

Unit No : I
 Module Name: Starting MATLAB, MATLAB Windows and Working in the Command Window
 Module No : 01

STARTING MATLAB, MATLAB WINDOWS

It is assumed that the software is installed on the computer, and that the user can start the program. Once the program starts, the MATLAB desktop window that opens, contains three smaller windows which are the Command Window, the Current Directory Window, and the Command History Window. This is the default view of MATLAB. These are three of the various windows in MATLAB.

A list of the several windows and their purpose is given in the table below.

Command Window	Main window, enters variables, runs programs.
Figure Window	Contains output from graphic commands.
Editor Window	Creates and debugs script and function files.
Help Window	Provides help information.
Launch Pad Window	Provides access to tools, demos, and documentation.
Command History Window	Logs commands entered in the Command Window.
Workspace	Window Provides information about the variables that are used.
Current Directory Window	Shows the files in the current directory

MATLAB Windows:

Command Window: The Command Window is MATLAB’s main window, and opens when MATLAB is started.

Figure Window: The Figure Window opens automatically when graphics commands are executed, and contains graphs created by these commands.

Editor Window: The Editor Window is used for writing and editing programs. This window is opened from the **File** menu in the Command Window.

Help Window: The Help Window contains help information. This window can be opened from the **Help** menu in the toolbar of any MATLAB window. The Help Window is interactive and can be used to obtain information on any feature of MATLAB.

WORKING IN THE COMMAND WINDOW

The Command Window is MATLAB's main window, and can be used for executing commands, opening other windows, running programs written by the user, and managing the software.

Notes for working in the Command Window:

- To type a command the cursor must be placed next to the command prompt (>>).
- Once a command is typed and the **Enter** key is pressed, the command is executed. However, only the last command is executed. Everything executed previously is unchanged.
- Several commands can be typed in the same line. This is done by typing a comma between the commands. When the **Enter** key is pressed the commands are executed in order from left to right.
- It is not possible to go back to a previous line in the Command Window, make a correction, and then re-execute the command.
- A previously typed command can be recalled to the command prompt with the up arrow key (↑). When the command is displayed at the command prompt, it can be modified if needed and executed. The down-arrow key (↓) can be used to move down the previously typed commands.
- If a command is too long to fit in one line, it can be continued to the next line by typing three periods ... (called an ellipsis) and pressing the **Enter** key. The continuation of the command is then typed in the new line. The command can continue line after line up to a total of 4096 characters.