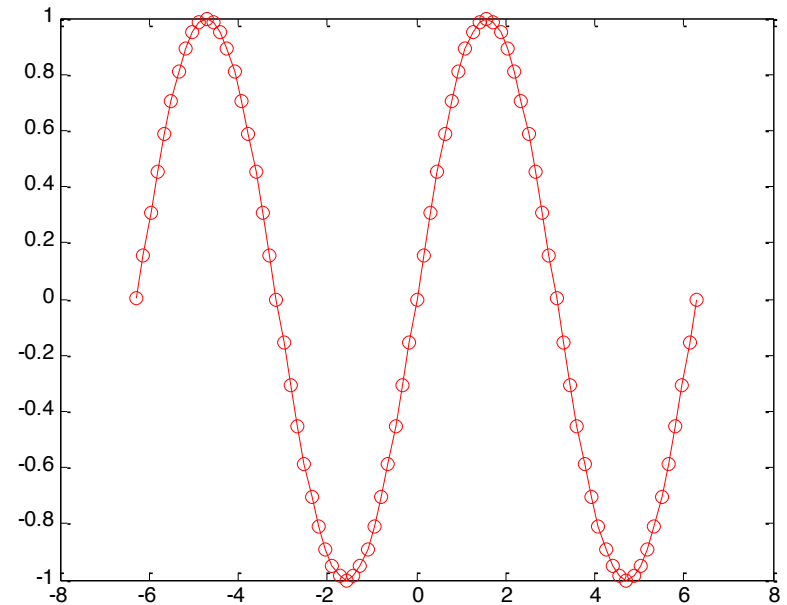


# Specifying plot attributes

## Specifying marker and line styles

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x,y, 'ro-')
```

Red circles with  
connected lines

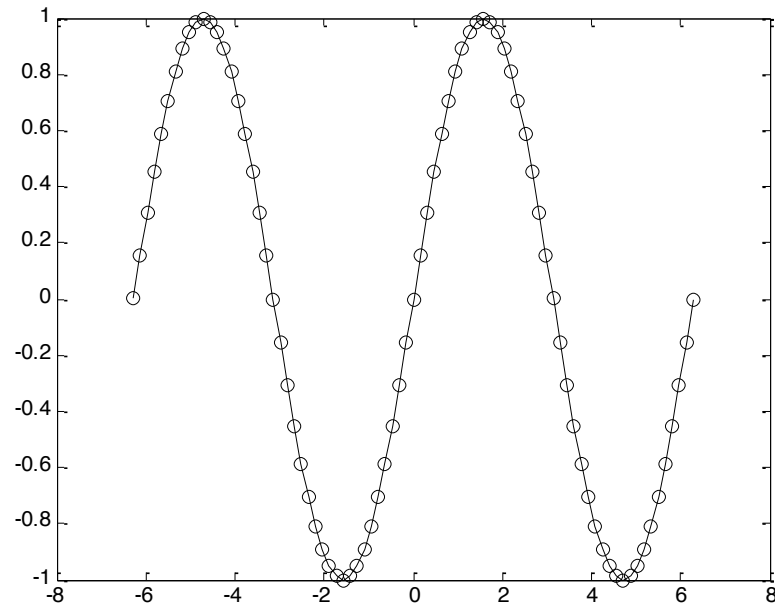


# Specifying plot attributes

## Specifying marker and line styles

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x,y, 'ko-')
```

Black circles with  
connected lines



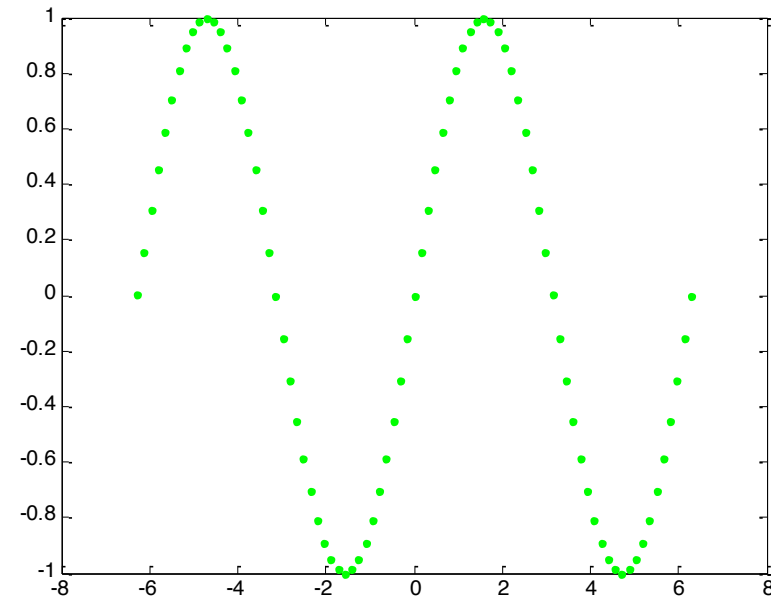


# Specifying plot attributes

## Specifying marker and line styles

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x, y, 'g.')
```

Green dots

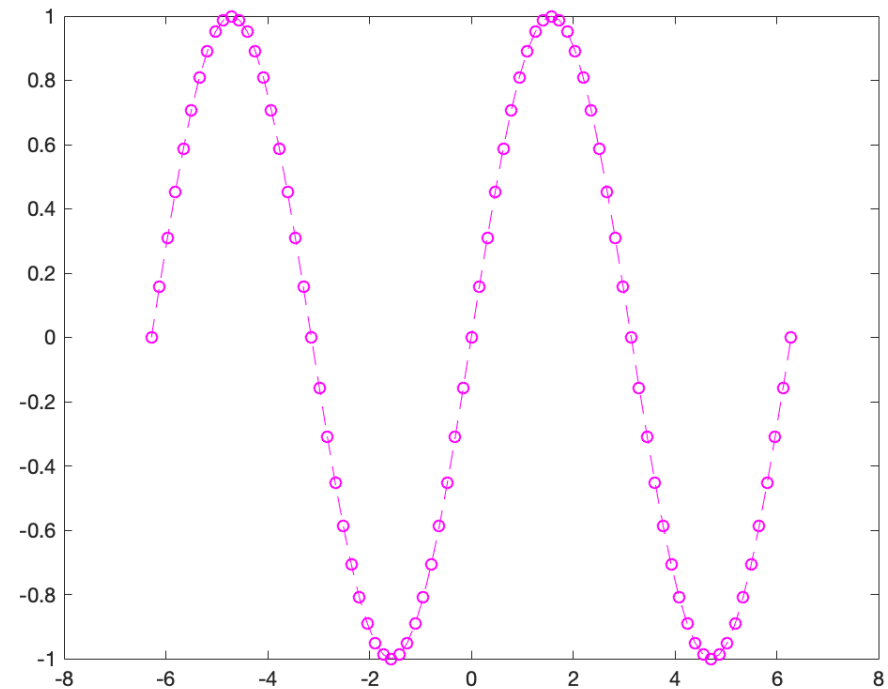


# Specifying plot attributes

## Specifying marker and line styles

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x, y, 'm--o')
```

