



SCILAB- An Introduction

Dr. Balasaheb M. Patre,

Professor and Head,

Department of Instrumentation Engineering,
SGGS Institute of Engineering and Technology,
Vishnupuri, Nanded-431606.

E-mail: bmpatre@yahoo.com



What is SCILAB?

- (1) SCILAB is a freely distributed and open source scientific software package
- (2) A powerful open computing environment for Engineering and Scientific applications
- (3) Developed since 1990 by researchers from INRIA (Institut Nationale de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique) and ENPC (National School of Bridges and Roads).
- (4) Now maintained and developed by Scilab consortium since 2003.
- (5) Integrated into Digiteo foundation in July 2008
- (6) The current version is 5.2.1 (February 2010)



What is SCILAB? ...contd

- 7) Since 1994 it is distributed freely along with source code through the Internet. (www.scilab.org)
- 8) Scilab users can develop their own module so that they can solve their particular problems.
- 7) The Scilab language allows to dynamically compile and link other languages such as Fortran and C: this way, external libraries can be used as if they were a part of Scilab built-in features.
- 8) Scilab also interfaces LabVIEW, a platform and development environment for a visual programming language from National Instruments.



Scilab's Main Features:

1. A high-level programming language
2. Scilab is an interpreted language
3. Integrated object-oriented 2-D and 3-D graphics with animation
4. A dedicated Editor
5. An XML-based help system
6. Interface with symbolic computing packages (Maple and MuPAD 3.0)
7. An interface with Tcl/Tk
8. Scilab works with most Unix systems including GNU/Linux and on Windows (9X/NT/2000/XP/Vista/7), and Mac operating system



Scilab coded Toolboxes

1. Linear algebra and Sparse matrices
2. Polynomials and Rational functions
3. 2-D and 3-D graphics with animation
4. Interpolation and Approximations
5. Linear, Quadratic and Nonlinear Optimization
6. ODE solver and DAE solver
7. Classical and Robust Control, LMI Optimization
8. Differentiable and Non-differential Optimization
9. Signal Processing
10. Statistic
11. Scicos: A hybrid dynamic system modeler and simulator
12. Parallel Scialab using PVM
13. Metanet: Graphs and Networks



Typical uses

- Educational Institutes, Research centers and companies
- Math and computation
- Algorithm development
- Modeling, simulation, and visualization
- Scientific and engineering graphics, exported to various formats so that can be included into documents.
- Application development, including GUI building

Basic data element (Matrix)

Array : not require dimensioning

Allow to solve problem with matrix and vector formulations



Desktop tool and development environment

Set of tools and facilities

Graphical UI : Scilab Console, Sciab editor, Scilab help browser, MATLAB to Scilab Translator

Mathematics Function Library

Collection of computational algorithm : sum, sine, matrix functions

Language

High-level matrix/array language with flow, functions, structure

Graphics

Extensive facilities for displaying vectors and matrices as graphs

High-level functions for 2-D and 3-D data visualization

External Interfaces

Allows to write C and Fortran programs that interact with SCILAB



Getting Started with Scilab

Starting the Scilab program

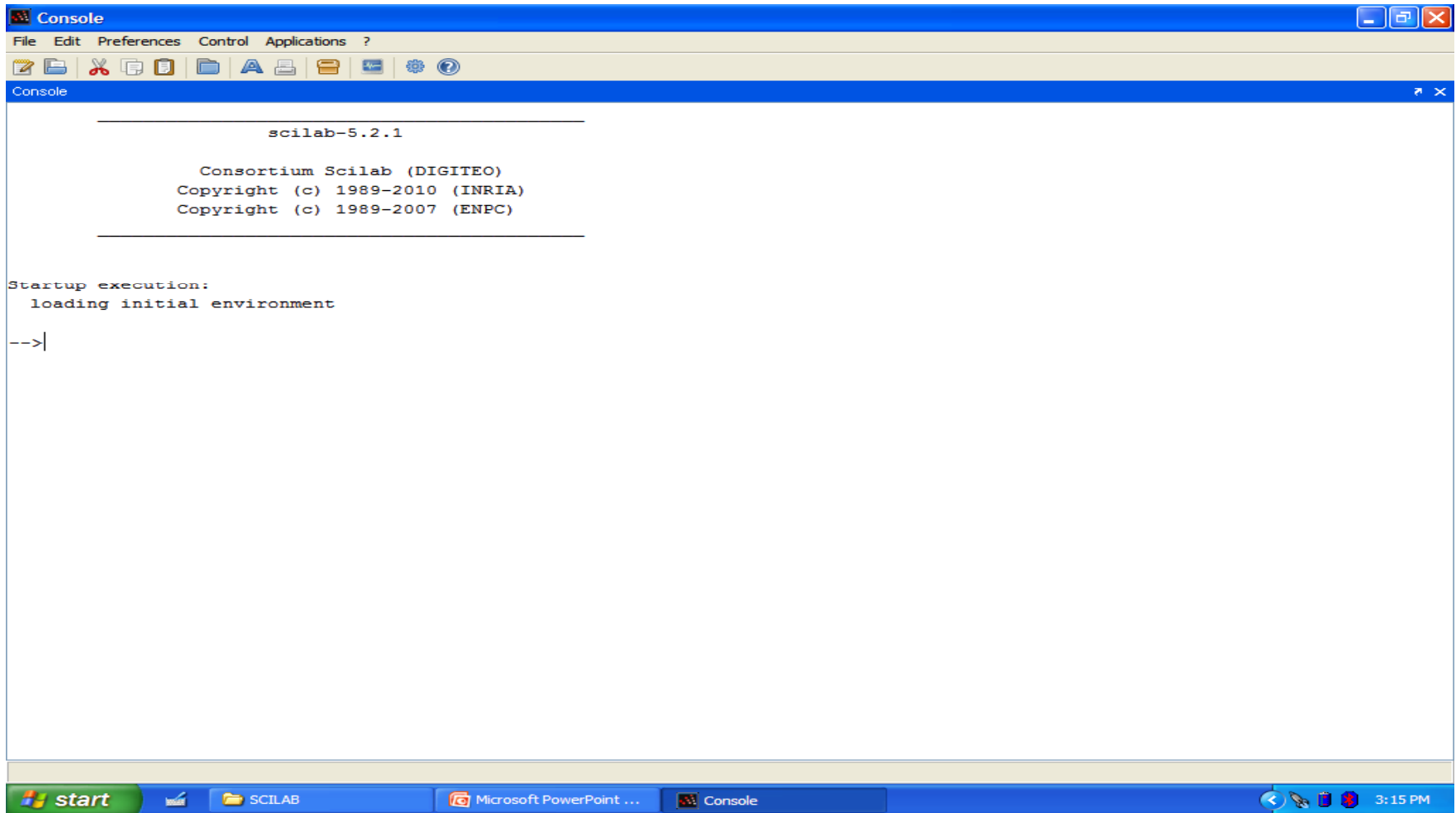
- Start the Scilab program by double-clicking Scilab-5.2.1 icon on the desktop
- Start button on the desktop >Programs>Scilab-5.2.1>Scilab-5.2.1
Automatically loading
Tools for managing files, variables and applications

