

MATH 5110
MATHEMATICAL BIOLOGY
Introduction to Matlab

1 Getting Started

Logging in: This is what you do to start working on the computer. If your machine seems to be asleep, jiggle the mouse to wake it up. If necessary, hit the "enter" key to get the cursor into the "login name" box. Your login name is made as follows: All login names from classes begin with "c-". If your name were Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, your login name would be c-mtwa, following the recipe of c-(first letter of last name) (last letter of last name)(first letter of first name)(middle initial). (If you don't have a middle name, your login will only have 3 initials, i.e. c-xxx). If there is more than one person registered during a semester who would have the same login name (say c-mtwa), then they are assigned the login names c-mtwa1, c-mtwa2, etc. There might be a list at the front of the lab to find your login if this is all too complicated. Your initial password is the mtwa part of your login name followed by the last four digits of your student ID number, not your social security number. For example, if Herr Mozart's student ID number was 000001234, his initial password would be mtwa1234. It would be the same regardless of whether his login name was c-mtwa or c-mtwa3.

The xterm window: There should be an icon that looks like a little computer. Click it and it will make a window for typing commands etc.

Logging out: Just as important as logging in is logging out. You do this when you finish work (or when you leave the room). There is an exit icon to log out.

2 Basic window stuff

Typing: To type something, the cursor must be inside a window. Put it inside the local window and type *whoami*. Put it outside the local window (on the screen background) and type the same thing. Did you notice a difference? In the first case you successfully gave a command to the computer, which it (of course) obeyed.

Opening netscape: Bring the local window to the front, and type the command `netscape &` in your local window. The little `&` at the end of the line runs the program in the "background," meaning that you can issue other commands simultaneously. The ghost of a new window will appear in a kind of "dotted outline form." Move the mouse to position it and click with *left* mouse button when satisfied. There might also be a Netscape icon you can click on.

You'll need netscape (or firefox) to get to the lab. Go to my web page at <http://www.math.utah.edu/adler/> and click on the links for Math 5110 and then for computer labs. Clicking on the lab for today will bring up a bunch of text. You

3 Matlab

Matlab is kind of super graphing calculator. It can help with a wide variety of problems — arithmetic, algebra, trig, graphing, calculus, etc. To open it, type the command `matlab &` in your local window. It will open a window with some strange boxes. All you should need to use is the Command Window. You can paste in the code from the lab by darkening it in holding the left mouse button, moving the cursor over to the Matlab Command Window and pasting with the middle mouse button.