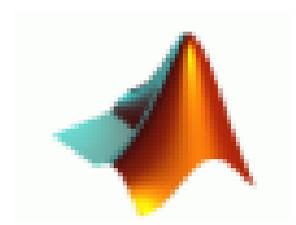


Digital Grain Size

Version 2, Jan 2011

Quick start guide for MATLAB





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Bedform Sedimentology Site—ripples, dunes, and cross-bedding

Grain Size from Digital Images

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Grain Size from Digital Images of Sediment

Computer code

Rubin, D.H., 2008, A simple autocorrelation algorithm for determining grain size from digital images of sediments. *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, v. 78, p. 189-193. [[HTML PDF](#)]
Example of basic code for obtaining grain size using calibrated spatial autocorrelation.

Basscombe, D., Rubin, D.H., and Warwick, J.A., 2008, A universal approximation of grain size from images of noncohesive sediment. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, v. 113, F03011. [[HTML HTML/XML PDF](#)] [[HTML PDF](#)]
Open-clip toolbox created for that Basscombe

Download "2008_basscombe.zip(200K)", 14 K zip file and 200 K uncompressed set of this folder:

Warwick, J.A., Rubin, D.H., Ruggers, P., Hamer, J., Grant, A.E., and Basscombe, D., 2008, Grain size: grain size measurements of sand to boulder from digital photographs and autocorrelation analysis. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 34, 1811-1821. [[DOI:10.1002/esp.1811](#)] [[HTML PDF](#)]

Code for grain size of sand, gravel, and cobble.
The following files can be used to conduct "Cobbles Cam" grain size analysis on digital photographs as described in Warwick et al. (2008). Please see the [read_me.txt](#) file for more information.
Download the whole folder as a zip: [http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/20080805.zip](#) or as individual files listed below:

- read_me.txt
- EXERCISE_README
- AutoCorr_toolbox
- code_Matlab
- code_python(15Kb)
- EXERCISE_AC_code
- code_python
- EXERCISE_README

**Step 1:
go to
<http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/seds/grainsize/code.html>
and download the DGS toolbox**





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Averaging Techniques, Underlying Physics, and Applications
Software for download

POBSC code

Research by Topic
Research by Location
- using Google Maps
Research by Project Title
POBSC Home Page
Search POBSC

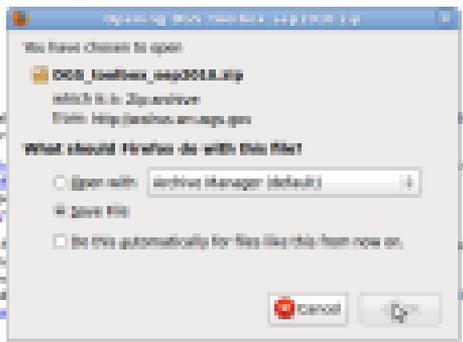
Grain Size from Digital Computer code

Rubin, D.H., 2008, A simple automated example of how code for obtaining grain size from digital images of sediment. *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, v. 78, p. 189-193. [[HTML PDF](#)]

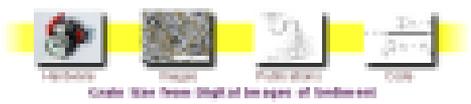
Warrick, J.A., Rubin, D.H., Suggs, J. 2008. Bedform Processes and Landform Code for grain size of sand, gravel, and coarse silt. *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, v. 78, p. 189-193. [[HTML PDF](#)]

The following files can be used to read/download the whole folder as a zip file:

- [read_img.m](#)
- [convert_PPM.m](#)
- [analyze_img.m](#)
- [plot_size.m](#)
- [img_convert.m](#)
- [convert_ac.m](#)
- [img_get.m](#)
- [convert_img2img.m](#)



Save the zip file somewhere on your computer



File Edit View Help

View Extract Location

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
R	21.2 KB	Folder	28 June 2023, 04:09
PYTHON	20.2 KB	Folder	28 June 2023, 05:05
MATLAB	149.4 KB	Folder	03 September 2023, 17:28