Dashed magenta  
line with circles



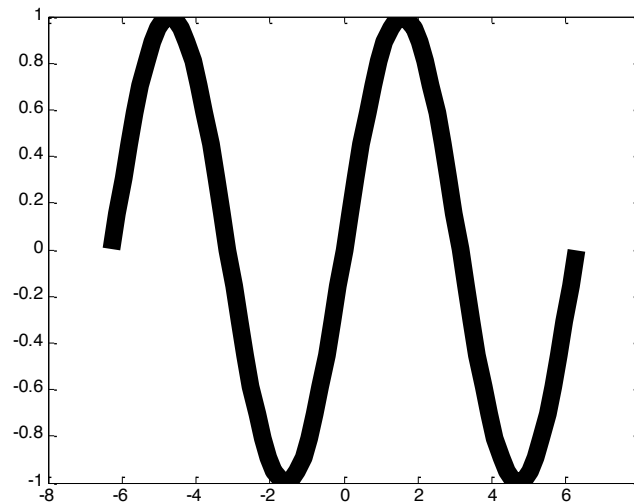
## Specifying plot attributes

---

Many other attributes may be specified within the plot call

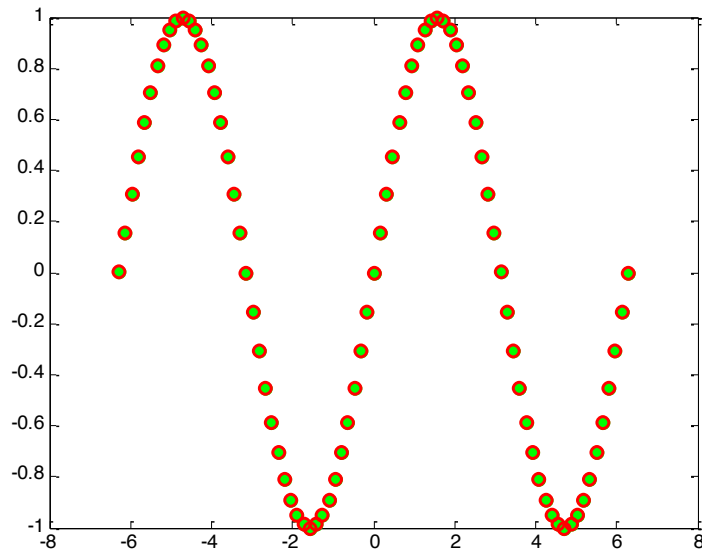
```
plot(x, y, 'k-', 'LineWidth', 10)
```

← Black plot line set to a  
10 pt width



## Specifying plot attributes

```
plot(x, y, 'o', 'MarkerFaceColor', 'g', ...  
     'MarkerEdgeColor', 'r', 'LineWidth', 2)
```



Circles with a green face color, red edge color, and 2 pt edge width

## Specifying plot attributes

---

MATLAB includes many predefined colors  
However, you are not limited to just this color set (it's rather ugly anyways)  
Colors may be specified using the `Color` (or other appropriate) property and specifying the 3-digit RGB color set

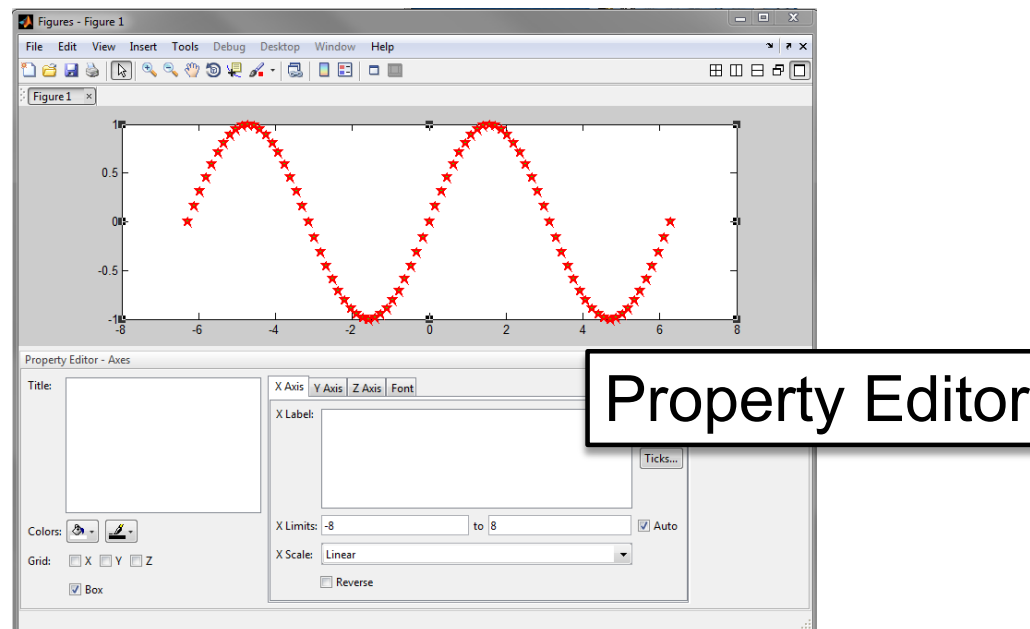
MATLAB's  
predefined color set

r = Red
g = Green
b = Blue
c = Cyan
m = Magenta
y = Yellow
k = Black
w = White

RGB colors typically range from 0 to 255, however, MATLAB takes in color values rescaled from 0 to 1

# Specifying plot attributes

Line specifications may be investigated by searching `linespec` in the MATLAB documentation (DEMO), by choosing view/property editor from the plot options bar (DEMO), or by choosing view/property editor/more properties (DEMO)

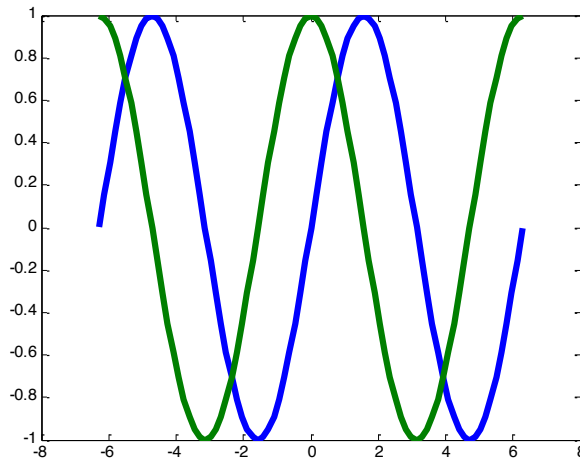


## Overlaid plots

---

Multiple plots may be overlaid by specifying multiple vectors

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y1 = sin(x);  
y2 = cos(x);  
plot(x, y1, x, y2, 'LineWidth', 4)
```



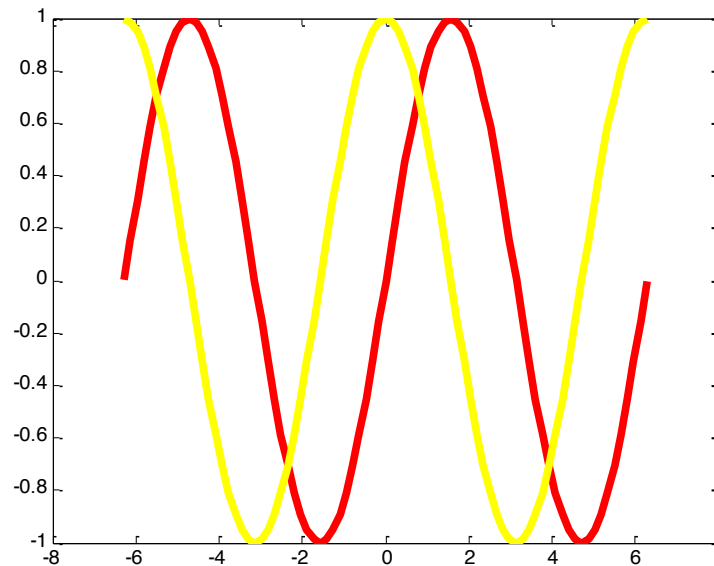
Note that x must be specified for each plot instance, MATLAB automatically chooses the plotting colors unless otherwise specified, and line specifications are adopted by all of the plot vectors

## Overlaid plots

---

Plot color may be specified for each vector, but line specifications such as `LineWidth` invoked within the plot function will be applied to all data series

