Getting Started in Matlab

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MATLAB is available on all computers in GMCS 422/425/428. Hours in the Lab are M-Th 9AM-10PM, FSat 9AM-4PM. You should probably have a flashdrive to store your material.

- To start MATLAB, **click** on
  - START → PROGRAMS → MATLAB *version* → MATLAB *version*
- Matlab opens with one window with 3 panels:
  - Workspace / Current Directory
  - Command History
  - Command Window
- **Click** on the *"Current Directory"* tab at the bottom of the top left *"Workspace / Current Directory"* window. Then **click** on the button with three dots *"..."* in the top row; **select** the location of your flashdrive (this is where you will save your work).
- **Right click** in the empty space in the *"Current Directory"* window, and **select** "NEW → M-FILE." Name the file "**justtesting.m**" **Doubleclick** on "**justtesting.m**" to open it (for editing). Erase everything, and enter the following content:

```
disp('Just making sure it works...')
2^6
```

- SAVE — **click** on the disk!
- In the command window, type "**justtesting**" (without the quotation marks). You should see the following output:

```
Just making sure it works...
ans =
    64
```

- Congratulations, you have just executed your first(?) Matlab m-script!
- You can also work interactively in the command window. Try typing

```
>> pi
   ans =
       3.1416

>> format long; pi
   ans =
       3.14159265358979
```

- To define a vector containing values between -π and π, with a step of 0.1, type:

```
>> x = -pi : 0.1 : pi;
```

  The semicolon (;) suppresses the output. Just type

```
>> x
   x =
     [ yada yada yada ..... ]
```

  To see the contents of x. Lets try plotting:

```
>> plot(x, sin(x))
>> plot(x, sin(x), 'r', x, cos(3*x), 'b')
```

- The command "**help**" is your friend! Try for instance

```
>> help plot
>> help help
>> help function
```

- To exit and log off:

  FILE → EXIT MATLAB

- Setting up printing: — You will want/need to print things... There are (hopefully) instructions in the lab on how to set up your account to print on the lab printers.
- Online Matlab Tutorials.

  Check out **http://www.math.mtu.edu/~msgocken/intro/intro.html** for an introduction to Matlab. Feel free to Google for "matlab tutorial" – there's a bunch of them available online!
- Play around and get (somewhat) comfortable!

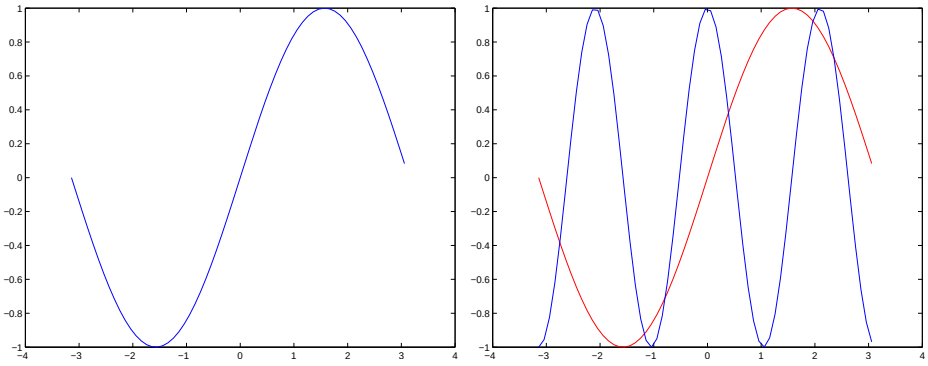

Figure 1: [LEFT] **plot(x, sin(x)), and [Right] plot(x, sin(x), 'r', x, cos(3*x), 'b')**