gnuplot

or, How To Make Your Data Look Neat and Shiny

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Introduction

- Plotting data into pretty charts is pretty standard fare
  - Ultimate consumer: journals, conference papers, thesis
  - Immediate consumers: Framemaker, Latex, (troff!?)

- Sources of data often can produce pretty plots themselves
  - Matlab, Mathematica, Mathcad

- But more often, we get raw data outside of nifty software
  - Lab measurements, simulations, C/Perl code
  - … or we're dissatisfied with other tool graphing capabilities

- How does one make data pretty and consumable?

gnuplot

- Tools have come a long way
  - magicplot.pl when I took ee371 and ee315 (a *long* time ago)
    - Took a text file and drew bar graphs in m1/m2/m3
    - Axes in poly, labels using wire lab on bits of diff

- I think the best plotting tool today is gnuplot
  - Very feature-rich
  - I am not an expert it, but I have learned a few tricks
  - I was going to cover matlab, too…
    - But decided I really didn't know matlab very well
    - Besides, this is a long talk already…

- Lots of demonstrations today
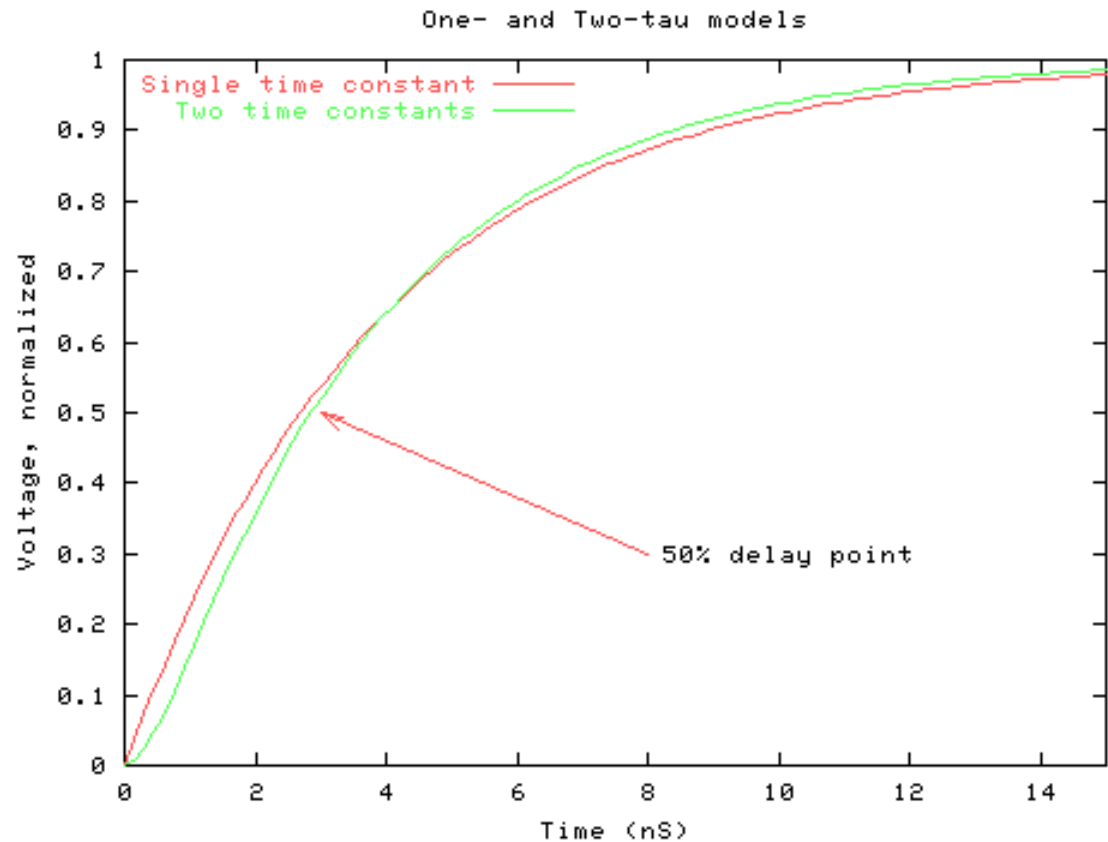 - Which wreak havoc on creating useful slides, but we'll see

Introduction

- UNIX gnuplot 3.7.1 sits in /usr/pubsw/bin (AFS-land)
    - If you don't mount AFS (why not?), you can compile it from
        - ftp://ftp.gnuplot.org/pub/gnuplot
    - Also available for win32 machines in precompiled format

- Offers 2D and 3D plotting with a wide variety of options
    - It has a pretty good online "help" feature: RTFM!

- gnuplot is, interestingly enough, not affiliated with FSF or GNU
    - Hence it's called "gnuplot," not "GNUplot"
        - Historical reason: authors wanted "newplot" but it was taken
    - Not GPL'ed, but plain old copyrighted freeware

1-My First Graph: basics

Script:

➢plot 1-exp(-x/3.8825)

➢pause -1

➢set xrange [0:15]; replot

➢plot 1-exp(-x/3.8825) title "Single time constant"

➢set xlabel "Time (nS)"; **replot**

➢set ylabel "Voltage, normalized"

➢set key top left

➢replot 1-(3.44*exp(-x/3.44)-0.44*exp(-x/0.44))/3.0 title "Two time constants"

➢set title "One- and Two-tau models"

➢set arrow 1 from 8,0.3 to 3.0,0.5 head

➢set label 1 "50% delay point" at 8.2,0.3 left

Related commands:

➢set key *x,y*

➢set [no]log (x|y)

➢set autoscale (x|y)