```
plot(x, y1, 'r-', x, y2, 'y-', 'LineWidth', 4)
```

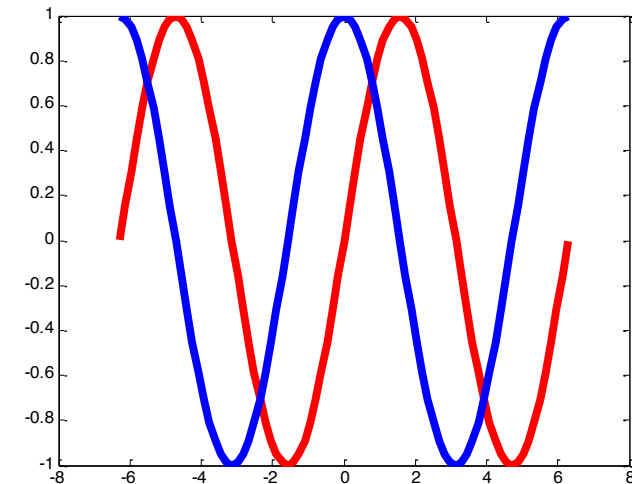




## Overlaid plots

Multiple plots may also be overlaid by using the `hold on / hold off` command

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y1 = sin(x);  
y2 = cos(x);  
plot(x,y1,'r-','LineWidth',5)  
hold on  
plot(x,y2,'b-','LineWidth',5)  
hold off
```



`hold on` is invoked after the first plot command and indicates that more data will be attributed to the existing axes;  
`hold off` indicates that additional plotting will overwrite the axes

## Setting axes or figure properties

---

Characteristics of the plot may be modified by referring to the current axes or figure

`gca`: get current axes

`gcf`: get current figure

This may be combined with the `set` command to modify a plot characteristic

ex. `set(gca, 'FontSize', 20)`

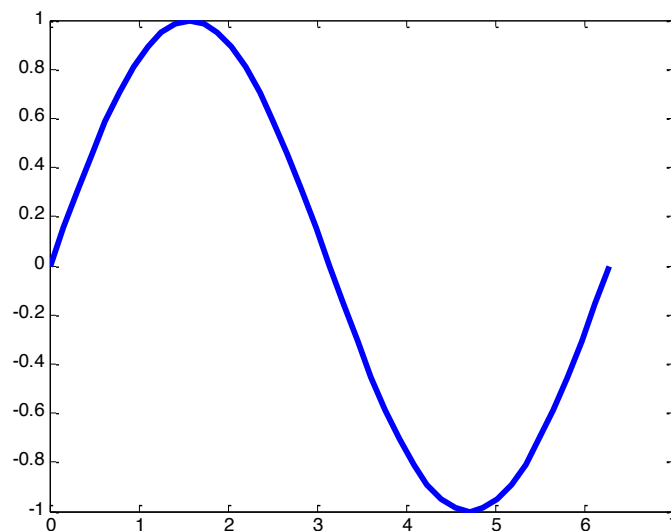
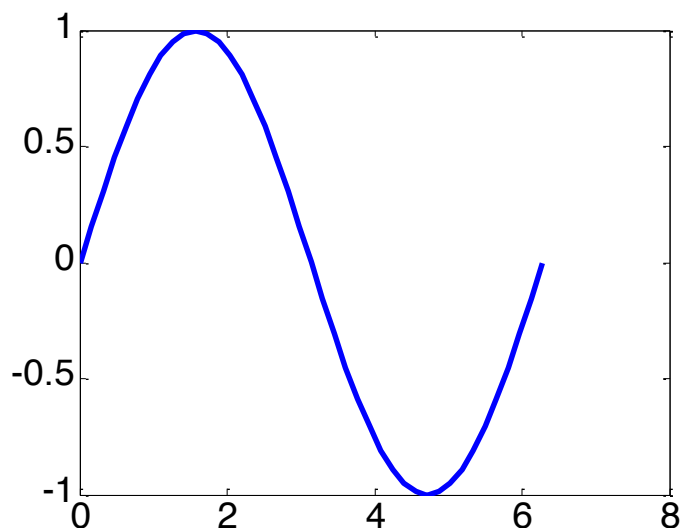
The general form for the `set` command is

`set(<ref to handle>, <property name>, <property value>)`



# Setting plot characteristics using `gca` and `gcf`

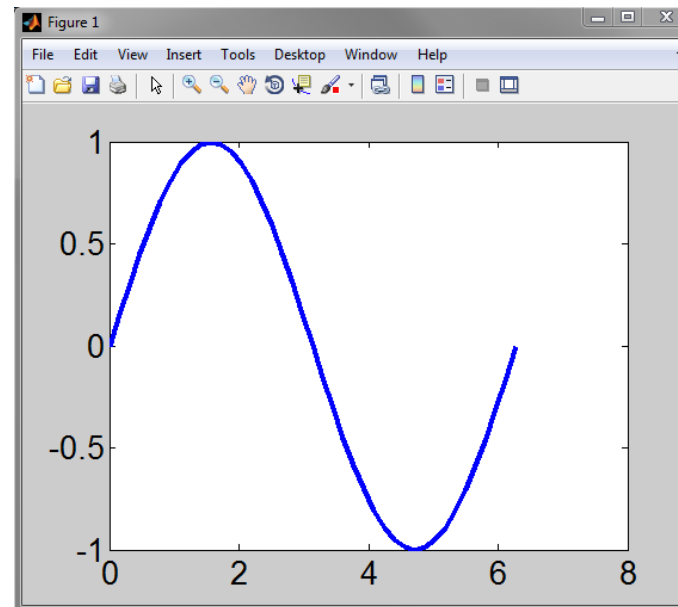
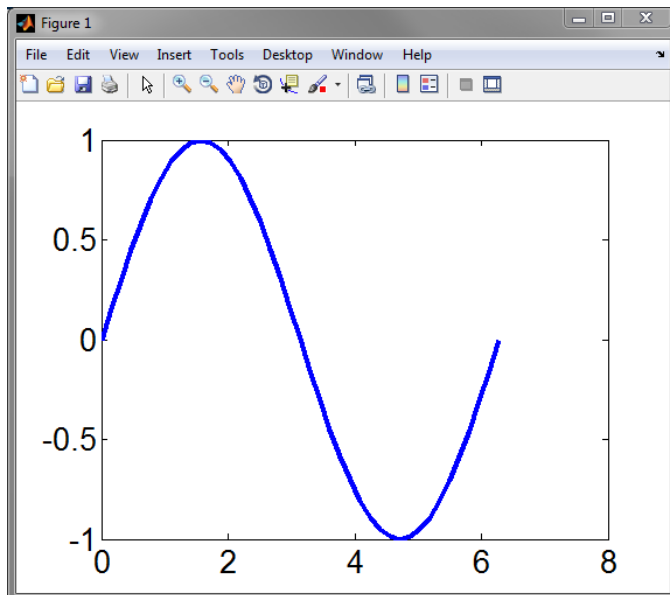
```
x = 0:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x,y, 'LineWidth', 3)
```



```
x = 0:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x,y, 'LineWidth', 3)  
set(gca, 'FontSize', 20)
```

# Setting plot characteristics using `gca` and `gcf`

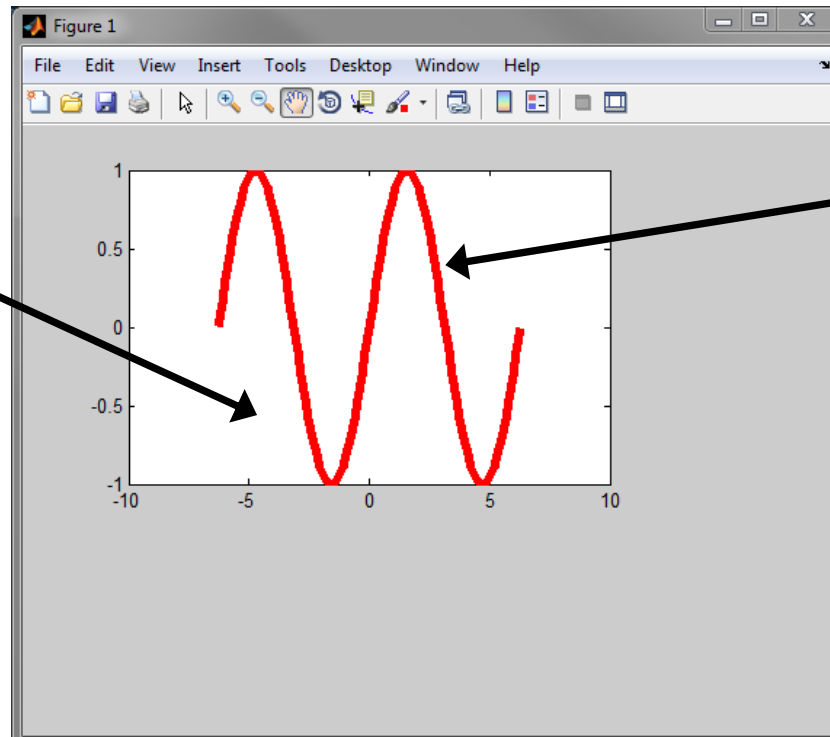
```
x = 0:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x,y,'LineWidth',3)  
set(gca,'FontSize',20)
```



```
x = 0:pi/20:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x,y,'LineWidth',3)  
set(gca,'FontSize',20)  
set(gcf,'Color','w')
```