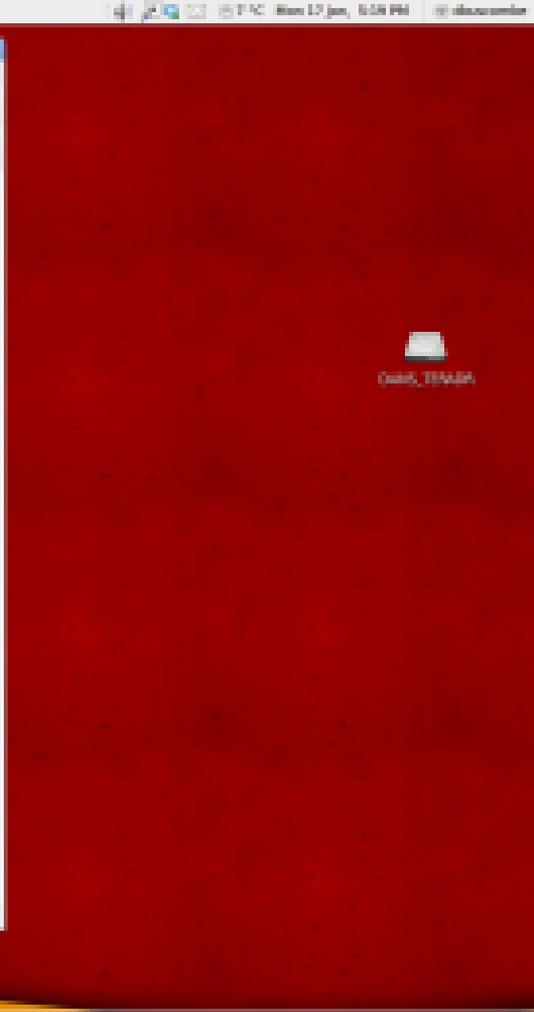
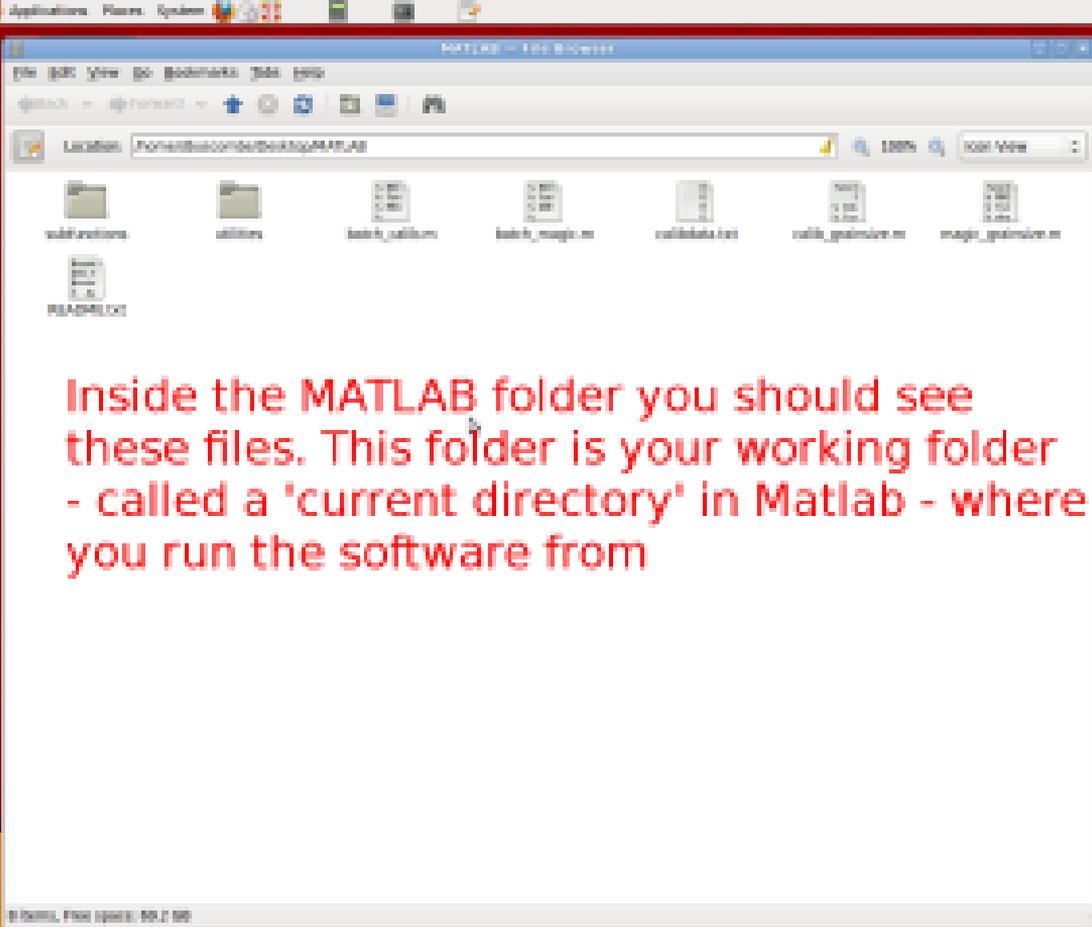
2:06:40 (2/25/23)

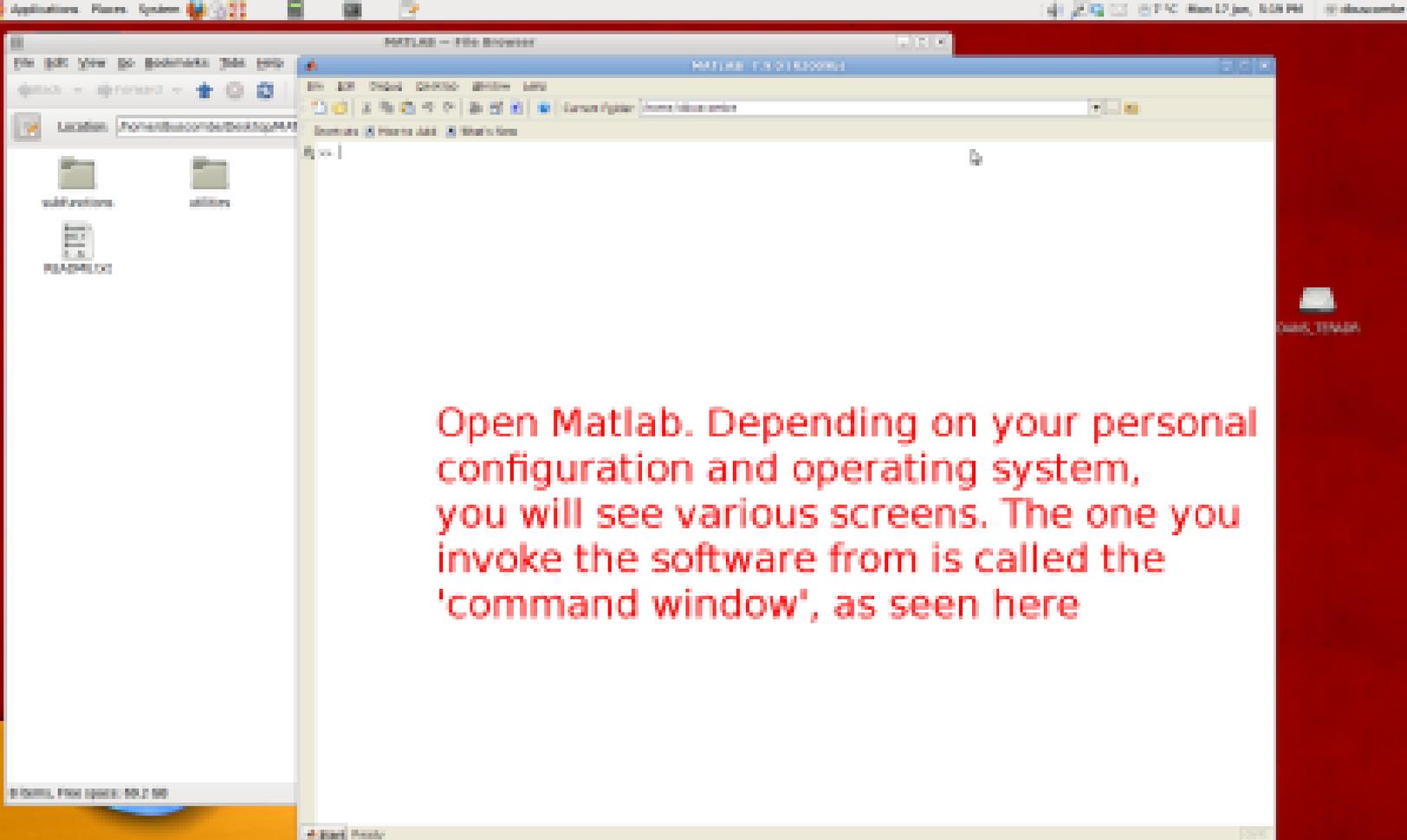
Inside the zip file are 3 folders: one for R;
one for Python; and one for Matlab software