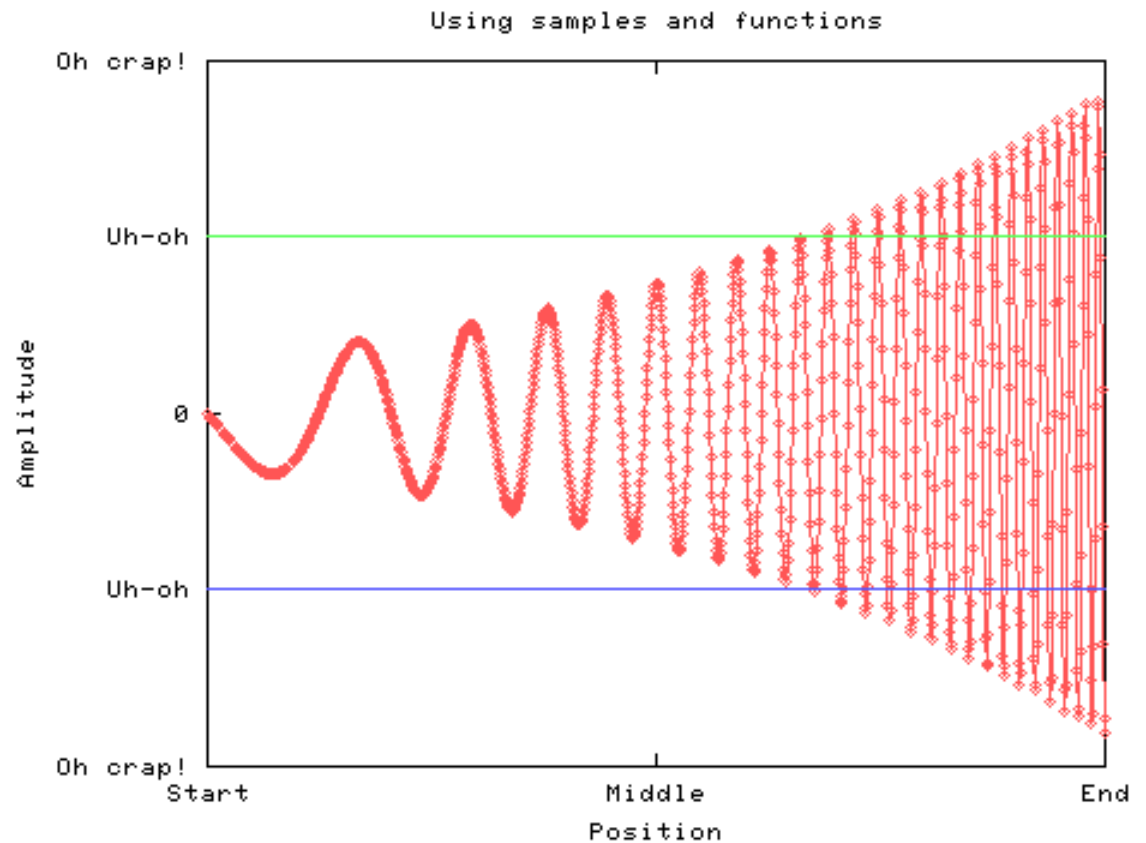➢*Note: Screen shots are low-quality to keep the file size down. High-quality .eps plots discussed later.*

Each step is followed by a "replot"

2-Plotting functions and sampling

Script:

➢clear; reset

➢set xrange [*x1:x2*]; set yrange [*y1:y2*]

➢set xlabel "…"; set ylabel "…"

➢set title "Using samples and functions"

➢f(x) = x**5

➢pi = 3.14159; sf = 4.5

➢plot (sf**x)*sin(f(x)*pi) notitle with linespoints

➢set samples 1000   ← *normally, get 100 points*

➢set xtics ("Start" 1, "Middle" 1.6, "End" 2.2)

➢set ytics ("Oh crap!" -30, "Uh-oh" -15, "0" 0, "Uh-oh" 15, "Oh crap!" 30)

➢replot 15 notitle; replot -15 notitle

Related commands:

➢show variables

➢show functions

➢high=110; f2c(t)=(x-32)*5.0/9.0

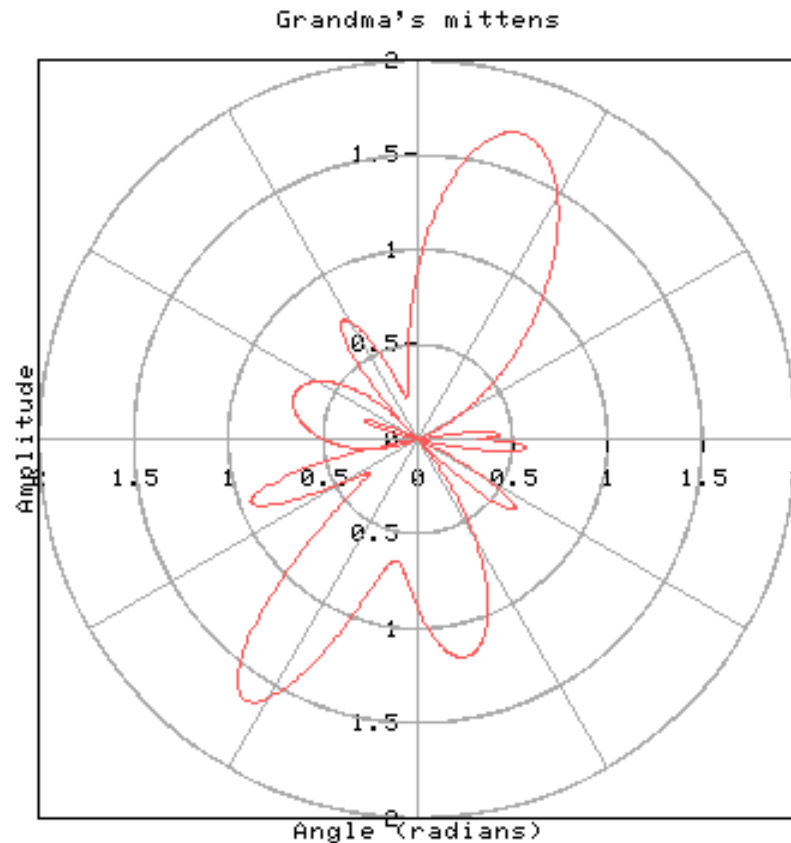➢set yrange [f2c(20):f2c(high)]

Using samples and functions

3-More 2D plots

Script:

➢set samples 1000

➢set xlabel; set ylabel; set title

➢set xrange [-pi:pi]   ← *pi predefined!*

➢plot sin(x)*cos(x) + sin(x)*sin(x) –
0.5*cos(2*x*x) notitle

➢set grid

➢set polar

➢set trange[-pi:pi]

➢plot sin(t)*cos(t) + sin(t)*sin(t) –
0.5*cos(2*t*t) notitle

➢set grid polar

➢set xtics axis; set ytics axis

➢set xrange [-2:2]; set yrange [-2:2]