# Plot parent / child hierarchy

axes = “child” of  
“parent” figure  
window



data set = “child” of  
“parent” axes

figure

Multiple axes can exist on a single figure window!!

## Plot parent / child hierarchy

---

When invoking the `plot()` command MATLAB recognizes that you want to create a set of axes and a figure window to contain the plot information

When invoking the `axes()` command MATLAB recognizes that you want to create a figure window to contain the axes

Close all figures and try typing `axes` or `figure` at the command line

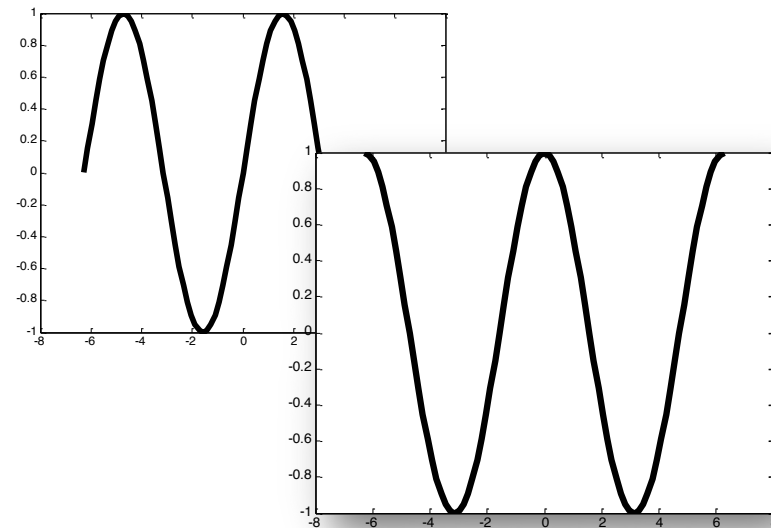
## Plotting multiple figures

Say you want to plot multiple figures

The second plot command executed (without specifying hold on) will overwrite the first plot

You need to specify a new figure establish a new parent figure window

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;  
y1 = sin(x);  
y2 = cos(x);  
  
plot(x,y1,'k-', 'LineWidth',5)  
  
figure  
plot(x,y2,'k-', 'LineWidth',5)
```



## Plotting multiple figures

---

Figures numbers may also be specified with a figure number,  
ex. `figure(3)`

Plots may then be closed using the close command

`close`: closes the last figure

`close(n)`: closes figure number n

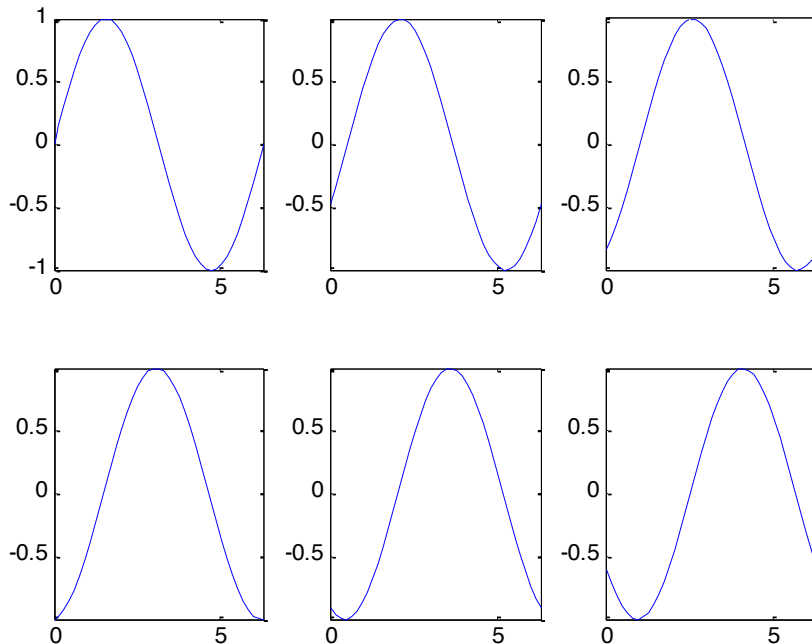
`close all`: closes all figures





## Multiple axes on a figure

Multiple axes may be assigned to a single figure using the `subplot` command or by specifying the position of multiple axes



`subplot(2, 3, 2)`

rows of axes

columns of axes

position of current axes (counted along rows)

# Multiple axes on a single figure

---

## Code from the previous example

```
x = 0:pi/20:2*pi;
y1 = sin(x-0);
y2 = sin(x-.5);
y3 = sin(x-1);
y4 = sin(x-1.5);
y5 = sin(x-2);
y6 = sin(x-2.5);