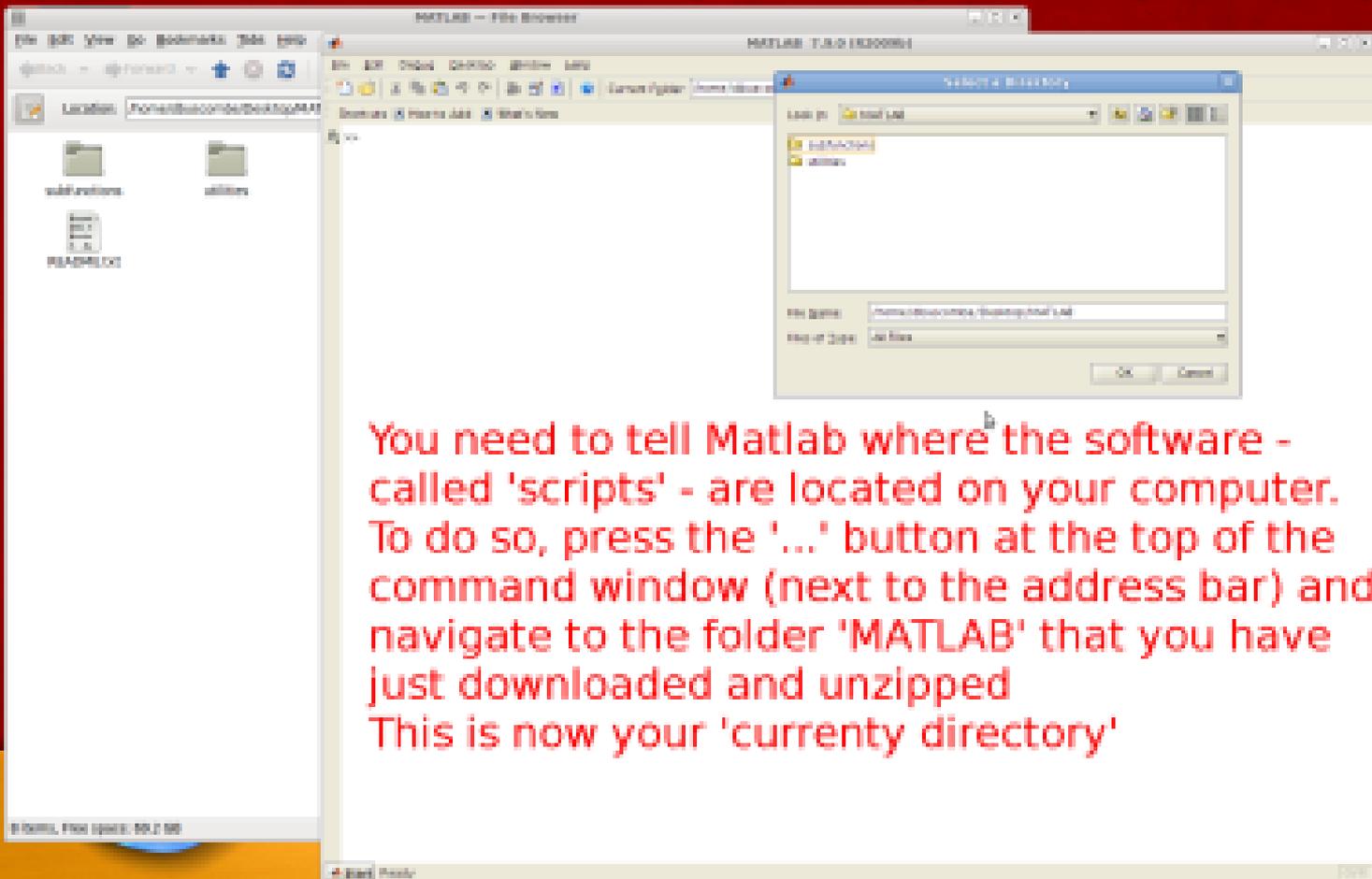
You may choose to 'unzip' any one or all 3
of these folders

Note that R and python are free open-source
and platform-independent software, and
Matlab is proprietary (www.mathworks.com)