➢set size square

➢set title "Grandma's mittens"

Related commands:

➢set size ratio *aspectratio*

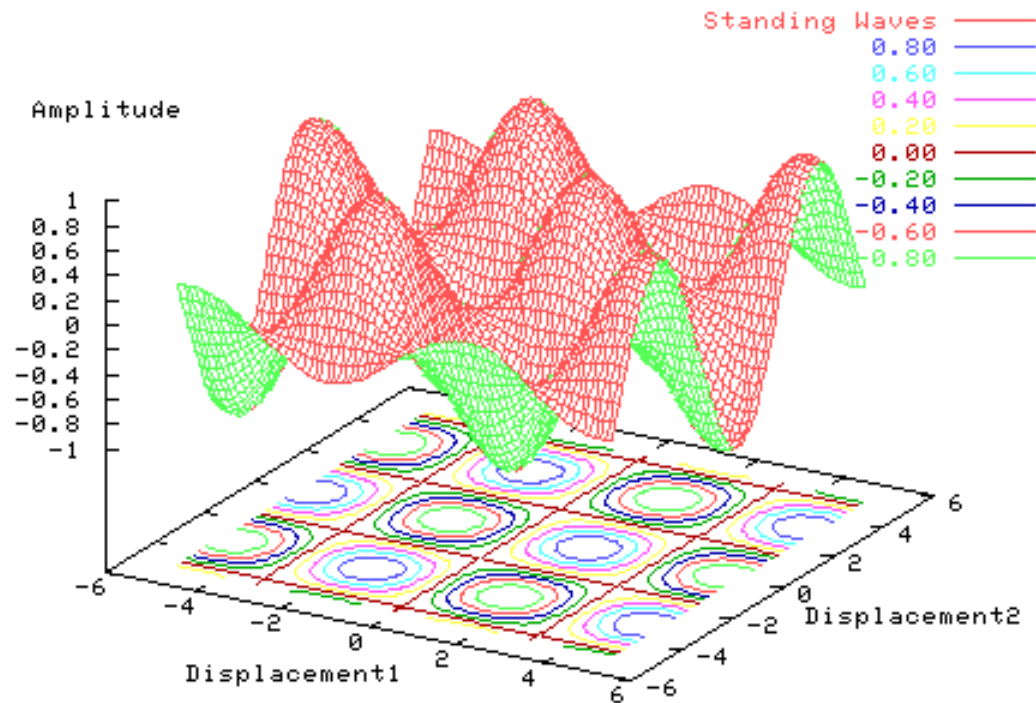➢set size *xscale,yscale*

➢set parametric *<- polar is a special case*

Grandma's mittens

4-Basic 3D plots

Script:

➢set xlabel; set ylabel

➢set zlabel "Amplitude"

➢set parametric

Just to illustrate "set parametric"; could also use `splot sin(x)*cos(y)` *w/o parametric*

➢splot u,v,sin(u)*cos(v) title "Standing Waves"

➢set isosamples 75,75   ← *10 is normal*

➢set contour base

➢set cntrparam level incremental -1, 0.2, 10   ← *start,incr,num*

➢set clabel '%4.2f'   ← *C's scanf*

➢set contour surface

➢set contour base; set nosurface

➢set surface;

➢set view 20,60

➢set view 60,30   ← *xrot, zrot*

➢set hidden3d

Related commands:

➢set contour [base|surface|both]

➢set [no]surface

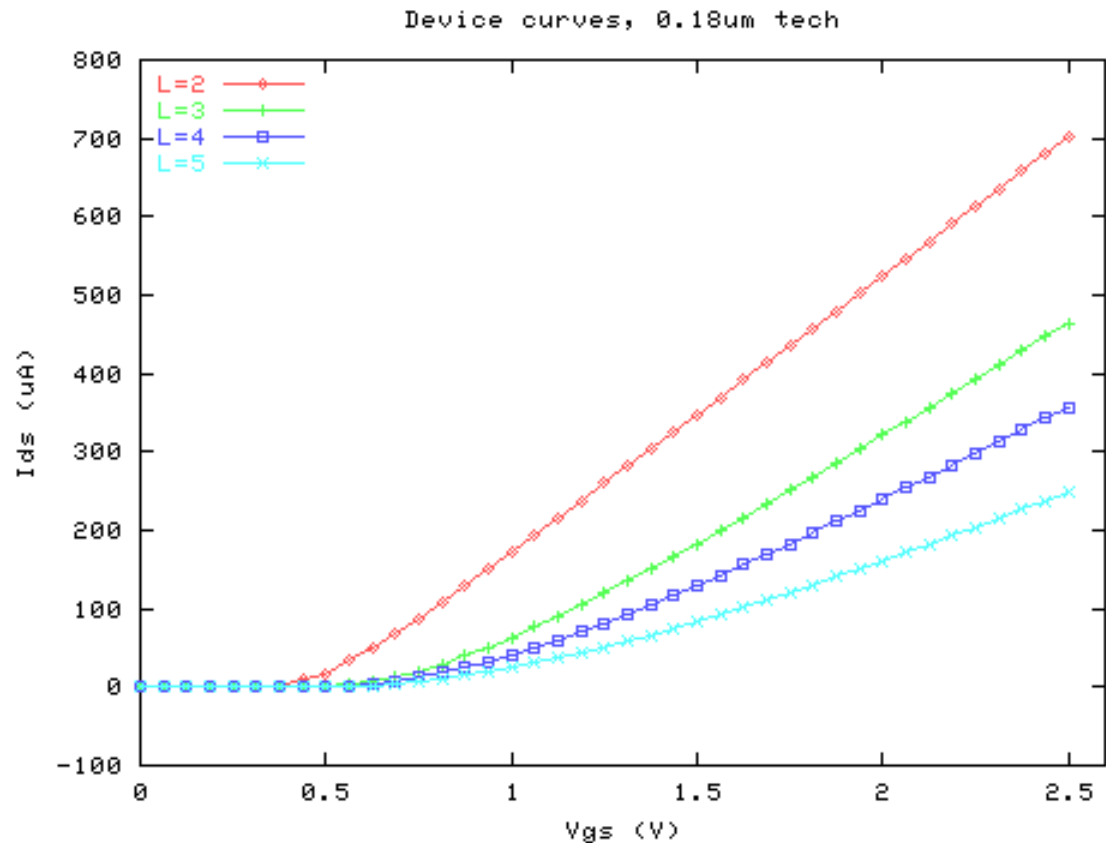# 5-Plotting from data files

Script:

➢set xlabel; set ylabel; set title

➢set key top left

➢plot "plot5.dat" title "IV curves"

➢plot "plot5.dat" using ($1*2.5/2e-9):($2*-1e6) title "IV curves"

➢set xlabel "Vgs (V)"; set ylabel "…"

➢set xrange [0:2.6]

➢plot "plot5.dat" index 2 using ($1*2.5/2e-9):($2*-1e6) title "L=4"

➢replot "plot5.dat" index 3 using ($1*2.5/2e-9):($2*-1e6) title "L=5" with lines

➢set data style linespoints

➢plot "plot5.dat2" u ($1*2.5/2e9):($3*-1e6) title "L=3"

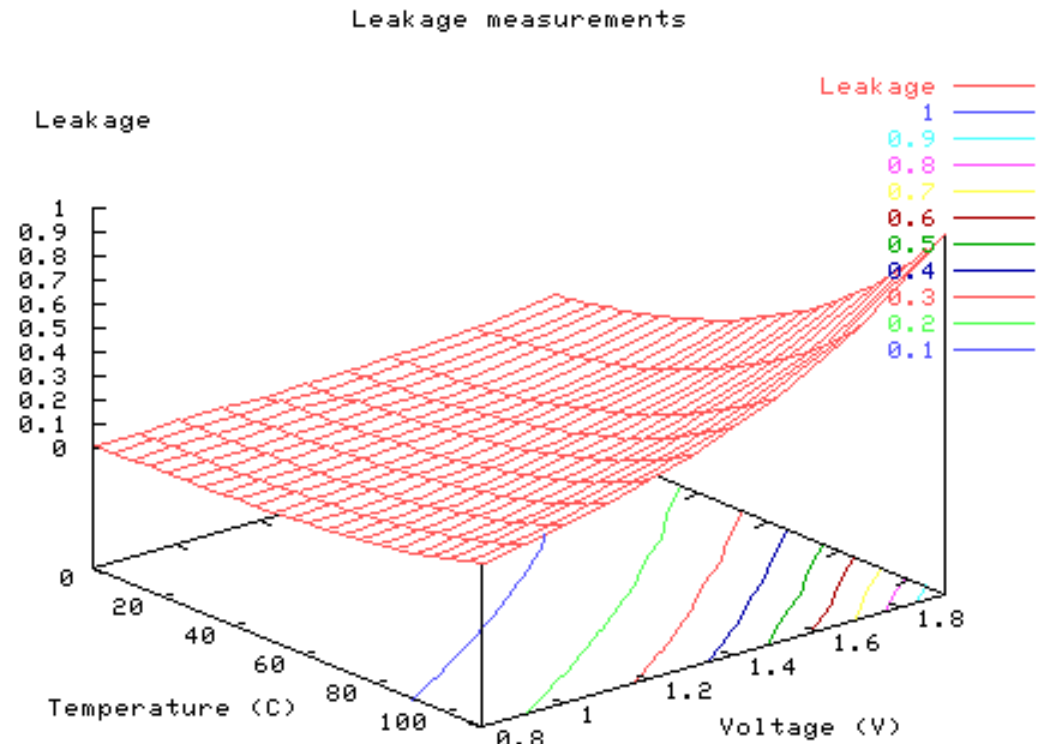➢plot "plot5.dat3" u ($1*2.5/2e9):($2*-1e6) '%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf' title "L=2"

Notes:

➢plot <FILE> index n …
      requires \n\n between datasets

Device curves, 0.18um tech

6-Plotting from data files

Script:

➤ set xlabel; set ylabel; set title

➤ set xrange [0:110]

➤ plot "plot6.dat" u 1:3 t "Leakage" w p
  only need "$" for expressions

➤ plot "plot6.dat" u 1:3 t "Leakage" w l

➤ plot "plot6.dat2" u 1:3 t "Leakage" w l
  \n in data prevents line-connecting

➤ set xrange [0.8:1.9]

➤ set xlabel "Voltage (V)"

➤ plot "plot6.dat2" u 2:3 t "Leakage" w l

➤ set xrange [0:110]; set yrange [0.8:1.9]

➤ set xlabel "Temperature (C)" ,-1

➤ set ylabel "Voltage (V)" ,-1
  xoff=0,yoff=-1 in x's

➤ set zlabel "Leakage"

➤ splot "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:3 t "Leak" w l
  splot using x:y:z

➤ set view ,50

➤ set contour base

➤ set hidden3d
  only works for lines or linespoints

Leakage measurements

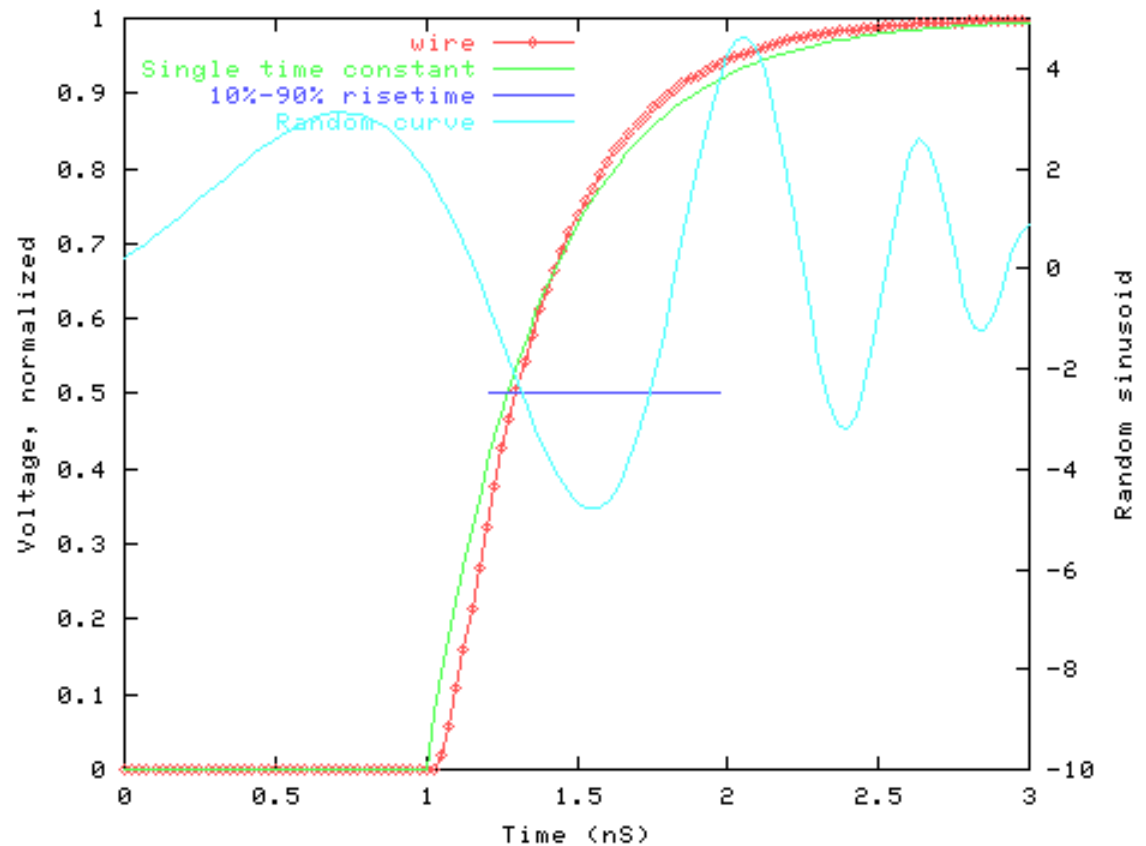# 7-Axes. Ternary operations.