subplot(2,3,1)
plot(x,y1)
axis tight

subplot(2,3,2)
plot(x,y2)
axis tight

subplot(2,3,3)
plot(x,y3)
axis tight

subplot(2,3,4)
plot(x,y4)
axis tight

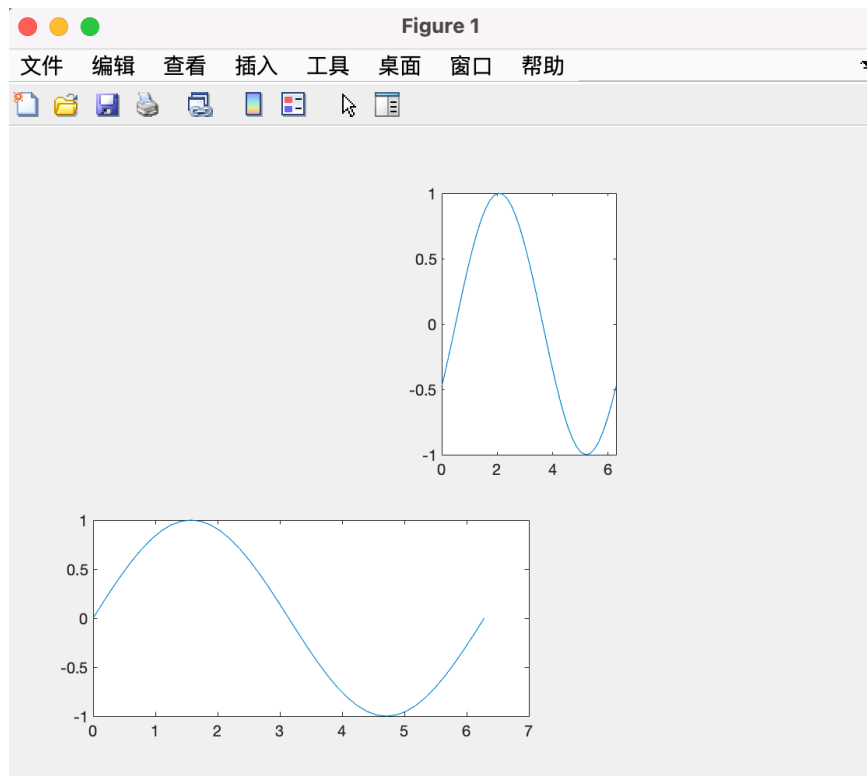
subplot(2,3,5)
plot(x,y5)
axis tight

subplot(2,3,6)
plot(x,y6)
axis tight
```



# Multiple axes on a single figure

The position of axes can be directly specified using the axes command



four element vector describing the lower left hand corner coordinates (x and y) and the width and height of the axes - units are in fractions of the entire window space [0 -> 1]



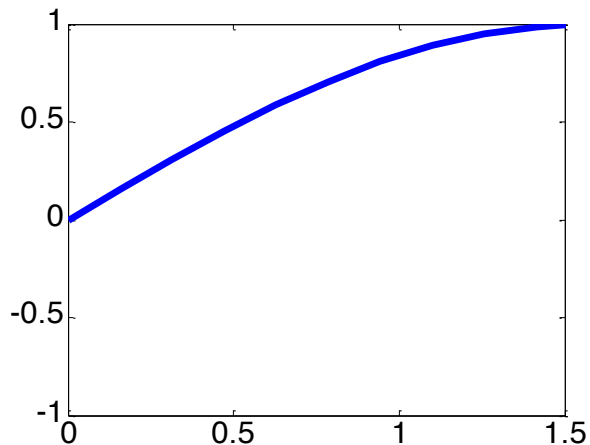
```
axes('Position',[.1 .1 .5 .3])  
plot(x,y1)
```

```
axes('Position',[.5 .5 .2 .4])  
plot(x,y3)
```

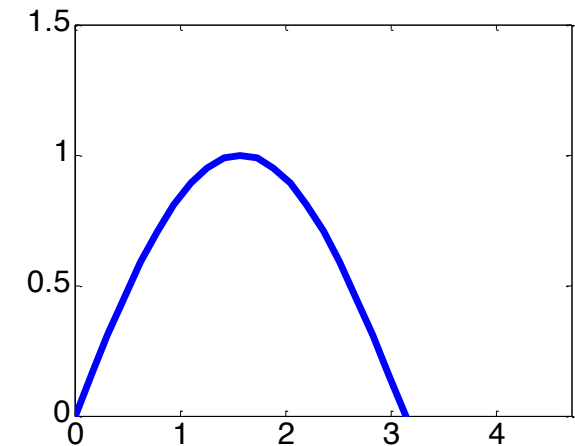
## Specifying the domain and range

MATLAB usually specifies reasonable bounds for the plot - but a specific domain and range may be specified using `axis` or `xlim/ylim`

```
plot(x,y1,'LineWidth',5)  
axis([0 1.5*pi 0 1.5])  
set(gca,'FontSize',20)
```

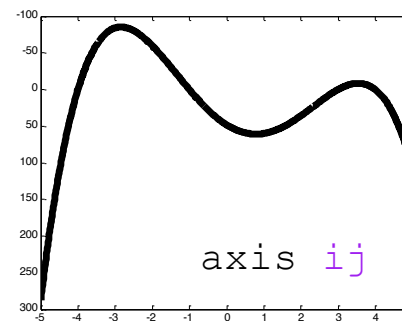
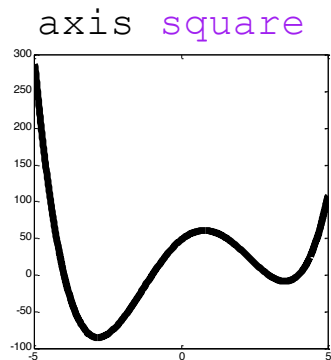
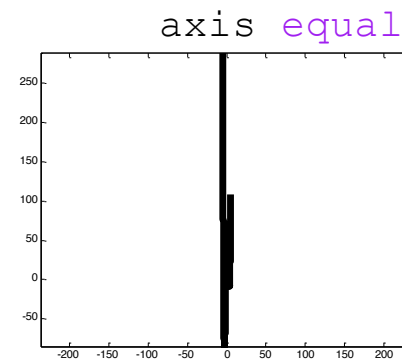
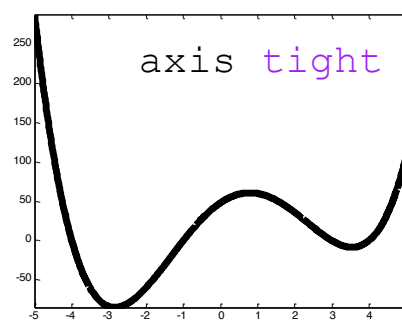
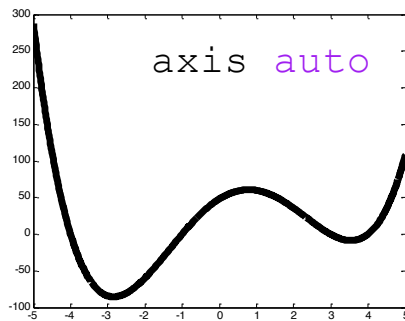


```
plot(x,y1,'LineWidth',5)  
xlim([0 1.5])  
ylim([-1 1])  
set(gca,'FontSize',20)
```



# Specifying the domain and range

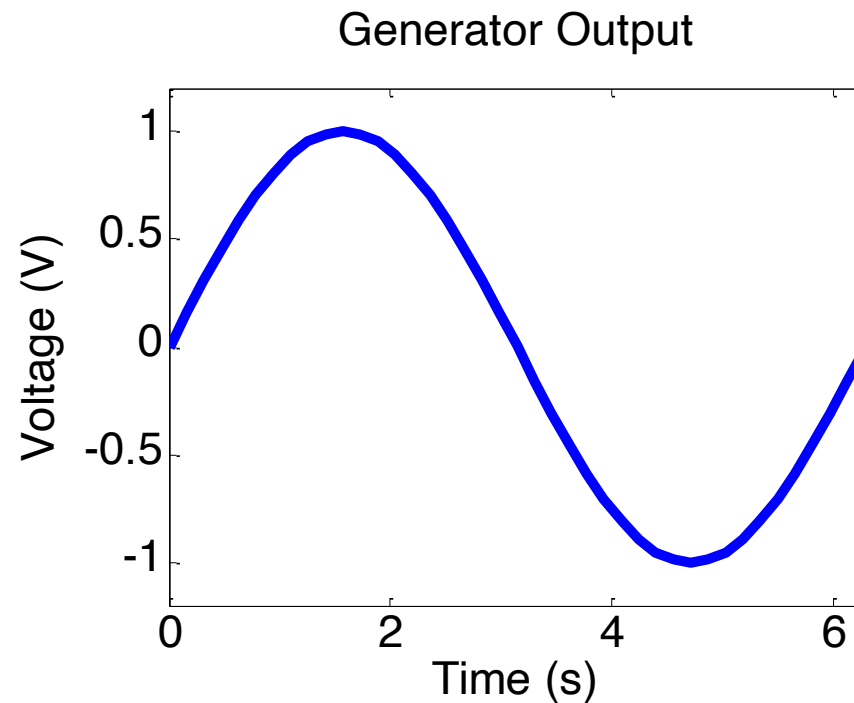
The axis command offers many predefined axis scaling/sizing operations



## Labeling and titling axes

Axis labels and titles may be placed on the graph

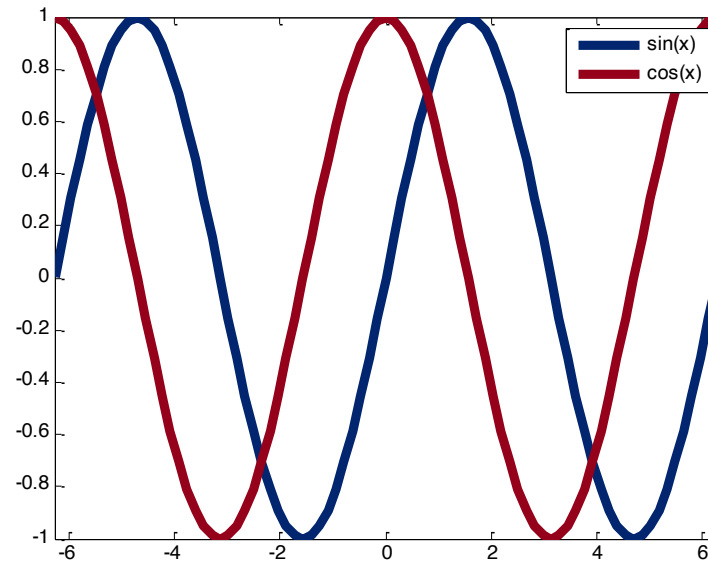
```
plot(x,y1,'LineWidth',5)  
set(gca,'FontSize',20)  
xlabel('Time (s)')  
ylabel('Voltage (V)')  
title('Generator Output')  
axis([0 2*pi -1.2 1.2])
```



## Adding a legend

Legends may be added and the position of the legend specified