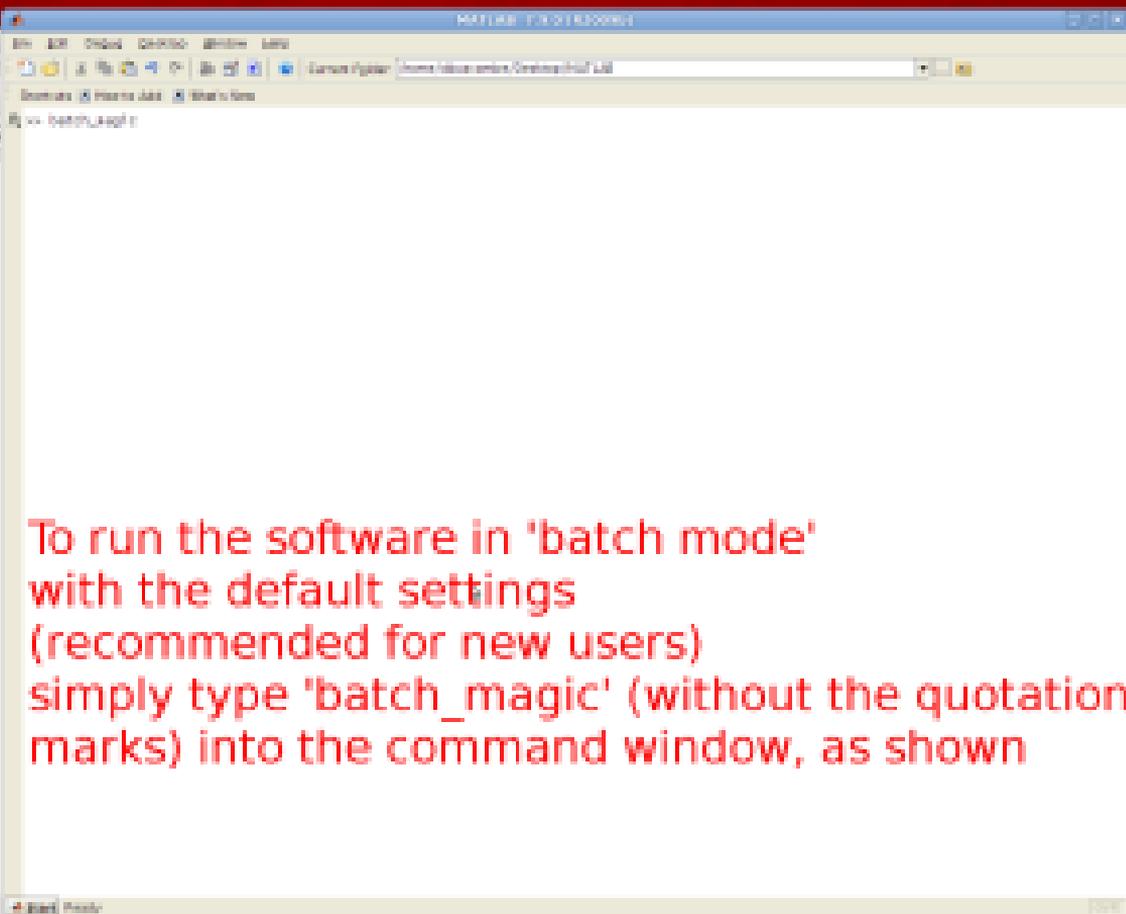




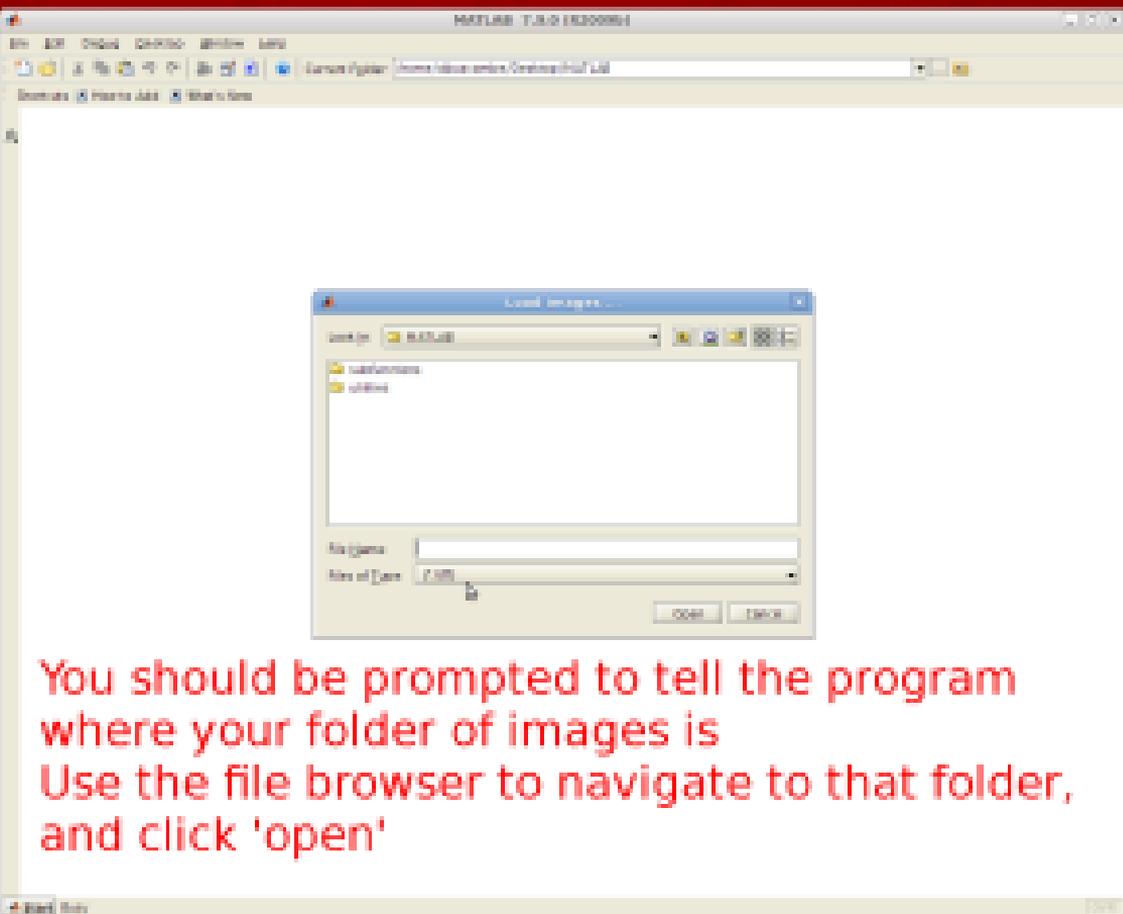


The screenshot shows the MATLAB File Browser interface. A 'Select a Directory' dialog box is open, displaying the contents of the 'MATLAB' folder. The 'File name' field contains 'MATLAB' and the 'File type' is set to 'All files'. The 'File name' field is highlighted in blue. The dialog box has 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom right.

You need to tell Matlab where the software - called 'scripts' - are located on your computer. To do so, press the '...' button at the top of the command window (next to the address bar) and navigate to the folder 'MATLAB' that you have just downloaded and unzipped. This is now your 'currenty directory'



To run the software in 'batch mode'
with the default settings
(recommended for new users)
simply type 'batch_magic' (without the quotation
marks) into the command window, as shown



You should be prompted to tell the program where your folder of images is
Use the file browser to navigate to that folder, and click 'open'

The image shows a MATLAB TLAB (32-bit) window with a file browser on the left and a 'Load images...' dialog box in the center. The file browser shows a directory containing six image files named Cal_01.tif through Cal_06.tif. The 'Load images...' dialog box shows a list of files in the 'images' folder, with a 'Files of type' dropdown set to 'All files'. The 'Files of type' dropdown is highlighted, indicating the need to change the file type to match the image files in the browser.

