

How can I plot data points from a file?

How can I plot data points from a file?

Matlab is actually quite useful even for things as simple as plotting a file of data points. First you'll need a file with all the proper values. Let's say you have a file with all your data, arranged like this:

```
x1 y1
      x2 y2
      x3 y3
      .. ..
      xn yn
```

Let's additionally say that the name of the file is "test.dat". To load the data into matlab you would type the following at the matlab prompt:

```
load test.dat
```

Then "test" becomes a matrix where the first column is X and the second column is Y. To plot this, you can type:

```
plot( test(:,1), test(:,2) )
```

Where "test(:,1)" means "the entire first column of matrix test".