```
x = -2*pi:pi/20:2*pi;
y1 = sin(x);
y2 = cos(x);
plot(x,y1,'Color',...
      [1 37 110]./255,...
      'LineWidth',5);
hold on
plot(x,y2,'Color',...
      [149 0 26]./255,...
      'LineWidth',5);
hold off
axis tight
legend('sin(x)', 'cos(x)', ...
      'Location','NorthEast')
```

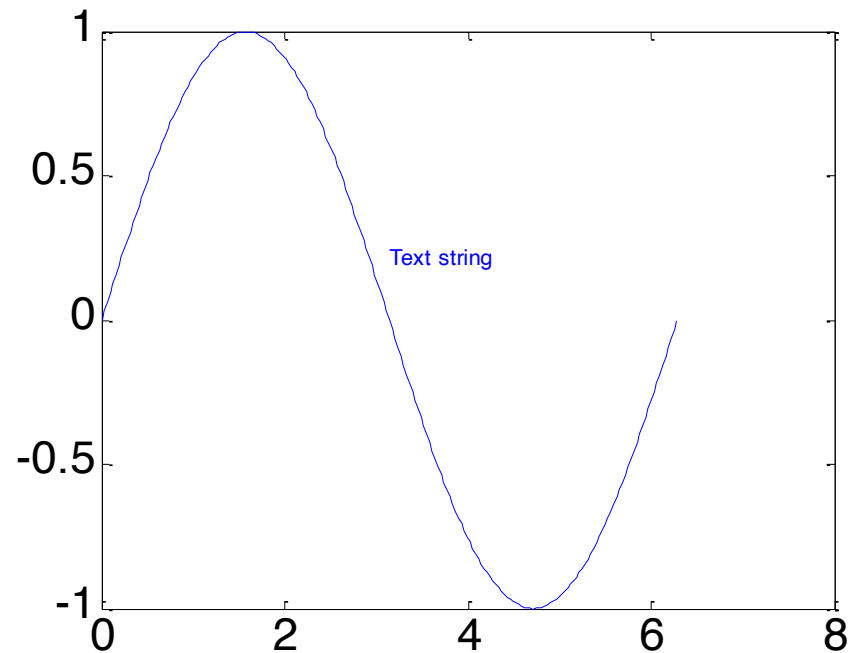


## Placing text on a plot

---

Text may be placed on a plot using the text command

```
x = 0:pi/100:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
plot(x,y)  
set(gca, 'FontSize', 20)  
text(pi, 0.2, 'Text  
string', 'Color', 'b')
```



-or using features in “Insert/textBox”



## Seeing in 3D

---

```
plot3(x, y, z, 'line specifiers',  
      'PropertyName', PropertyValue)
```

`x, y, z:` vectors of points  
`line specifiers:` type and color  
`PropertyName & PropertyValue:` other attributes

16\_1

$$x = \sqrt{t} \sin(2t)$$

$$y = \sqrt{t} \cos(2t)$$

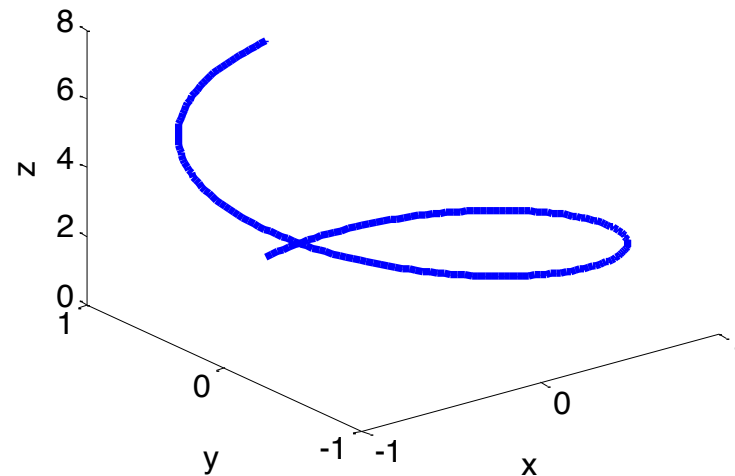
$$z = 0.5t$$



## 3D plotting (vectors)

### Plotting vectors using `plot3`

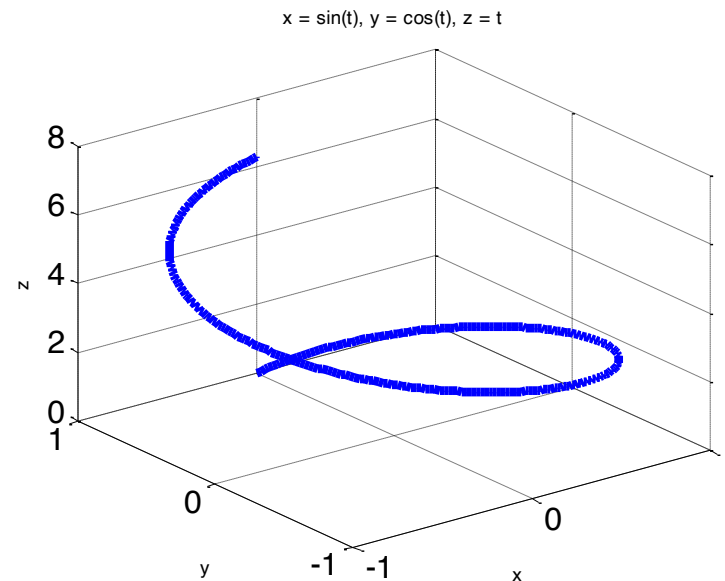
```
t = 0:pi/100:2*pi;  
x = sin(t);  
y = cos(t);  
z = t;  
plot3(x,y,z, 'LineWidth',4)  
set(gca, 'FontSize',16)  
xlabel('x')  
ylabel('y')  
zlabel('z')
```



## 3D plotting (vectors)

### Plotting vectors using `ezplot3`

