

# Interactive Programs

## Graphical User Interfaces



### CS112 Scientific Computation

Department of Computer Science  
Wellesley College

## Properties of graphics objects

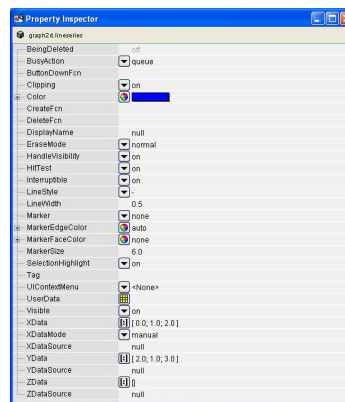
All plotting and graphics functions  
create **graphic objects**

Each graphics object is identified  
by a unique number called a  
**handle** that can be assigned to a  
variable:

```
p1 = plot([0 1 2], [2 1 3]);
```

Graphics objects have **properties**  
that control their appearance on  
the screen and can be viewed  
with the **Property Inspector**:

```
inspect(p1)
```



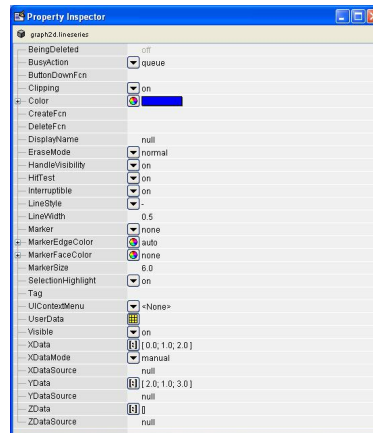
## Accessing properties with MATLAB code

Graphics object properties can be accessed with the `get` function:

`get(object, property)`

For example,

```
>> get(p1, 'LineWidth');  
0.5
```



3

## Graphics object properties can be set\* by

... editing the value in the Property Inspector window

... specifying the property name and value when creating the graphics object:

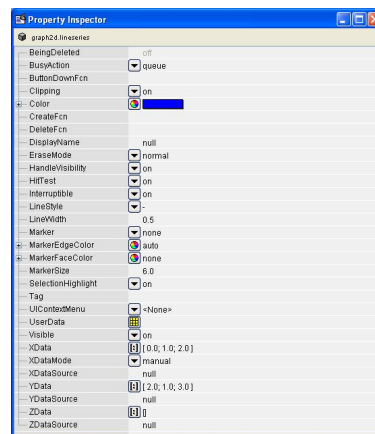
```
p1 = plot([0 1 2], [2 1 3], 'LineWidth', 1);
```

... using the `set` function:

`set(object, property, value)`

```
>> set(p1, 'LineWidth', 1);
```

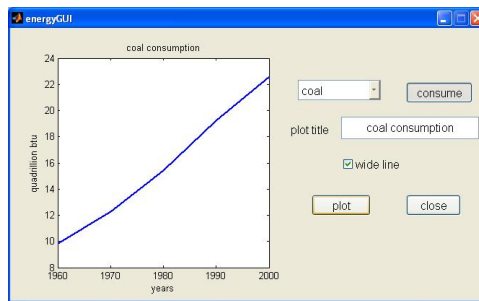
\* true for any graphics function,  
e.g. `figure`, `fill`, `scatter`



4

## Graphical User Interface (GUI)

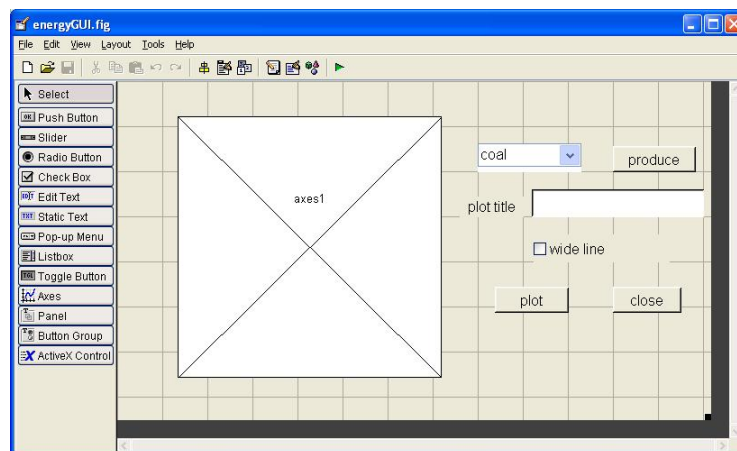
For our programs so far, we called a function or script from the Command Window and the program was executed with minimal input from the user