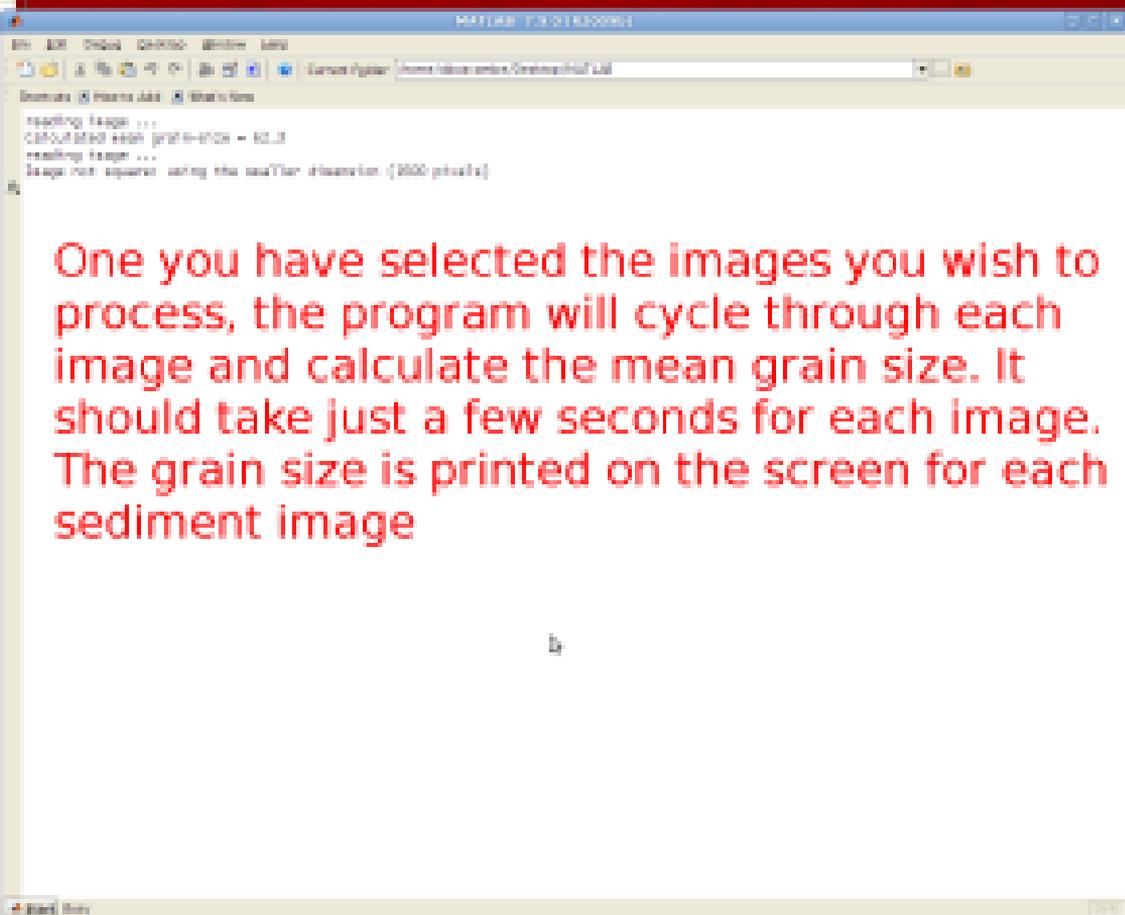
By default, it displays files of type 'tif'. If your images have a different file extension, use the 'files of type' scroll bar to scroll down to your image type (e.g. jpeg, jpg, png, bmp)

The screenshot displays the MATLAB environment. On the left, a file browser window shows a directory containing six grayscale images labeled 'Ca_01.tif' through 'Ca_06.tif'. A 'Load images...' dialog box is open in the center, showing a list of files with columns for file name, size, and date. The files listed are:

File Name	Size	Date
Ca_01.tif	Ca_01.tif	Ca_01.tif
Ca_02.tif	Ca_02.tif	Ca_02.tif
Ca_03.tif	Ca_03.tif	Ca_03.tif
Ca_04.tif	Ca_04.tif	Ca_04.tif
Ca_05.tif	Ca_05.tif	Ca_05.tif
Ca_06.tif	Ca_06.tif	Ca_06.tif

The dialog box also shows a 'Name(s)' field containing the selected files and a 'File of type' dropdown set to 'All files'. The MATLAB window title is 'MATLAB: T.J.G (1320091)' and the current directory is 'C:\Users\TJG\Documents\1320091'. The system tray at the bottom shows the date and time as '23 April 2012 10:00:00 AM'.

You can select all the images (by pressing Control and A on your keyboard at the same time) or only some of the images (by pressing down the Control button and left-clicking with the mouse)



One you have selected the images you wish to process, the program will cycle through each image and calculate the mean grain size. It should take just a few seconds for each image. The grain size is printed on the screen for each sediment image



MATLAB: 7.13.0 (R2013b)

Command Window: `whos`

```
whos  
Name Size Bytes Class Attributes  
GrainSize 1x6 480000 cell  
img_01 1x1 8 double  
img_02 1x1 8 double  
img_03 1x1 8 double  
img_04 1x1 8 double  
img_05 1x1 8 double  
img_06 1x1 8 double  
v 1x10 80 char
```

When complete, type 'whos' (without quotes) into the command window. The grain size results are stored in a data structure called 'GrainSize'. The data within corresponds to the input images, which are in 'imged_name'. Type these into the command window to view their contents



MATLAB: T3_01_01_00001

File Edit View Desktop Window Help

Current Folder: C:\Users\mario\OneDrive\T3_01

Workspace (5) History (4) Statistics

```

reading image ...
Calculating mean grain-size = 62.3
reading image ...
Image not square: using the smaller dimension (2000 pixels)
Calculating mean grain-size = 112
reading image ...
Calculating mean grain-size = 73.4
reading image ...
Image not square: using the smaller dimension (2000 pixels)
Calculating mean grain-size = 138
reading image ...
Image not square: using the smaller dimension (2000 pixels)
Calculating mean grain-size = 112
as above

```

name	Size	Bytes	Class	Attributes
GrainSize	1x5	8000000	cell	
GrainSize	1x1	1	logical	
R	1x1	8	double	
Filter	1x1	8	double	
r	1x1	8	double	
logScale	1x5	400	cell	
logScale	1x1	32	char	
ms	1x1	8	double	
v	1x1	32	char	

GrainSize

GrainSize -

[1x1 struct] [1x1 struct] [1x1 struct] [1x1 struct] [1x1 struct]

R =

For example, typing 'GrainSize' will show you it's contents: here 5 images were analysed, so there are 5 data structures, 1 per image





```
MATLAB T3 218320001
File Edit Window Help
Current Folder C:\Users\user\Documents\Images\T3
GrainSize
GrainSize (2 Pixels)
C:\Users\user\Documents\Images\T3
ans =
    41.0000
ans =
```