```
h = ezplot3('sin(t)',...  
            'cos(t)', 't', [0 2*pi]);  
set(gca, 'FontSize', 16)  
set(h, 'LineWidth', 5)
```



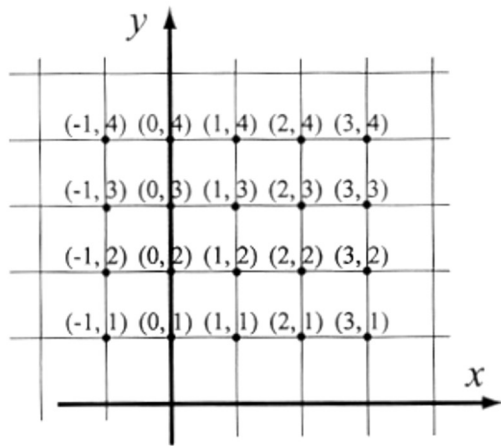
# Mesh and Surface Plots

---

- `mesh` lines connecting the points
- `surf` areas colored
- Useful for functions of the form  $z = f(x, y)$
- Three steps
  1. Make a grid in the x-y plane
  2. Find the value of z for each point of the grid
  3. Draw the mesh or surface plot



## Step 1: Make the Grid



$$X = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } Y = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 4 & 4 & 4 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

`[X, Y] = meshgrid (x, y)`

X, Y: matrices of x and y coordinates, respectively

x, y: vectors that define the domain of the grid

## Step 2: Find the z Values

---

- Element-by-element calculation

$$z = \frac{xy^2}{x^2 + y^2}$$



## Step 3: Draw the Plot

---

- `mesh(X, Y, Z)` or `surf(X, Y, Z)`

16-2

*Variations on mesh and surface plots*

16-3



## Other 3D Plots

---

- Sphere
- Cylinder
- 3D bar
- 3D stem
- 3D scatter
- 3D pie

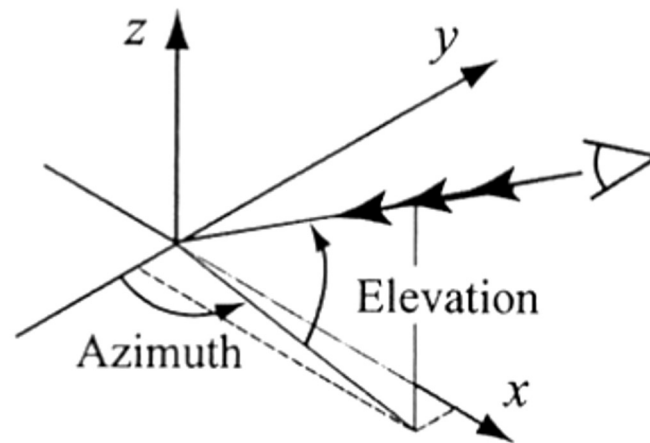
16-4, text 7.2.9





# Controlling the View – in 3D

---



`view(az, el)` or `view([az, el])`

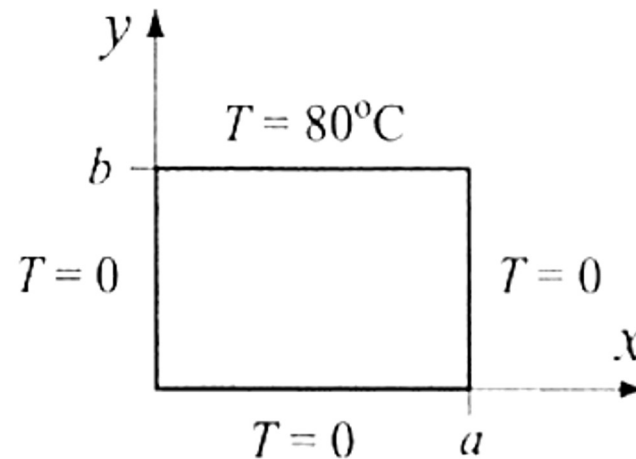
az: azimuth relative to negative y-axis  
(default is  $-37.5^\circ$  )

el: elevation from x-y plane  
(default is  $30^\circ$  ) 16-5

## Example Heat Conduction on a Plate

---

- Three sides of a rectangular plate ( $a = 5\text{m}$ ,  $b = 4\text{m}$ ) are kept at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ .
- The fourth side is kept at  $80^\circ\text{C}$ .
- Plot the temperature distribution  $T(x, y)$  across the plate.



## Example Heat Conduction on a Plate

---

- Two-dimensional heat equation

$$T(x,y) = \frac{4T_1}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin\left[(2n-1)\frac{\pi x}{a}\right] \sinh\left[(2n-1)\frac{\pi y}{a}\right]}{2n-1 \sinh\left[(2n-1)\frac{\pi b}{a}\right]}$$

- Steps
  - Create the grid on the x and y domain dividing width  $a$  into 20 segments and width  $b$  into 16.
  - Calculate temperature at each point
  - Plot the results

Ex16\_2.m



## Example Electric Field of Two Point Charges

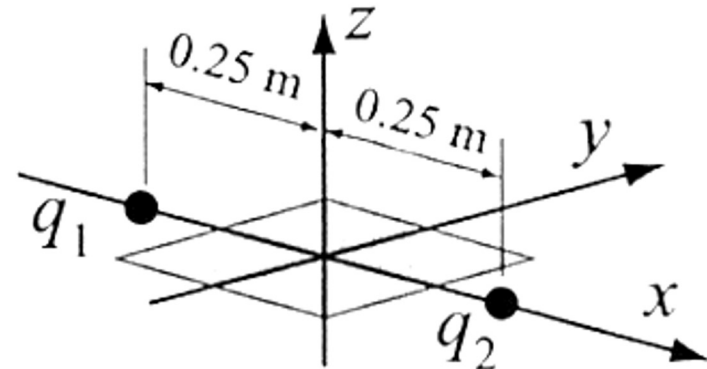
- Electric potential  $V$  around a charged particle is

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$$

where  $\epsilon_0 = 8.8541878 \times 10^{-12} \frac{\text{C}}{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}$

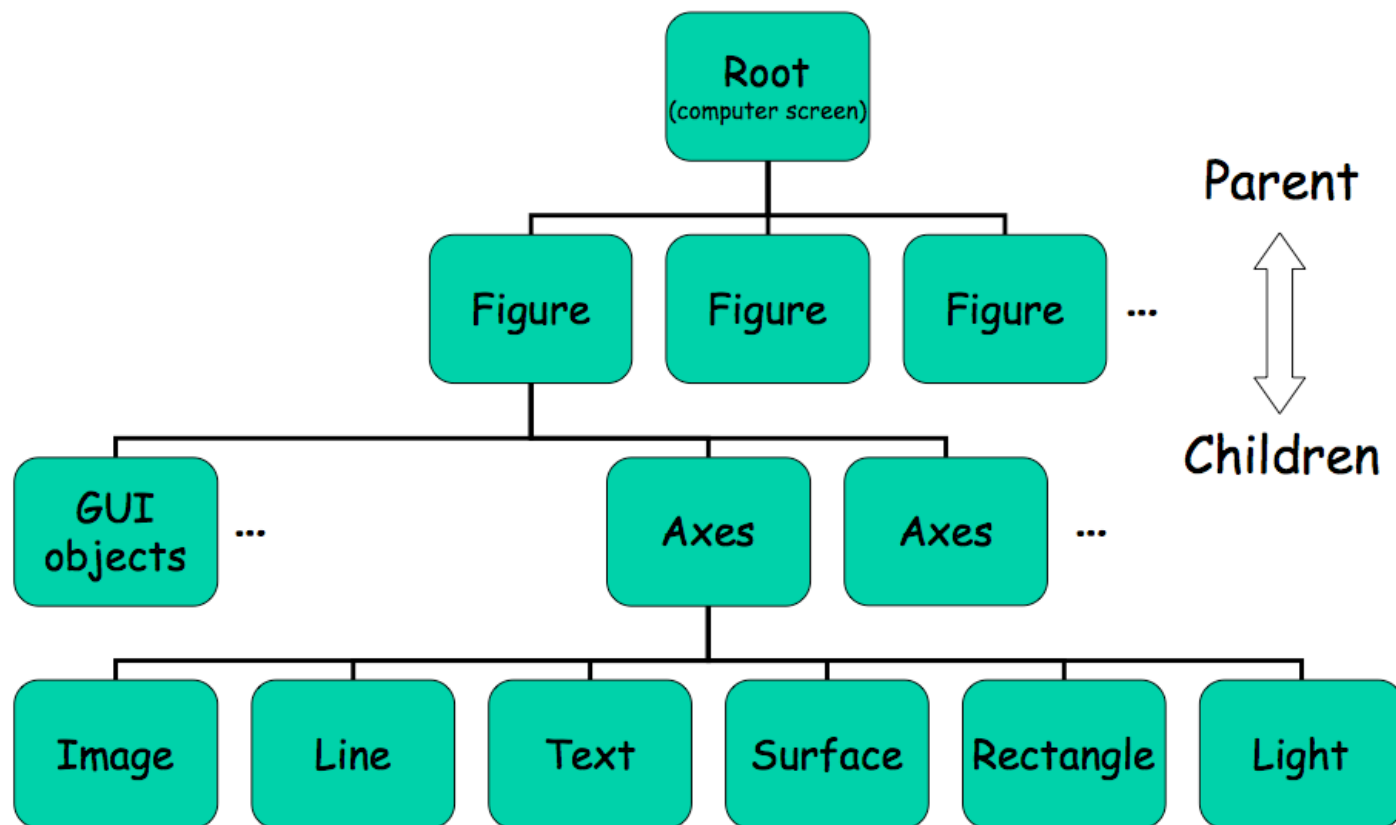
$q$  = charge in Coulombs

$r$  = distance from particle (m)



- Two particles with charges  $q_1 = 2 \times 10^{-10}$  and  $q_2 = 3 \times 10^{-10}$  are positioned as shown.
- Calculate and plot the electric potential due to the particles. [Ex16\\_3.m](#)

# MATLAB Graphics System



# Properties of Objects

---

- Control how the object looks or behaves
- Each has `property name` and `property value`
- Default values applied when object is created
  - can be overridden