Script:

➤set xrange; set xlabel; set ylabel

➤set key top left

➤plot "plot7.dat" u ($1*1e9):($2/1.8) t "wire" w lp

➤replot 1-exp(-(x-1)/.38825) t "Single time constant"

➤plot "plot7.dat" u ($1*1e9):($2/1.8) t "wire" w lp

➤replot (x<1) ? 0 : 1-exp(-(x-1)/.38825) t "Single time constant"

➤replot x>1.2 && x<2 ? 0.5:1/0 t "10%-90% risetime"

➤replot 5*sin(exp(x))*sin(x)+0.2 axes x1y2 t "Random curve"

➤set y2tics

➤set ytics nomirror

➤set y2label "Random sinusoid"

➤set y2range [-10:5]

Related commands:

➤plot 'file' u 1:($4<0?1/0:($2+$3)/2)
  plots average of $2,$3 only if $4>=0

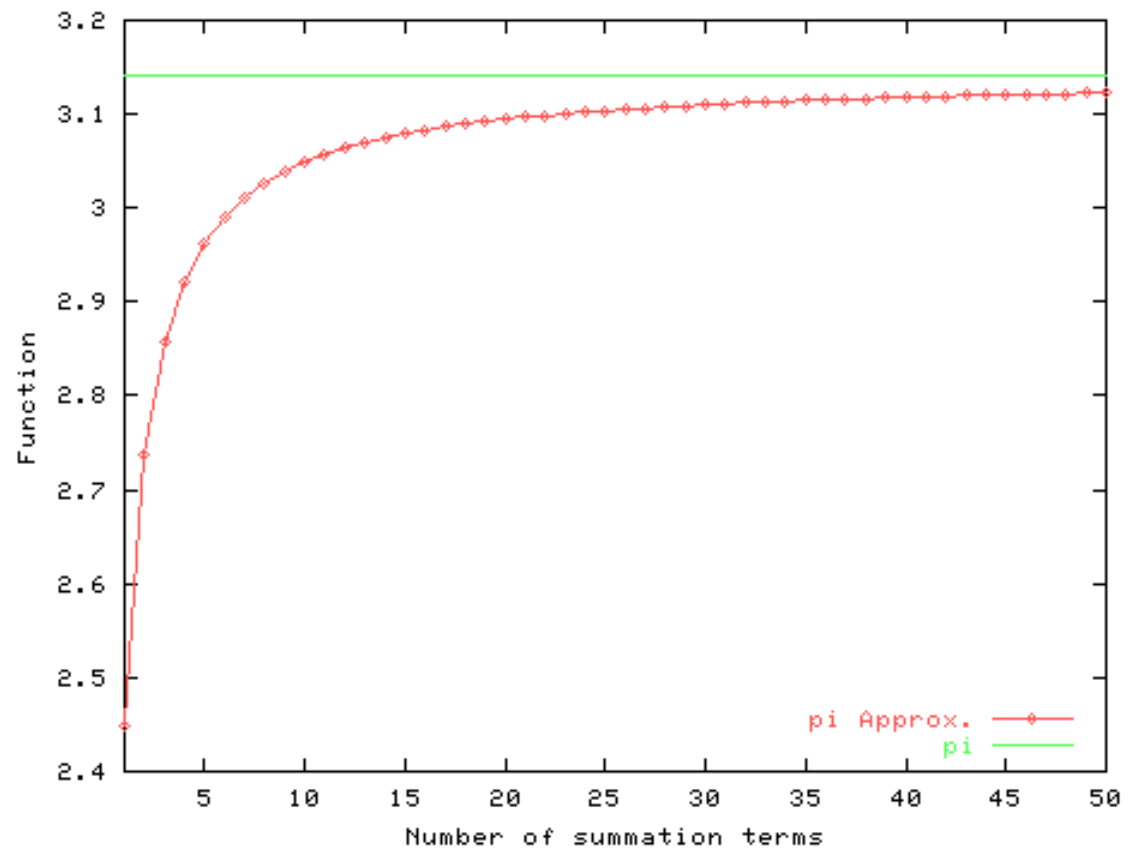# 8-Nifty side-note

Ternary operator surprisingly powerful!

How quickly does $\sqrt{6\sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\dfrac{1}{i^2}}$ converge to pi?

Script:

➢set xlabel "Number of summation terms"

➢set ylabel "Function"

➢set xrange [1:50]

➢set samples 50   ← *critical: integers only!*

➢set key bottom right

➢f_part(x) = 1/(x*x)

➢f_sum(x) = f_part(x) + ((x>1) ?
f_sum(x-1) : 0)

➢f(x) = sqrt(6*f_sum(x))

➢plot f(x) title "pi Approx." w lp

➢replot pi

Answer: Not very quickly!