Quitting the Scilab program

- To end SCILAB, **File > quit** in the scilab console
- Type '**quit**' in the Scilab Console
- The user enters commands at the prompt ---->



Scilab Default Console





Scilab Help Browser

The screenshot shows the Scilab Help Browser window. The left pane displays a tree view of the Scilab manual, with 'Scilab' selected. The right pane displays the 'Table of Contents' for 'Part I. Scilab', listing various keywords and their descriptions.

Part I. Scilab

Table of Contents

- [abort](#) — interrupt evaluation.
- [add_demo](#) — Add an entry in the demos list
- [ans](#) — answer
- [argn](#) — Returns the number of input/output arguments in a function call
- [backslash \(\\)](#) — left matrix division.
- [banner](#) — show scilab banner (Windows)
- [boolean](#) — Scilab Objects, boolean variables and operators & | ~
- [brackets](#) — ([,]) left and right brackets
- [break](#) — keyword to interrupt loops
- [case](#) — keyword used in select
- [clear](#) — kills variables
- [clearfun](#) — remove primitive.
- [clearglobal](#) — kills global variables
- [colon](#) — (;) colon operator
- [comma](#) — (,) column, instruction, argument separator
- [comments](#) — comments
- [comp](#) — scilab function compilation
- [comparison](#) — comparison, relational operators
- [continue](#) — keyword to pass control to the next iteration of a loop
- [debug](#) — debugging level
- [delbpt](#) — delete breakpoints
- [dispbpt](#) — display breakpoints
- [do](#) — language keyword for loops
- [dot](#) — (.) symbol
- [edit](#) — function editing
- [else](#) — keyword in if-then-else
- [elseif](#) — keyword in if-then-else
- [empty](#) — ([]) empty matrix
- [end](#) — end keyword
- [equal](#) — (=) assignment, comparison, equal sign
- [errcatch](#) — error trapping
- [errclear](#) — error clearing
- [error](#) — error messages



Help Features



To open SCILAB help, click help icon (?) in the toolbar or type help at the command prompt ----->

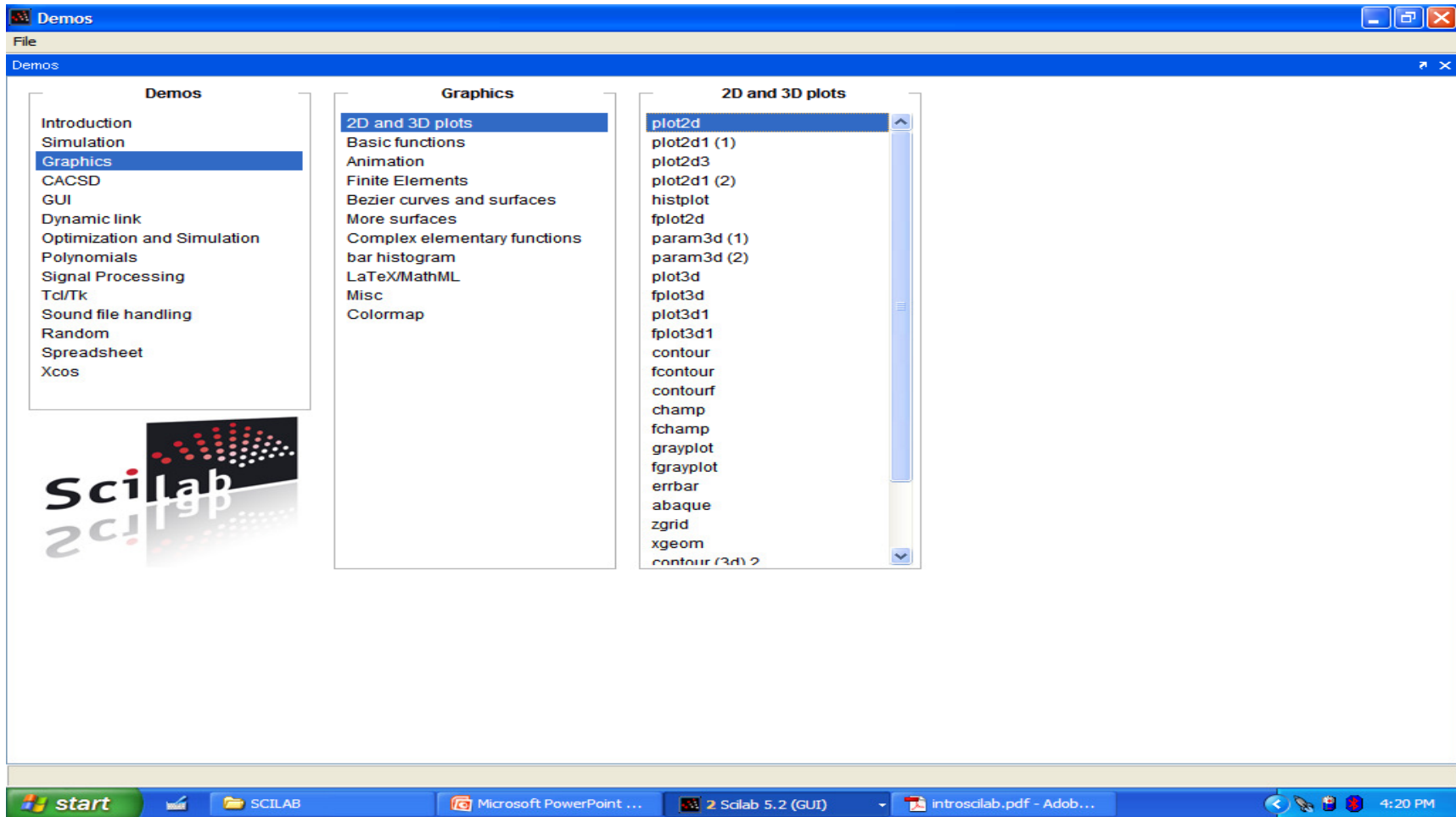
- **Help Browser**
- **help command (help inv, help optim)**
(This is useful when the name of the function is already Known)
- **To obtain a list of Scilab functions corresponding to a keyword, the command apropos followed by the keyword should be used.**

