

Matlab Programming Plots^{1 2}

Mili I. Shah

September 17, 2009

¹*Matlab, An Introduction with Applications, 2nd ed.* by Amos Gilat

²*Matlab Guide, 2nd ed.* by D. J. Higham and N. J. Higham

Many different type of 2D plots

- `plot`: Basic 2D plot (x - y plane)
- `loglog`: Plot with logarithmically scaled axes
- `semilogx`: Plot with logarithmically scaled x -axis
- `semilogy`: Plot with logarithmically scaled y -axis
- `bar`: Bar graph
- `hist`: Histogram
- `polar`: Polar graph

Basic Plots

- Basic connect-the-dots command

```
plot(x,y,string)
```

```
>> x = linspace(-2,2);  
>> y = x.^2;  
>> plot(x,y)
```

Now for a red curve with the markers as stars

```
>> plot(x,y,'r*')
```

For a full list of options type `help plot`

- `loglog` is the same as `plot` except the axes are logarithmic
- `semilogx` is the same as `plot` except the x-axis is logarithmic
- `semilogy` is the same as `plot` except the y-axis is logarithmic
- `hold on` Holds the graph so you can add more
- `xlabel`, `ylabel`, `title`, `legend` Labels for the graph
- `axis auto`, `axis equal`, `axis square`, `axis tight`
- `axis([xmin xmax ymin ymax])`

(Not so) Basic Plots

```
% This produces one of those killer spirographs
% Adapted from:
% http://www.starchamber.com/paracelsus/matlab/
r1 = rand;
r2 = rand;
r3 = rand;

a1= 0:0.15:314;
a2 = a1 * r1/r2;

x = (r1 - r2) * cos(a1) - cos(a2) * r3;
y = (r1 - r2) * sin(a1) - sin(a2) * r3;

plot(x,y)
```

Try axis equal, axis square, grid on, axis off, hold

Bar Graph

Creating a bar graph

```
bar(x,y,string)
```

```
>> year = [1988:1994];  
>> sales = round(50*rand(7,1));  
>> bar(year,sales,'r')
```

Histograms

Creating a histogram

```
hist(y,string)
```

```
>> grades = round(100*rand(100,1));  
>> subplot(2,1,1), plot(grades)  
>> subplot(2,1,2), hist(grades)
```

Polar Coordinates

```
polar(theta,radius,string)
```

```
>> theta=pi/2:4/5*pi:4.8*pi;  
>> r=ones(1,6);  
>> polar(theta,r)
```

- `plot3`: Basic 3D Connect-the-Dots

```
plot3(x,y,z,string)
```

- `mesh`: Plots $z = f(x, y)$ with lines that connect the points

```
x = stX:incX:endX; y = stY:incY:endY;  
[X,Y]=meshgrid(x,y); mesh(X,Y,Z)
```

- `surf`: Plots $z = f(x, y)$ similar to `mesh` but the area is colored

```
x = stX:incX:endX; y = stY:incY:endY;  
[X,Y]=meshgrid(x,y); surf(X,Y,Z)
```

- Similar to the 2D plot

```
>> t = 0:0.1:6*pi;  
>> x = sqrt(t).*sin(2*t);  
>> y = sqrt(t).*cos(2*t);  
>> z = 0.5*t;  
>> plot3(x,y,z,'r*-')  
>> grid on
```

mesh and surf

3D Plots of the form $z = f(x, y)$

- x, y are independent
- z is dependent

Methodology

- 1 Create a grid in the $x - y$ plane that covers domain

```
x = stX:incX:endX;  
y = stY:incY:endY;  
[X,Y]=meshgrid(x,y);
```

- 2 Calculate the value of z at each point of the grid

Don't forget these are being done element-wise so
use your periods (.)

- 3 Create the plot

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

Plots $z = f(x, y)$ with lines that connect the points

```
>> x = -1:3;  
>> y = 1:4;  
>> [X,Y]=meshgrid(x,y);  
>> Z = X.*Y.^2./(X.^2+Y.^2);  
>> subplot(2,1,1);  
>> mesh(X,Y,Z)
```

Plots $z = f(x, y)$ with lines that connect the points and the area colored

```
>> x = -1:3;  
>> y = 1:4;  
>> [X,Y]=meshgrid(x,y);  
>> Z = X.*Y.^2./(X.^2+Y.^2);  
>> subplot(2,1,2);  
>> surf(X,Y,Z)
```