Note: *Stack space is limited; plotting from [0:100]
runs out of stack space* ☹ *(do it using two functions)*
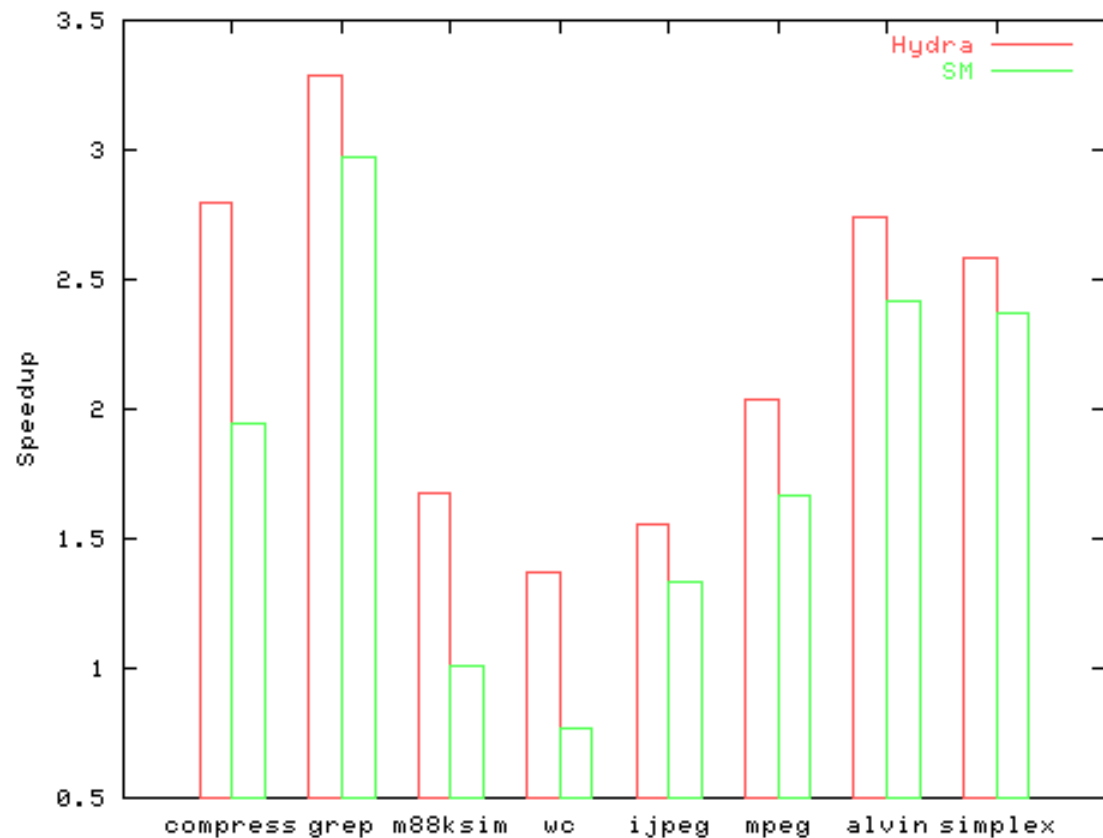
9-Bar graphs

Script:

➢set xtics ("compress" 1, "grep" 2, "m88ksim" 3, "wc" 4, "ijpeg" 5, "mpeg" 6, "alvin" 7, "simplex" 8)

➢set ylabel "Speedup"

➢set xrange [0:9]

➢plot "plot8.dat" u 1:2 t "Hydra" w lp

➢replot "plot8.dat" u 1:3 t "SM" w lp

➢plot "plot8.dat" u 1:2 t "Hydra" w boxes

➢replot "plot8.dat" u 1:3 t "SM" w boxes

➢set boxwidth 0.3

➢plot "plot8.dat" u ($1-0.15):2 t "Hydra" w boxes

➢replot "plot8.dat" u ($1+0.15):3 t "SM" w boxes

Notes:

No way to fill in the boxes using stock gnuplot (although some post-processing hacks exist, including simply using Frame)
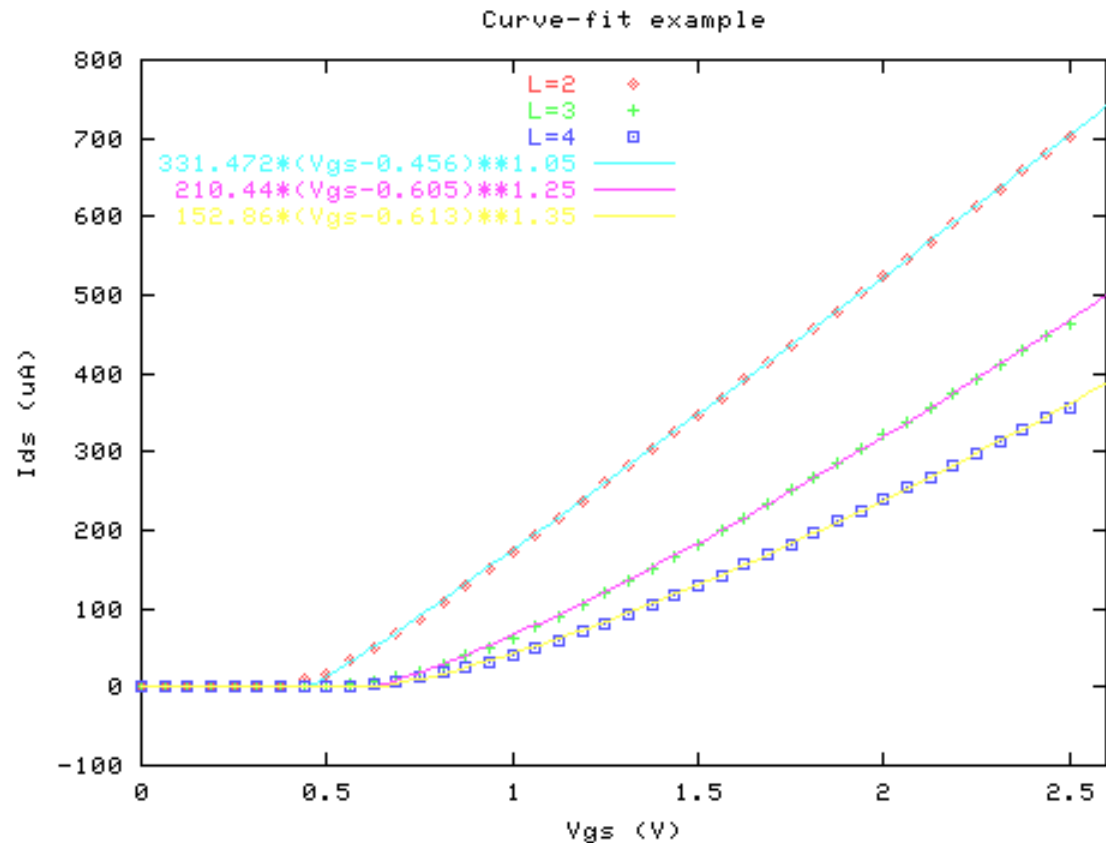
10-Curve-fitting