-->apropos eigenvalues <Enter>

- **Help can also be from Scilab demonstrations**
- **This is available from the console, in the menu ? > Scilab Demonstrations.**



Scilab Demos Window





Arithmetic Operations:



- + addition
- - subtraction
- * multiplication
- / right division i.e. $X/Y = XY^{-1}$
- \ left division i.e. $X \setminus Y = X^{-1}Y$
- ^ power i.e. X^Y
- ** power (same as ^)
- ' transpose conjugate



Scilab as a Calculator

```
-->6+5
```

```
ans =
```

```
11.
```

```
-->6+5;
```

```
-->7+8/2
```

```
ans =
```

```
11.
```

```
-->(7+8)/2
```

```
ans =
```

```
7.5
```

```
-->4+5/3+2
```

```
ans =
```

```
7.6666667
```

```
-->5^3/2
```

```
ans =
```

```
62.5
```

```
-->27^(1/3)+32^0.2
```

```
ans =
```

```
5.
```

```
-->27^1/3+32^0.2
```

```
ans =
```

```
11.
```



Scilab as a Calculator



```
-->0.7854-(0.7854)^3/(1*2*3)+0.785^5/(1*2*3*4*5)..
```

```
-->-(0.785)^7/(1*2*3*4*5*6*7)
```

