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Basics of MATLAB

1. First Steps in MATLAB

1.1. Starting MATLAB

MATLAB is a software package that lets you do mathematics and computation, analyse data, develop algorithms, do simulations and modelling, and produce graphical displays and graphical user interfaces.

To run MATLAB on a PC, double-click on the MATLAB icon. To run MATLAB on a UNIX system, type `matlab` at the prompt.

You get MATLAB to do things for you by typing in commands. MATLAB prompts you with the greater-than sign (`>`) when it is ready to accept a command from you.

To end a MATLAB session type `quit` or `exit` at the MATLAB prompt.

You can type `help` at the MATLAB prompt, or pull down the Help menu on a PC.

When starting MATLAB you should see a message:

To get started, type one of these commands: `helpwin`,
`helpdesk`, or `demo`.

The various forms of help available are:

- `helpwin` Opens a MATLAB help GUI
- `helpdesk` Opens a hypertext help browser
- `demo` Starts the MATLAB demonstration

The complete documentation for MATLAB can be accessed from the hypertext helpdesk. For example, clicking the link [Full Documentation](#)