GUI-based programs put the user in the driver's seat through interactions with components of a graphical display

5

## MATLAB Graphical User Interface Development Environment (GUIDE)



6

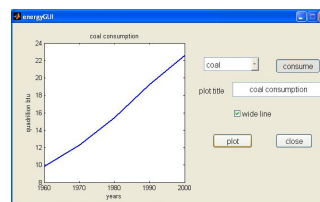
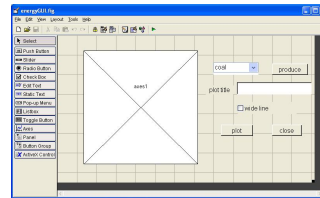
## Saving the GUI layout

When our **energyGUI** layout is saved the first time, MATLAB generates two files:

**energyGUI.fig**: Layout Editor window with the developing GUI, which can be modified later by entering

`>> guide energyGUI.fig`

**energyGUI.m**: file that contains code to create the GUI display



7

## Functions defined in **energyGUI.m**

**energyGUI**: top-level function at the beginning of the file that is called from the Command Window. This function initializes the GUI program and opens the GUI window. *We will not modify this function*

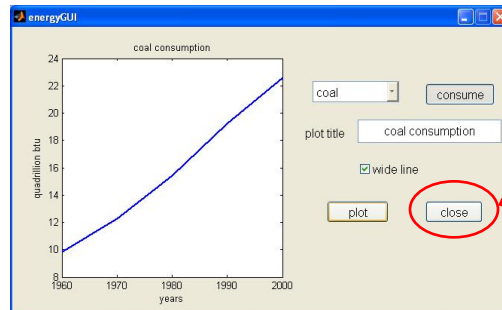
**energyGUI\_OpeningFcn**: executed just before the GUI window is made visible. We will modify this function to set up data for the program

**energyGUI\_OutputFcn**: returns outputs to the Command Window. *We will not modify this function*

8

## Callback functions

For each component, the header of a **Callback** function is created. These functions are invoked automatically when the user interacts with the corresponding component



Invokes

`closeButton_Callback`  
when clicked by user

9

## Inputs to GUI functions

`hObject` is a number, the **graphics handle**, that uniquely identifies the GUI component and its associated properties

`eventdata` is not used in the current version of MATLAB

`handles` is a structure that contains information that needs to be shared between functions in this file. Initially it contains a field for each GUI component created, using Tag property as name:

```
handles.axes1  
handles.sourceMenu  
handles.sourceToggle  
handles.titleLabel  
handles.titleBox  
handles.widthCheckbox  
handles.plotButton  
handles.closeButton  
handles.figure1
```

Value of each field  
is the graphics handle  
for that component


10

## Adding actions

```
function energyGUI_OpeningFcn(hObject, eventdata, handles, varargin)
% setup data to use for plotting
[handles.years handles.produce handles.consume] = setupEnergy;

function sourceToggle_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% use state of toggle button to set text label on button
if (get(hObject, 'Value') == 0)
    set(hObject, 'String', 'produce');
else
    set(hObject, 'String', 'consume');
end
guidata(hObject, handles);
```

copy changes  
to global handles  
structure



11

## More action

```
function plotButton_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% setup data source requested by user from state of toggle button
if (get(handles.sourceToggle, 'Value') == 0)
    dataSource = handles.produce;
else
    dataSource = handles.consume;
end
% get index of selected energy source
sourceIndex = get(handles.sourceMenu, 'Value');
% use state of checkbox to determine line width
linewidth = get(handles.widthCheckbox, 'Value') + 1;
% plot the data with the requested properties
plot(handles.years, dataSource(sourceIndex, :), 'Linewidth', linewidth);
xlabel('years')
ylabel('quadrillion btu')
title(get(handles.titleBox, 'String'))
```

12

## Time for you to leave

```
function closeButton_Callback(hObject, eventdata, handles)
% close GUI figure window
delete(handles.figure1);
```