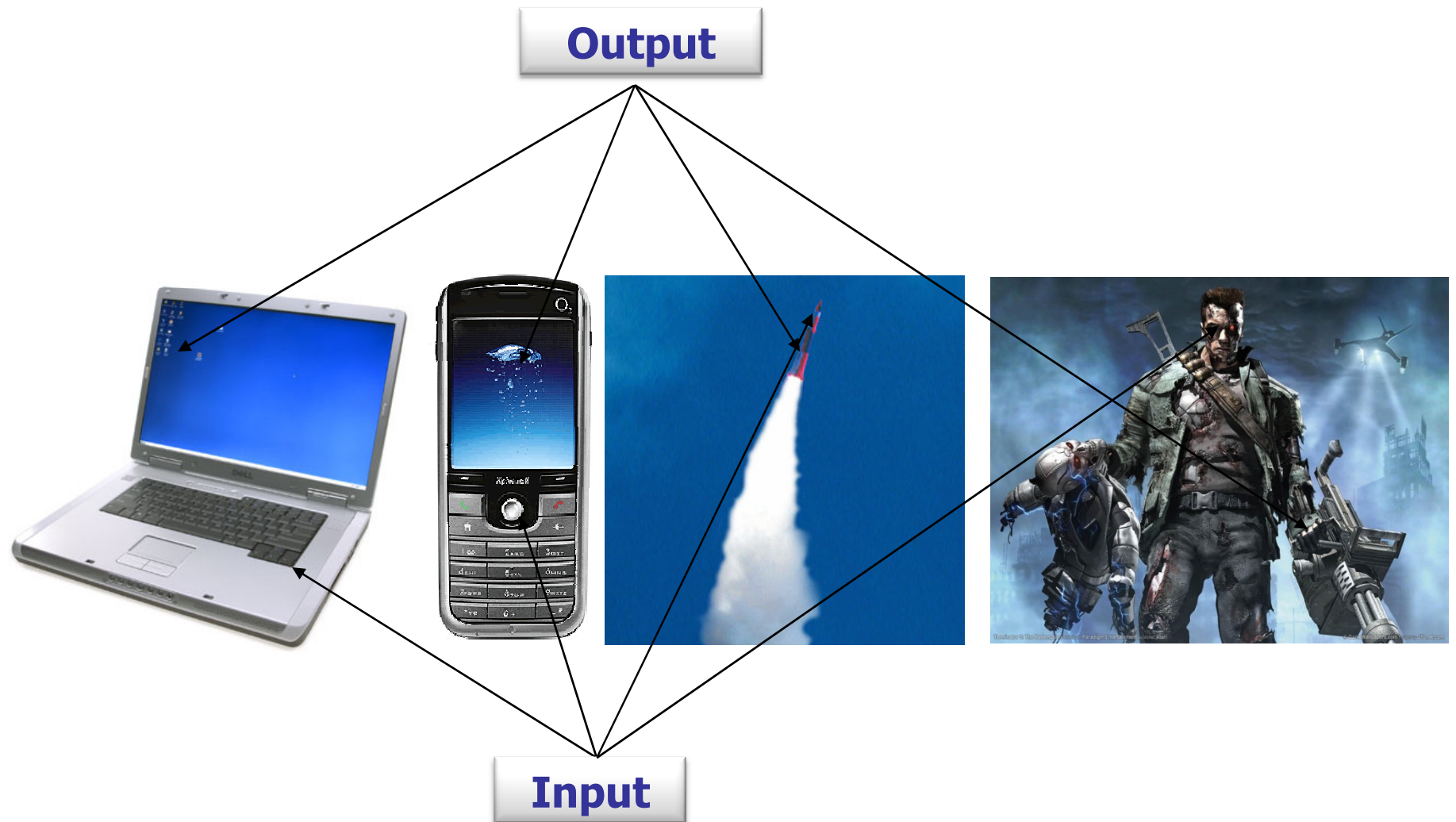
```
ans =
```

```
0.7071016
```

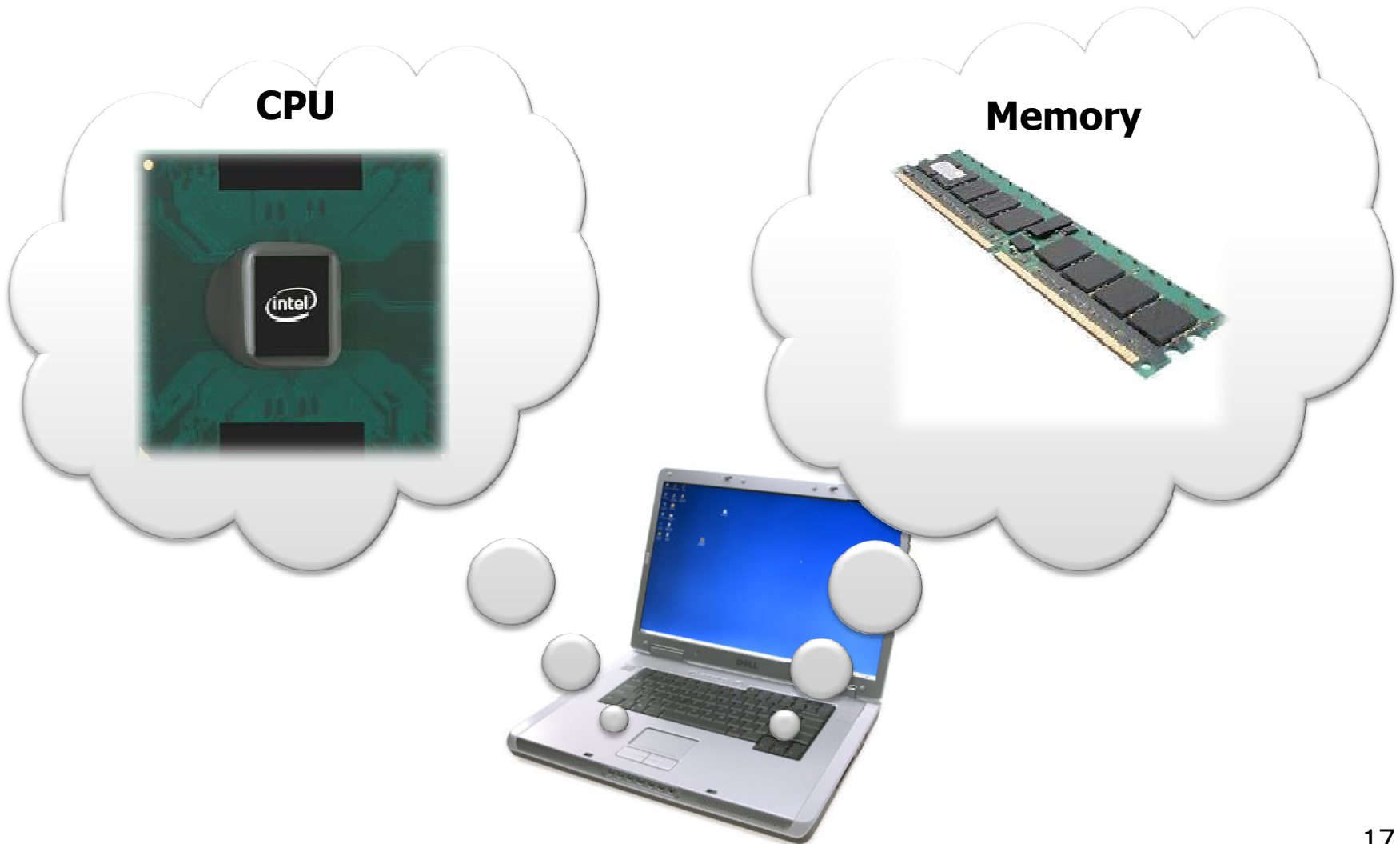
```
-->// This is my comment .
```

- In Scilab, any line which ends with two dots is considered to be the start of a new continuation line.
- Any line which begins with two slashes "//" is considered by Scilab as a comment and is ignored.
- More than one command can be entered on the same line by separating the commands by semicolon (;) or a comma (,)