To access the grain size result for each image type GrainSize followed by the number image in curly brackets { }

There will be a few outputs: the one of immediate interest is 'MeanGrainSize'. See the README.txt for explanation of the other outputs

If you used 'batch_magic' with the default settings, this grain size will have units of length in pixels. To convert to millimetres (micrometres) this value in pixels must be multiplied by the pixel resolution in millimetres (micrometres) per pixel

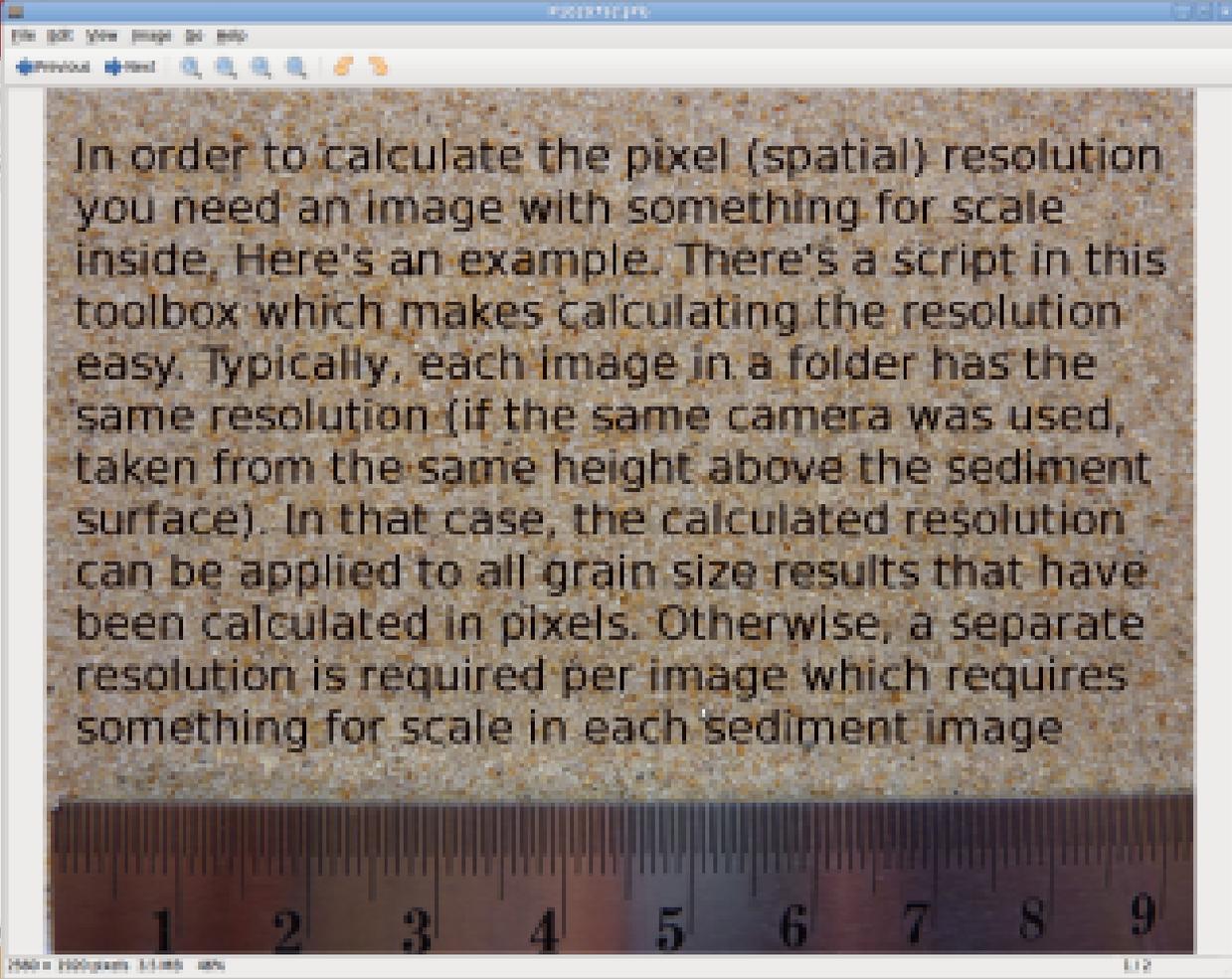


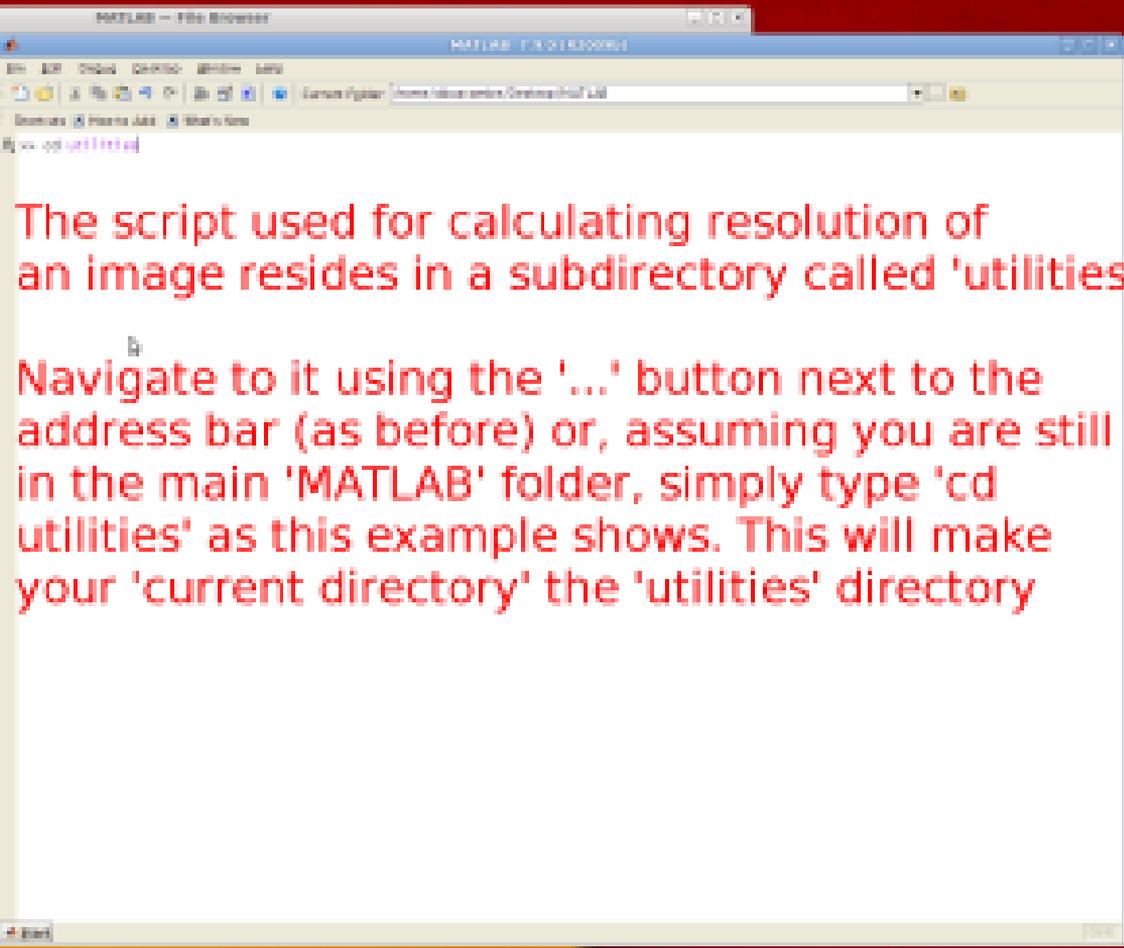


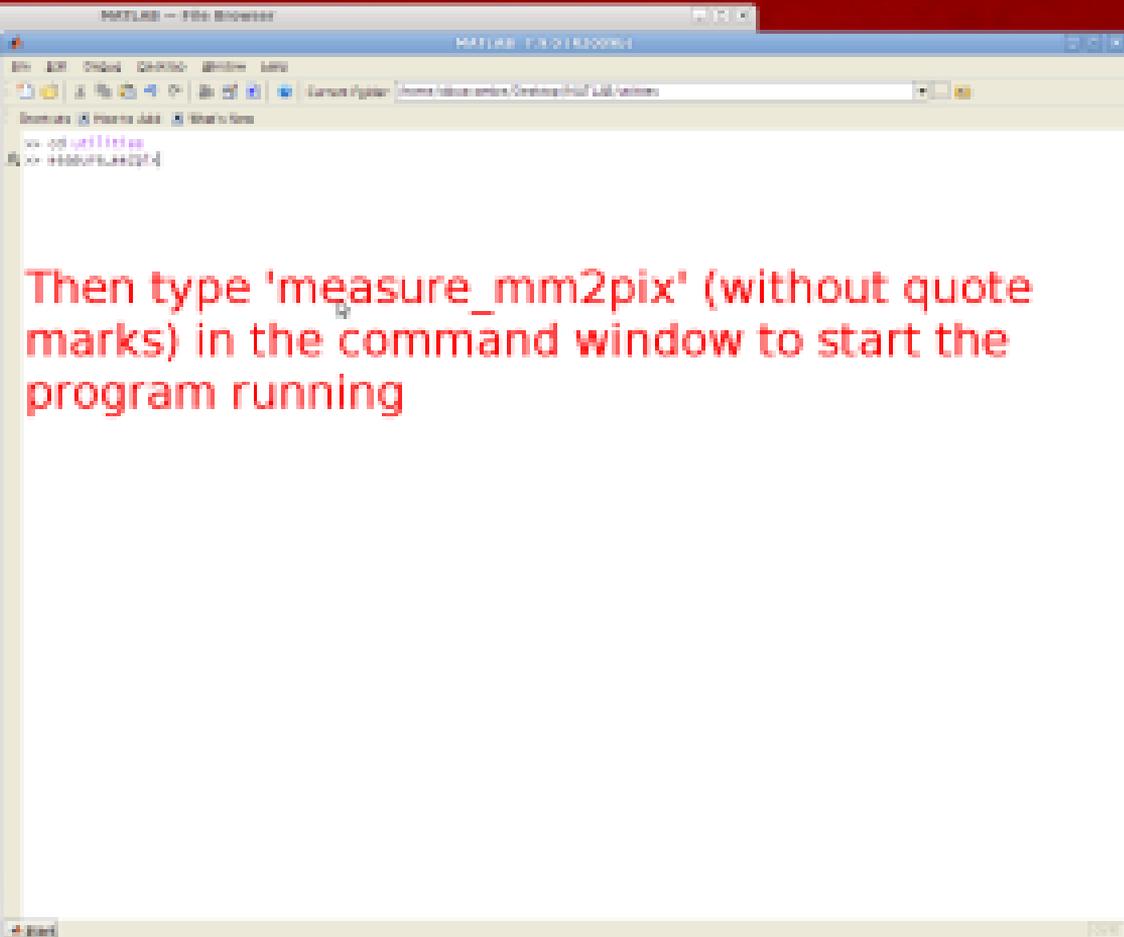
MATLAB: T3.01.000001

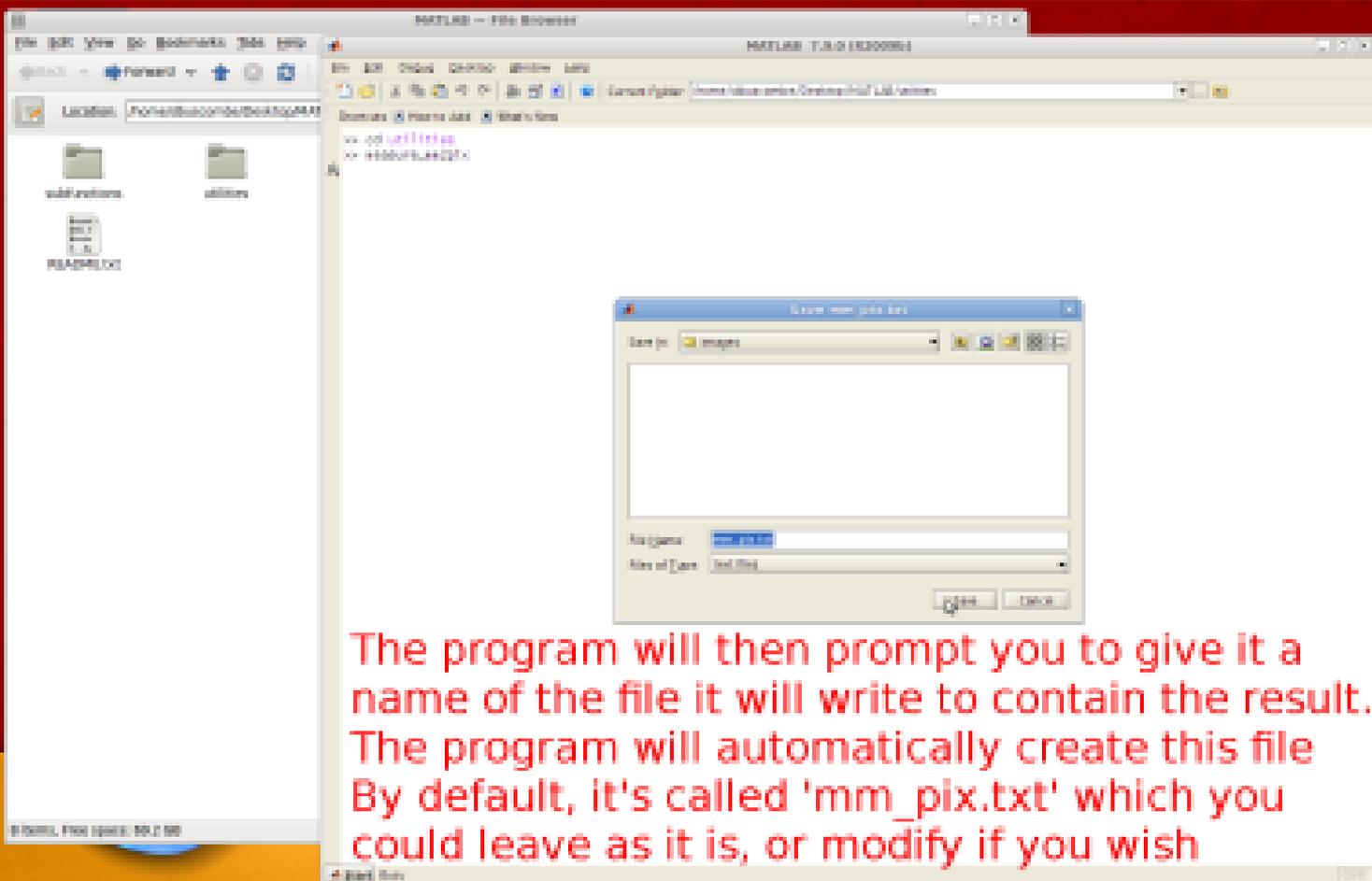