```
hndl = plot(x, y, 'LineWidth', 2);
```

- Use `get` and `set` to retrieve and change properties of existing objects

[L17-1.m](#)



# Graphics handles

---

Figures, axes, and plots can all be assigned handles

These handles look a lot like “variables” and serve as a pointer to the object

ex.

```
myHandle1 = plot(x,y);
```

```
myFig = figure;
```

```
h = axes;
```

```
foo = axes;
```

## Graphics handles

---

The `set` command is then used to set properties associated with the handle

The general form of the `set` command is

```
set(<handle>, <property>, <propertyValue>)
```

ex.

```
p11 = plot(x,y);  
set(p11, 'LineWidth', 2)
```





# Graphics handles

---

The `get` command may be used to get properties associated with the handle

The general form of the `set` command is

`get(<handle>, <property>)`

**ex.**

```
fig1 = figure
pl1 = plot(x,y);
get(fig1, 'Position')
```

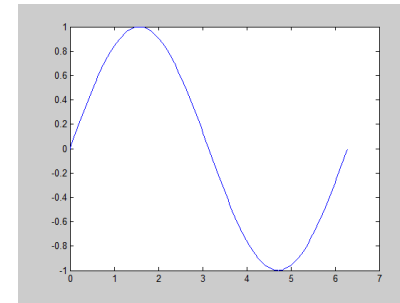


# An example of graphics handles

```
% Example handle graphics use
```

```
x = 0:pi/100:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);
```

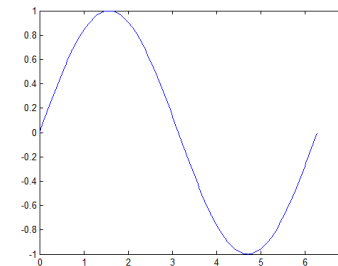
```
myFigure = figure;  
plot(x,y)
```



```
% Set the background of the figure  
to
```

```
% white
```

```
set(myFigure, 'Color', 'w')
```



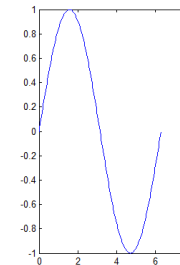
```
% Take the default plot position  
and
```

```
% reduce the width by 1/2
```

```
pos = get(myFigure, 'Position');
```

```
pos(3) = 0.5*pos(3);
```

```
set(myFigure, 'Position', pos);
```



## Example - Customizing a Plot

---

$$\text{sinc}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sin x}{x} & x \neq 0 \\ 1 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

- Plot the function from  $-3\pi \leq x \leq 3\pi$  then
  - make the background pink
  - show the y-axis grid lines only
  - change the line to orange and 2-points wide

Ex17-1



## Example - Selecting Objects

---

- Write a program that displays information about selected objects in a plot until a key is pressed

Ex17-2



## Example - Positioning Objects

---

- The program creates two overlapping sets of axes with a single figure
- The first has a text comment attached to the line itself
- The second has a text comment in the lower left corner

Ex17-3



## Example - Animating Plots

---

- Fine control over plotting allows a form of animation

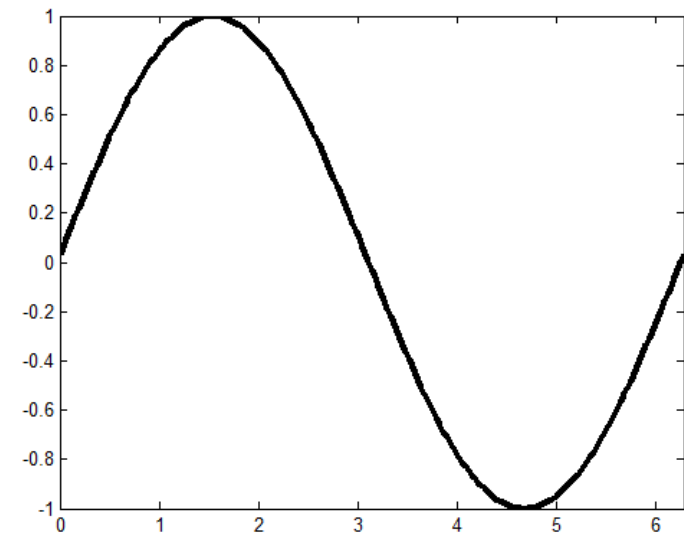
Ex17-4



# Animating figures

## Example: 2D shifting a sine wave

```
x = 0:pi/100:2*pi;  
y = sin(x);  
  
p1 = plot(x,y,'k-', 'LineWidth',3);  
axis tight  
  
for jj = 1:100  
    pause(0.01)  
    y = sin(x+jj*pi/100);  
    set(p1, 'XData',x, 'YData',y)  
end
```

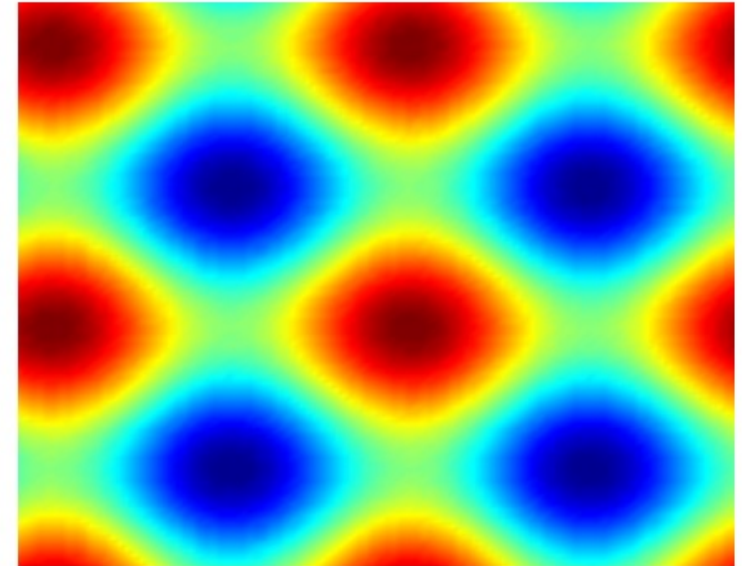


A combination of pausing and updating the axis data results in an animation

# Animating figures

## Example: 3D shifting trigonometric field

```
x = linspace(-2*pi,2*pi,100);  
y = x;  
[X,Y] = meshgrid(x,y);  
Z = sin(X)+cos(Y);  
h = surface(Z);  
shading interp  
axis off  
set(gcf, 'Color', 'w')  
  
for jj = 1:100  
    pause(0.05)  
    Z = sin(X+jj*pi/100) + cos(Y+jj*pi/100);  
    set(h, 'CData', Z)  
end
```



A combination of pausing and updating the axis data results in an animation