Background - computers

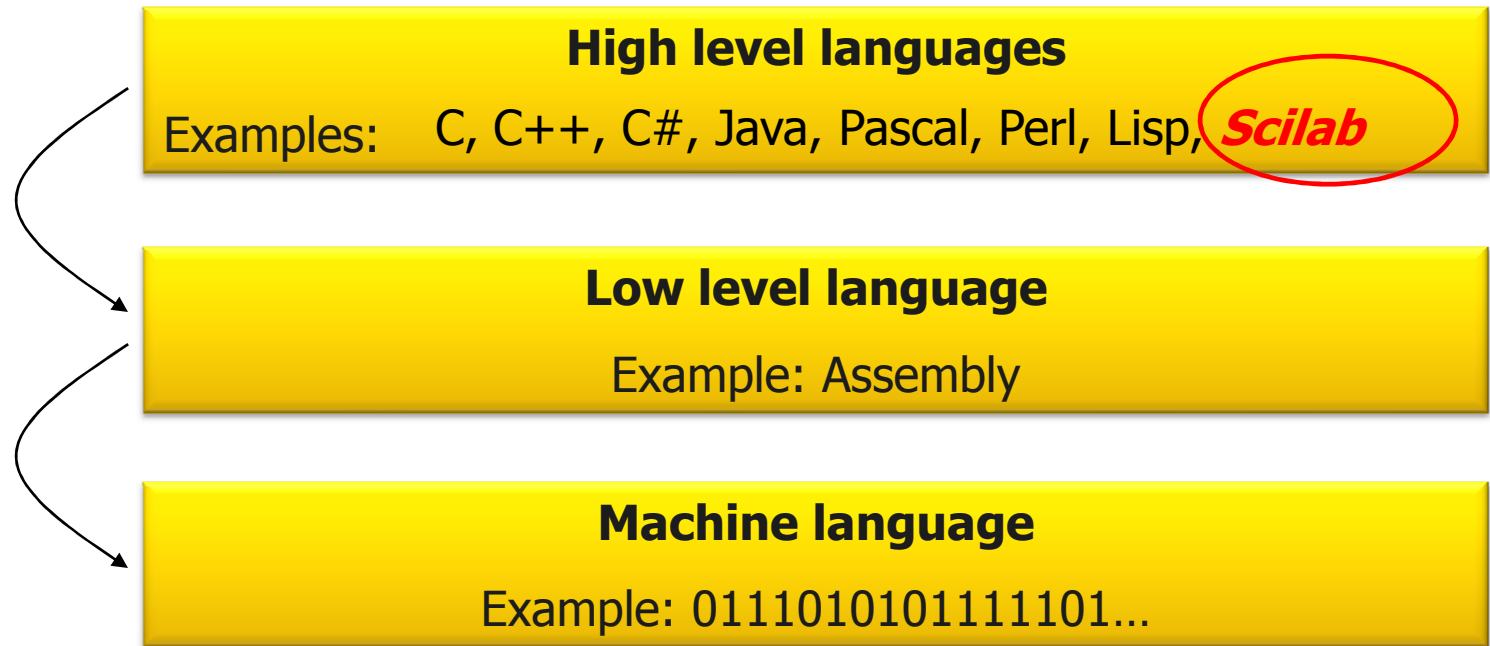


Background - hardware

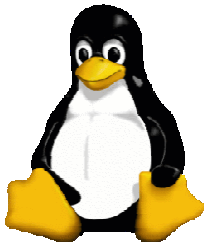




Background - software



Another important player:
The operating system





Basic Elements of Scilab:

- In Scilab, everything is a matrix
- All real, complex, Boolean, integer, string, and polynomial variables are matrices.
- Scilab is an interpreted language, which implies that there is no need to declare a variable before using it. Variables are created at the moment where they are first set.
- In Scilab "=" sign is called assignment operator.
 - >x=10 10 is assigned to variable x
 - x =
 10.
 - >x=3*x-12 A new value is assigned to x. The new value is
 three times of previous value of x minus 12.
 - x =
 18.
- Variable names may be as long as user wants but only first 24 characters are taken into account.
- Scilab is case sensitive. A is not equal to a.



Predefined Variables:

Certain variables are predefined and write-protected

- %i $i = \sqrt{-1}$ imaginary unit
- %pi $\pi = 3.1415927 \dots$ pi grek
- %e $e = 2.718281 \dots$ number of Nepero
- %eps $\mathcal{E} = 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ precision (machine dependent)
- %inf infinity
- %nan NotANumber
- %s s polynomial variable
- %z z polynomial variable
- %t true boolean variable
- %f false boolean variable



Some useful Scilab Commands

General commands:

- `clock` Provide clock time and date as a vector [year month day hour minute seconds]

```
-->clock
```

```
ans =
```

```
2010. 4. 20. 23. 38. 59.
```

- `date` Current date a string

```
-->date
```

```
ans =
```

```
20-Apr-2010
```

- `ver` Version information for Scilab

```
-->ver
```

```
ans =
```

```
!Scilab Version: 5.2.0.1266391513 !
```



Some useful Scilab Commandscontd.

■ Workspace Commands:

- who Lists the variables currently in the scilab workspace
- whos Same as who but provides more information on size, type
- whos -type constants List the variables that can store real or complex constant
- Whos -name a List all variables with name starting with the letter 'a'
- what Lists the scilab primitives
- clear Kills the variables which are not protected.
- clear xyz Kills the variables specified in the command
- clc Clears screen
- clf Clears figure window
- diary List of current session commands



Some useful Scilab commandscontd

- Directory commands:

`pwd` Provides scilab current working directory

```
-->pwd
```

```
ans =
```

```
C:\Program Files\scilab-5.2.1
```

`copyfile` Copies a file

`mkdir` Makes a a new directory/folder in the current directory

- Termination Commands:

`quit` Quits Scilab

`exit` Same as quit command



Creating Arrays (Vectors and Matrices)

```
-->a=[1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10]
```

Create a row vector

```
a =
```

```
 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7.  8.  9. 10.
```

```
-->a=[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]
```

Another way of creating a row vector

```
a =
```

```
 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7.  8.  9. 10.
```

```
-->a=[1;2;3;4;5;6;7;8;9;10]
```

Create a column vector

```
a =
```

```
1.
```

```
2.
```

```
3.
```

```
4.
```

```
5.
```

```
6.
```

```
7.
```

```
8.
```

```
9.
```

```
10.
```




Vectors and matricescontd.

Variable_name=m:q:n (m=first term, q=spacing, n=last term)

-->a=1:10 Creating a row vector with colon (:) operator

a = Default incerment is one
 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

-->a=1:1:10 Specified increment is one

a =
 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

-->a=1:2:11 Specified increment is two

a =
 1. 3. 5. 7. 9. 11.

-->a=100:-10:0 Specified increment is -10.

a =
 100. 90. 80. 70. 60. 50. 40. 30. 20. 10. 0.



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->a=[2+3*%i, 4+1*%i, 3, 5, 6] Vector with complex numbers
```

```
a =
```

```
2. + 3.i 4. + i 3. 5. 6.
```

```
-->b=[1+6*%i, 4+6*%i 3, 4, 6]
```

```
b =
```

```
1. + 6.i 4. + 6.i 3. 4. 6.
```

```
-->c=a+b
```

Vector addition

```
c =
```

```
3. + 9.i 8. + 7.i 6. 9. 12.
```

```
-->a-b
```

Vector subtraction

```
ans =
```

```
1. - 3.i - 5.i 0 1. 0
```

```
-->a*b
```

```
!--error 10
```

Inconsistent multiplication.



Vectors and matricescontd.

-->a=linspace(0,10,5) Generates a vector of 5 elements, 0 is the first element and 10 is the last element

```
a =  
0.  2.5  5.  7.5  10.
```

-->a=logspace(0,4,3) Generates a logarithmically spaced vector of length 3 between 10^0 to 10^4

```
a =  
1.  100.  10000.
```

-->a=[1 10 25 50 15]

```
a =  
1.  10.  25.  50.  15.
```

-->a(3)

Addressing a vector element

```
ans =  
25.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->a=[1 10 25 50 15]
```

```
a =
```

```
1. 10. 25. 50. 15.
```

```
-->b=sum(a)
```

Sum of all elements

```
b =
```

```
101.
```

```
-->c=mean(a)
```

Average of the elements

```
c =
```

```
20.2
```

```
-->d=length(a)
```

Number of elements in the vector

```
d =
```

```
5.
```

```
-->e=max(a)
```

Maximum value in the vector

```
e =
```

```
50.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->f=min(a)
```

Minimum value in the vector

```
f =
```

```
1.
```

```
-->g=prod(a)
```

Product of elements in the vector

```
g =
```

```
187500.
```

```
-->h=sign(a)
```

Returns 1 if the sign of an element is the vector is +ve, 0 if element is 0, -1 if the element is -ve.