Script:

➢ set xlabel; set ylabel; set title

➢ set xrange [0:2.6]; set key

➢ plot "plot5.dat2" u ($1*2.5/2e-9):($2*-1e6) t "L=2" w p

➢ replot "plot5.dat2" u ($1*2.5/2e-9):($3*-1e6) t "L=3" w p

➢ f1(x) = x>b1 ? a1*((x-b1)**c1) : 0

➢ fit f1(x) "plot5.dat2" u ($1*2.5/2e-9):($2*-1e6) via a1,b1,c1

➢ replot f1(x) title "331.472*(Vgs-0.456)**1.05" w l

➢ f2(x) = x>b2 ? a2*((x-b2)**c2) : 0

➢ fit f2(x) "plot5.dat2" u ($1*2.5/2e-9):($3*-1e6) via a2,b2,c2

➢ replot f2(x) title "210.44*(Vgs-0.605)**1.25" w l

Notes:

Max 3000 data points for curvefitting

fit.log holds the iterative information

Must manually type in the fitted values for titles/labels. Most often requested feature for v3.8!
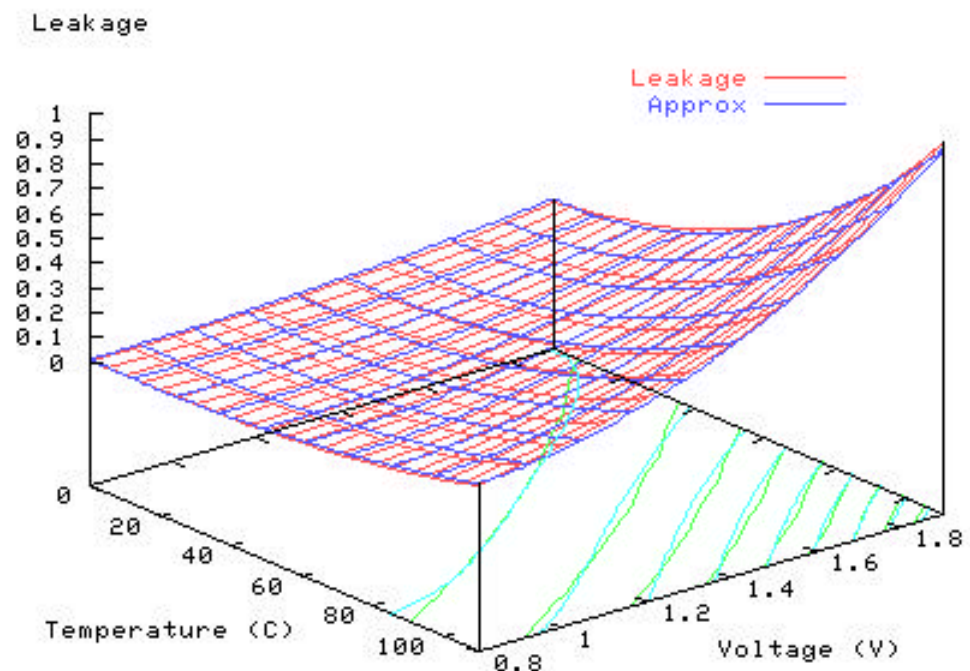
11-Curve-fitting, another example

Script:

➤(x|y}range; (x|y|z)label

➤set data style lines

➤set view ,50; set key 60,1.9,1

➤splot "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:3 t "Leakage"

➤f(x,y) = a+b*x+c*y

➤fit f(x,y) "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:3:(1) via a,b,c

➤replot f(x,y)

➤splot "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:($3-f($1,$2)) not

➤f(x,y) = a+b*x+c*y*y+d*y+e*x*y*y+f*x*y

➤fit f(x,y) "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:3:(1) via a,b,c,d,e,f; replot f(x,y)

➤splot "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:($3-f($1,$2)) not

➤f(x,y) = a + b*x*x + c*x + d*y*y + e*y + f*x*x*y*y + g*x*x*y + h*x*y*y + i*x*y

➤fit f(x,y) "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:3:(1) via a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i; replot f(x,y)

➤splot "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:($3-f($1,$2)) not

➤set contour base; set noclabel

➤splot "plot6.dat2" u 1:2:3 t "Leakage"

➤replot f(x,y) t "Approx"

x:y:z:(1) indicates evenly-weighted data. "help fit" for more details
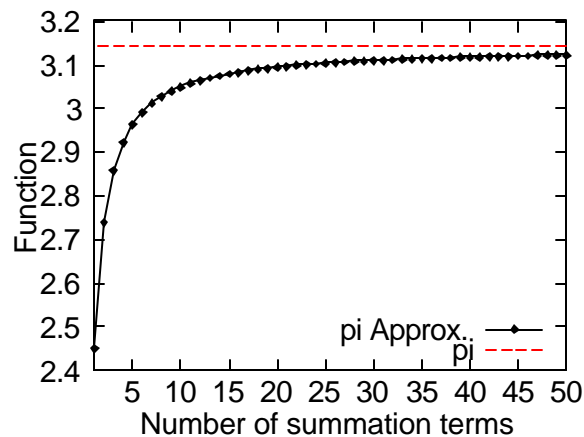

Leakage

Output

- Basic framework is

```
set terminal <TERMTYPE> <OPTIONS>      ← see "help set term"
set out "<FILENAME>"                    ← specifies output file
replot                                  ← writes it to disk
set out                                 ← closes the filehandle
set terminal windows|x11                ← restores the terminal
replot                                  ← redraws the plot
```