```
h =
```

```
1. 1. 1. 1. 1.
```

```
-->i=find(a)
```

Returns the indices corresponding to the non-zero entry of the array a

```
i =
```

```
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->p=[1.4 10.7 -1.1 20.9]
```

```
p =
```

```
1.4 10.7 -1.1 20.9
```

```
-->a=fix(p)
```

Rounds the elements of the vector p to the nearest integer towards zero

```
a =
```

```
1. 10. -1. 20.
```

```
-->b=floor(p)
```

Rounds the elements of the vector p to the nearest integer towards $-\infty$

```
b =
```

```
1. 10. -2. 20.
```

```
-->c=ceil(p)
```

Rounds the elements of the vector p to the nearest integer towards $+\infty$

```
c =
```

```
2. 11. -1. 21.
```

```
-->d=round(p)
```

Rounds the elements of the vector p to the nearest integer

```
d =
```

```
1. 11. -1. 21.
```

```
-->e=gsort(p)
```

Sorts the elements of p in descending order

```
e =
```

```
20.9 10.7 1.4 -1.1
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->A=[16 3 2 13;5 10 11 8;9 6 7 12;4 15 14 1]
```

```
A =
```

```
16.  3.  2.  13.
 5. 10. 11.  8.
 9.  6.  7. 12.
 4. 15. 14.  1.
```

```
-->B=sum(A)
```

```
B =
```

```
136.
```

```
-->C=sum(A,'c')
```

```
C =
```

```
34.
34.
34.
34.
```

```
-->D=sum(A,'r')
```

```
D =
```

```
34. 34. 34. 34.
```

Entering a matrix

use space or , for row elements

use ; to terminate a row

Gives the sum of all the elements

Sum of the elements of column

Sum of the row elements



Matrix Addressing:

```
-->A=[3 11 6 5;4 7 10 2;13 9 0 8]
```

```
A =
```

```
3.  11.  6.  5.
```

```
4.   7. 10.  2.
```

```
13.  9.  0.  8.
```

```
-->A(2,3)
```

```
ans =
```

```
10.
```

```
-->A(:,2)
```

```
ans =
```

```
11.
```

```
7.
```

```
9.
```




Matrix Addressing

```
-->A(2,:)
```

```
ans =
```

```
4.  7. 10.  2.
```

```
-->A(9)
```

```
ans =
```

```
0.
```

```
-->A(1:2,1:2)
```

```
ans =
```

```
3. 11.
```

```
4.  7.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->B=A(3:-1:1,1:4)
```

```
B =
```

```
13.  9.  0.  8.  
4.   7. 10.  2.  
3.  11.  6.  5.
```

```
-->B=A(3:-1:1,1:4)
```

```
B =
```

```
13.  9.  0.  8.  
4.   7. 10.  2.  
3.  11.  6.  5.
```

```
-->A(1:3,4)=[]
```

```
A =
```

```
3.  11.  6.  
4.   7. 10.  
13.  9.  0.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->eye(2,2)
ans =
  1.  0.
  0.  1.
-->ones(2,3)
ans =
  1.  1.  1.
  1.  1.  1.
-->zeros(3,3)
ans =
  0.  0.  0.
  0.  0.  0.
  0.  0.  0.
-->A=[1 2;3 4]; B=[2 3; 5 6];
-->C=[A,B]
C =
  1.  2.  2.  3.
  3.  4.  5.  6.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->A=rand(2,3)
```

```
A =
```

```
0.8497452  0.8782165  0.5608486
```

```
0.6857310  0.0683740  0.6623569
```

```
-->A=[1 2 3; 4 5 6;7 8 9];
```

```
-->B=diag(A)
```

```
B =
```

```
1.
```

```
5.
```

```
9.
```

```
-->C=diag(A,1)
```

```
C =
```

```
2.
```

```
6.
```

```
-->D=diag(A,-1)
```

```
D =
```

```
4.
```

```
8.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->A=[1 2;0 4];
```

```
-->det(A)
```

```
ans =  
4.
```

```
-->rank(A)
```

```
ans =  
2.
```

```
-->trace(A)
```

```
ans =  
5.
```

```
-->B=inv(A)
```

```
B =  
1. - 0.5  
0. 0.25
```

```
-->norm(A)
```

```
ans =  
4.495358
```

```
-->C=A'
```

```
C =  
1. 0.  
2. 4.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

```
-->p=poly(A,'x')
```

```
p =
```

```
2
```

```
4 - 5x + x
```

```
-->q=spec(A)
```

```
q =
```

```
1.
```

```
4.
```

```
ans =
```

```
0. 0. 0.
```

```
0. 0. 0.
```

```
0. 0. 0.
```

```
-->A=[1 2;3 4]; B=[2 3; 5 6];
```

```
-->C=[A,B]
```

```
C =
```

```
1. 2. 2. 3.
```

```
3. 4. 5. 6.
```



Vectors and matricescontd.

Matrix operators and elementwise operators

- + addition
 - - subtraction
 - * multiplication
 - / right division
 - \ left division
 - ^ or ** power
 - ' transpose and conjugate
- .+ elementwise addition
 - .- elementwise subtraction
 - .* elementwise multiplication
 - ./ elementwise right division
 - .\ elementwise left division
 - .^ elementwise power
 - .' transpose (but not conjugate)



Scilab Editor



- When several commands are to be executed, it may be more convenient to write these statements into a file with Scilab editor. To execute the commands located in such a file, the `exec` function can be used, followed by the name of the script. This file generally has the extension `.sce` or `.sci`, depending on its content:
- Files having the `.sci` extension are containing Scilab functions and executing them loads the functions into Scilab environment (but does not execute them),
- Files having the `.sce` extension are containing both Scilab functions and executable statements.
- Executing a `.sce` file has generally an effect such as computing several variables and displaying the results in the console, creating 2D plots, reading or writing into a file, etc...



Our first script (Sce-file)

The editor can be accessed from the menu of the console, under the Applications > Editor menu, or from the console as:

--> editor ()

A screenshot of the SciLab text editor window. The window title is "C:\Program Files\scilab-5.2.1\examp1.sce - Scilab text editor". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Search", "View", "Document", and "Execute". The toolbar contains icons for file operations and execution. The main editing area shows a script named "examp1.sce" with the following code:

```
1 //This is the program to display
2 s="Welcome to the World of Scilab"
3 disp(s)
```

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, a folder icon labeled "SCILAB", a Microsoft PowerPoint icon, a Console icon, and a file explorer icon. The system tray on the right shows the time as 4:44 AM.



Another Script File

A screenshot of the SciLab text editor interface. The window title is "Untitled 1 - Scilab text editor". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Search", "View", "Document", "Execute", and "?". The toolbar contains icons for file operations and editing. The main text area shows a script with five lines of code:

```
1 //Solution of Linear Systems
2 A=[2 4 6;2 -3 -4; 3 4 5];
3 b=[-12;15;-8];
4 Xa=inv(A)*b
5 Xb=linsolve(A,b)
```

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications (Yahoo! India, Windows Explorer, Microsoft PowerPoint), and the SciLab text editor. The system clock indicates 7:41 PM.



Scilab Functions



- It is possible to define new functions in the scilab.
- To define a new function, we use the function and endfunction Scilab keywords.

```
function y = myfunction ( x )  
    y = 2 * x  
endfunction
```

```
-->y=myfunction(3)
```

```
y =  
    6.
```

```
-->y=myfunction(8)
```

```
y =  
   16.
```



Scilab Functions ...contd



- Functions can have an arbitrary number of input and output arguments so that the complete syntax for a function which has a fixed number of arguments is the following:

$$[o1 , \dots , on] = \text{myfunction} (i1 , \dots , in)$$

- The input and output arguments are separated by commas ",". Notice that the input arguments are surrounded by opening and closing braces, while the output arguments are surrounded by opening and closing square braces .

Computer precision limitations

- How much is:
 $0.42 + 0.08 - 0.5$
 ans =

0.

- $0.42 - 0.5 + 0.08$
 ans =

- 1.388D-17

Why ??!#?@





Polynomials

- A polynomial can be created in two ways. One way is to define the polynomial in terms of its roots and the other way is to define it in terms of its coefficients.

```
-->p1 = poly([-1 -2], 'x')
```

```
p1 =
```

2

2 + 3x + x

```
-->p1 = poly([-1 -2], 'x', 'r')
```

```
p1 =
```

2

2 + 3x + x

```
-->p2 = poly([2 3 1], 'x', 'c')
```

```
p2 =
```

2

2 + 3x + x



Polynomials ...contd.

```
-->roots(p1)
```

```
ans =
```

```
- 1.
```

```
- 2.
```

```
-->p3=p1+p2
```

```
p3 =
```

```
2
```

```
4 + 6x + 2x
```

```
-->p4=p1*p2
```

```
p4 =
```

```
2 3 4
```

```
4 + 12x + 13x + 6x + x
```

```
-->p1==p2
```

```
ans =
```

```
T
```



Polynomialscontd

```
-->coeff(p1)
```

```
ans =
```

```
2. 3. 1.
```

```
-->derivat(p1)
```

```
ans =
```

```
3 + 2x
```

```
-->c=companion(p1)
```

```
c =
```

```
- 3. - 2.
```

```
1. 0.
```

```
-->spec(c)
```

```
ans =
```

```
- 2.
```

```
- 1.
```




Polynomials ...contd.

->p6=poly(c,'x')

p6 =

$$x^2 + 3x + 2$$

-->p=(1+2*x+3*x^2)/(4+5*x+6*x^2)

p =

$$\frac{x^2 + 2x + 1}{4 + 5x + 6x^2}$$

$$x^2 + 5x + 4$$

-->numer(p)

ans =

$$x^2 + 2x + 1$$



Plotting Graphs (1)

```
-->x=[0:%pi/16:2*%pi]';
```

```
-->y=[cos(x) sin(x)];
```

```
-->plot2d(x,y)
```

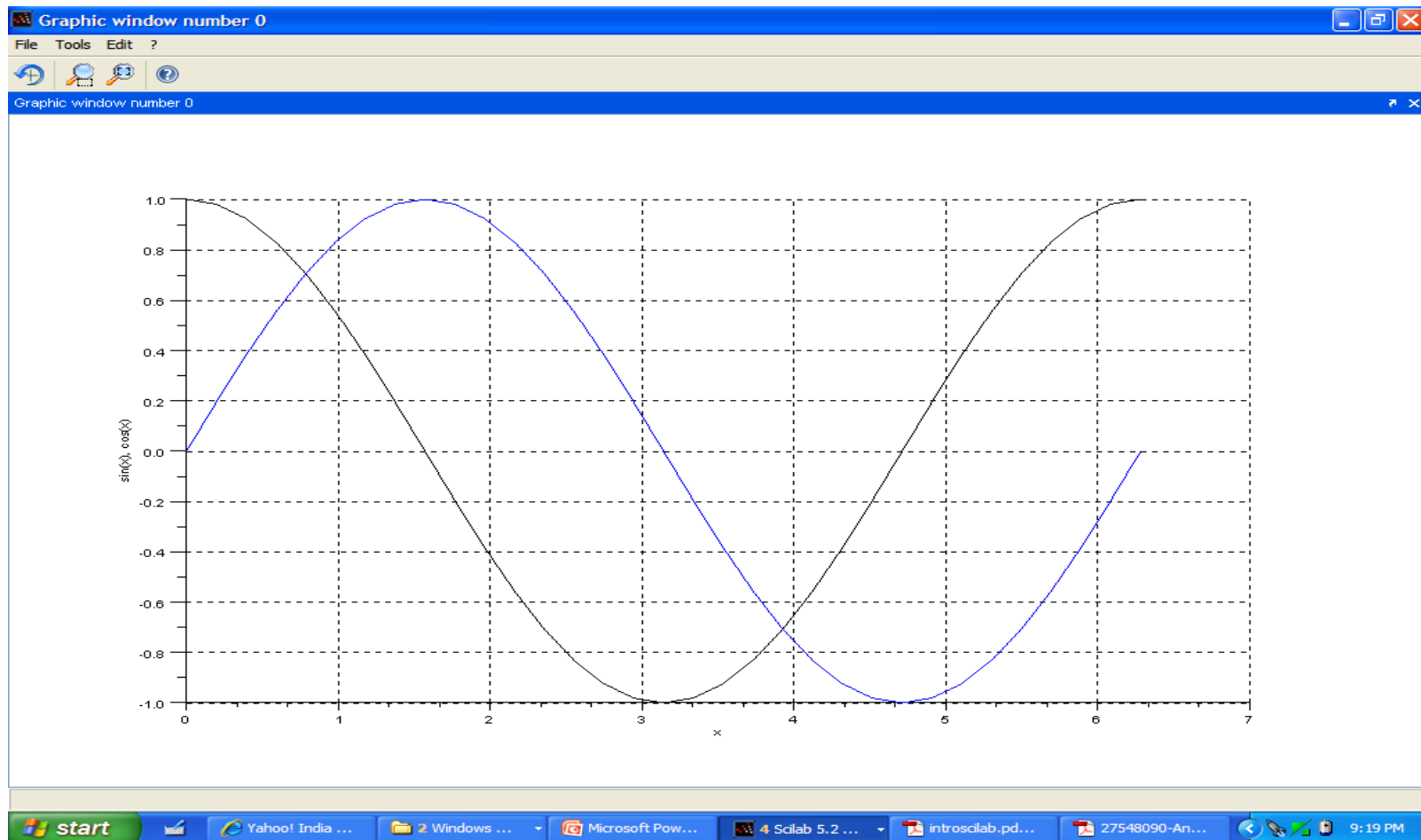
```
-->xgrid
```

```
-->xlabel('x')
```

```
-->ylabel('sin(x), cos(x)')
```