- Most plots are automatically sized to fill a sheet of paper
  - Exceptions: encapsulated ps (more on this later), multiplot
  - So generally I preface this with
    - *set size 0.75,0.75* (or so, give or take)
  - Restore with
    - *set size 1,1*

Output (for windows)

- Windows wants a file that works with *Insert→Picture→From File*
  - For this talk, I used .png, the (free) alternative to .gif
    - *set term png small color*
  - For windows files that can be modified within PPT/Frame
    - *set term cgm color*
    - Then double-clicking converts it to a windows object
    - Functionally the same as right-click-copying from the display

Output (for real computers)

- Postscript terminal takes many options

```
                      [landscape]
                                          [color]  [solid]
      set term post  [portrait]  [enhanced]                  [font] [size]
                                          [mono]   [dashed]
                        [eps]
```

- *set term post eps enhanced color* is pretty standard fare
  - eps generates plots that are 5"x3.5"
    - set size 0.65,0.65 creates 1-LaTeX-column-sized plots
  - "Helvetica" 14 set by default; "Times-Roman" 14 decent, too
  - enhanced allows fancy texting in LaTeX-jargon (more later)

- Other possibilities include ("help set term latex")
  - fig: munging in xfig, then using transfig→ps or mifXfig→mif
  - latex, pslatex, pstex: direct incorporation into .tex files

From ps_guide.ps (comes with the gnuplot distro)

The handouts have the real pages

Syntax for **postscript enhanced** option

enhpost is the product of David Denholm and Matt Heffron.

This guide is the product of Dick Crawford.

	text	result
Superscripts are denoted by ^:	'10^{-2}'	10^{-2}
Subscripts are denoted by _:	'A_{j,k}'	$A_{j,k}$
Braces are not needed for single characters:	'e^x'	e^x
Use @ to align sub- and superscripts:	'x@^2_k'	x_k^2
Put the shorter of the two first:	'x@_0^{-3/2}y'	$x_0^{-3/2}y$
...rather than:	'x@^{-3/2}_0y'	$x_0^{-3/2}$
Font changes are enclosed in braces:	'{/Helvetica m}'	m
...size, too:	'{/=8 m}'	m
...or both:	'{/Helvetica=18 m}'	m
Characters can be specified by code:	'{\120}'	P
...which is how to get nonkeyboard characters:	'{\267}'	•
Use keyboard characters or codes for other fonts:	'{/Symbol p\271 22/7}'	$\pi \neq 22/7$
Everything outside braces is in the default font:	'P = {/Symbol r}kT'	$P = \rho kT$
Space of a given size can be inserted with &:	'<junk>'	<junk>
	'<&{junk}>'	< >
Special characters (^,_,{,},@,&,\) can be escaped by \:	'f\{x,y\}'	f{x,y}
...or \\ if within a double-quoted string:	"f\\{x,y\\}"	f{x,y}

Everything can be done recursively:

the text   '{/Symbol=18 \362 @_{/=9.6 0}^{/=12 \245}}

{/Helvetica e^{-{/Symbol m}^2/2} d}{/Symbol m = (p/2)^{1/2}}'

produces the result: $\int_0^\infty e^{-\mu^2/2}\, d\mu = (\pi/2)^{1/2}$

Note how font sizes and definitions are preserved across pairs of braces.

The default font for this page is /Times-Roman=12. These and other options may be changed on the command **set terminal postscript**. See the manual or **help postscript** for details.

Output with enhanced ps (con't)

From ps_guide.ps (comes with the gnuplot distro)

The handouts have the real pages

Output with enhanced ps (con't)

- Example of a plot, with labels redone to utilize symbols
  - .eps with windows preview is large (50KB)

Changes:

➢set xlabel "V_{gs}, in Volts"

➢set ylabel "I_{ds}, in {/Symbol m}m"

➢set title "Device curves, 0.18 {/Symbol m}m tech"

➢plot "plot5.dat3" u ($1*2.5/2e-9):($2*-1e6) '%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf' t "L=2{/Symbol l}"

➢replot "plot5.dat3" u ($1*2.5/2e-9):($3*-1e6) '%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf' t "L=3{/Symbol l}"

➢replot "plot5.dat3" u ($1*2.5/2e-9):($4*-1e6) '%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf' t "L=4{/Symbol l}"

➢replot "plot5.dat3" u ($1*2.5/2e-9):($5*-1e6) '%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf' t "L=5{/Symbol l}"

➢set term post eps enhan color

➢set out "plot5.eps"; replot

➢set out; set term windows; replot

This is a crappy windows preview of an EPS; the printout looks much better

Interfacing with files

- Creating and loading command files
  - They are plain-text, so can create/edit with vi[m]/[x]emacs
  - Within gnuplot, create/use them with *save "file"/load "file"*
  - From shell, can call gnuplot with *gnuplot file*

- So far we've only plotted datafiles, but can also plot raw output
  - Within gnuplot, use, e.g.,
    - *plot "< simulator.pl" u 1:($2*1e9) t "ExecTime" w lp*
    - Although this usually optimizes the wrong resources…
  - This also allows constructs like
    - *plot "< awk '{print $1,sqrt($2*$3)}' foo.dat" u 1:2 t "Data" w lp*
    - Although *using $1:sqrt($2*$3)* does the same thing…
      - Plus, calling awk requires *popen()* support, which is missing under W2K…

Other odds and ends

- Using time on the xaxis (or yaxis, or zaxis):
  - *set xdata time; set timefmt "%Y/%m/%d.%H:%M:%S"*
    - … tells gnuplot what format your data x-col is in (*man date*)

- Too much data in your files to plot?
  - *plot "datafile" every 2*
    - … plots every other point. See "help every" for more details

- Want to plot a vertical line? (which isn't a function…)
  - *set arrow n from x1,y1 to x2,y2 nohead*

- gnuplot assumes integers unless you say so
  - 1/3 evaluates to 0; 1. /3. or 1.0/3.0 evaluates to 0.33…
    - … this burns me every other week

Conclusion

- I hope you learned something new about gnuplot

- Lots of sources for help
  - Introduction and FAQs on the web (do a search)
  - comp.graphics.apps.gnuplot and deja/google archives
  - Ask me (but if it's not covered here, I probably don't know…)

- By the way, www.cygwin.com has the tcsh environment for w32
  - It starts to make w32 a usable working environment