Plotting Graphs (2)





Plotting Graphs (3)

```
-->x=[0:%pi/32:2*%pi]';
```

```
-->y=[cos(x) sin(x) cos(x)+sin(x)];
```

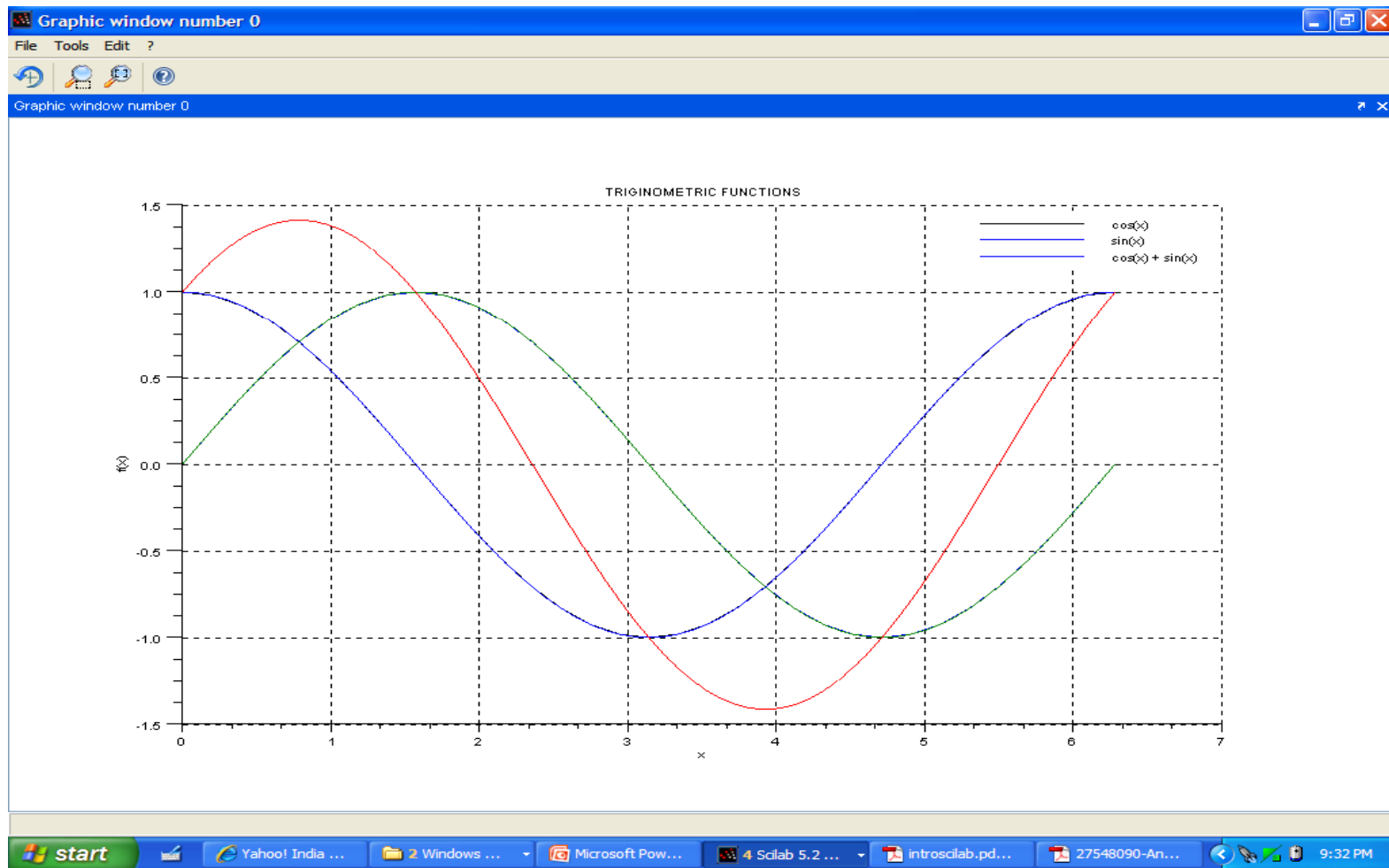
```
-->plot(x, y); xgrid(1);
```

```
-->xtitle('TRIGINOMETRIC FUNCTIONS', 'x', 'f(x)');
```

```
-->legend('cos(x)', 'sin(x)', 'cos(x) + sin(x)', 1, %F);
```



Plotting Graphs (4)





Conclusions

- Scilab is a non-commercial open source platform for Engineering and Scientific computations.
- Scilab is ideal for educational institutes, schools and industries.
- Scilab/Scicos is a better alternative for Matlab/Simulink.
- Students can perform mathematical computations, algorithm development, simulation, prototyping, and data analysis using scilab.
- A valuable tool for researchers at no cost.



THANK YOU