```
ans =  
    41.0000  
ans =  
    111.0000  
ans =  
    121.0000  
ans =  
    131.0000
```

Examples of how to view the grain sizes of other images. The order of these images corresponds to the order in 'image_names'. The input images are sorted in alphanumeric order before being analyzed

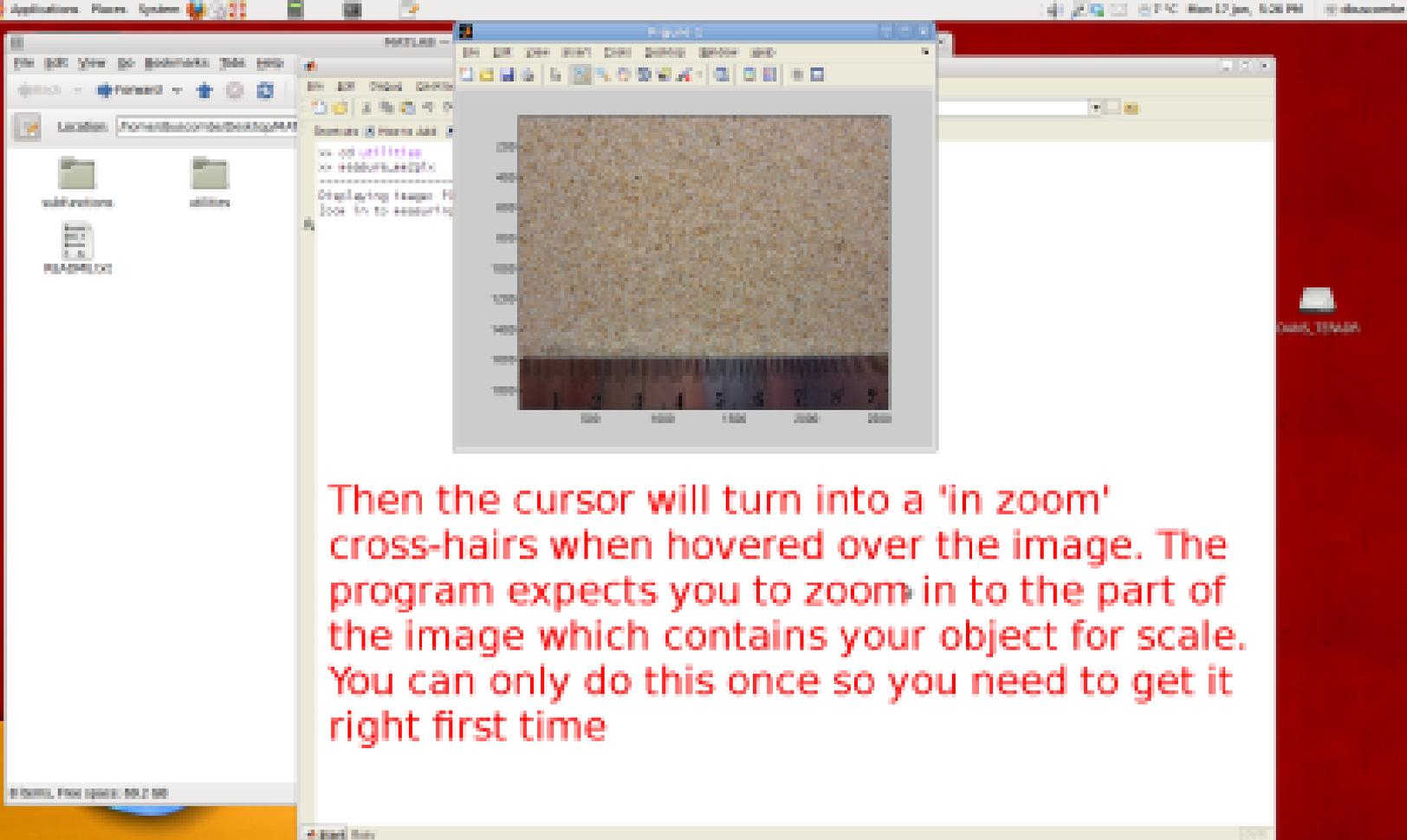






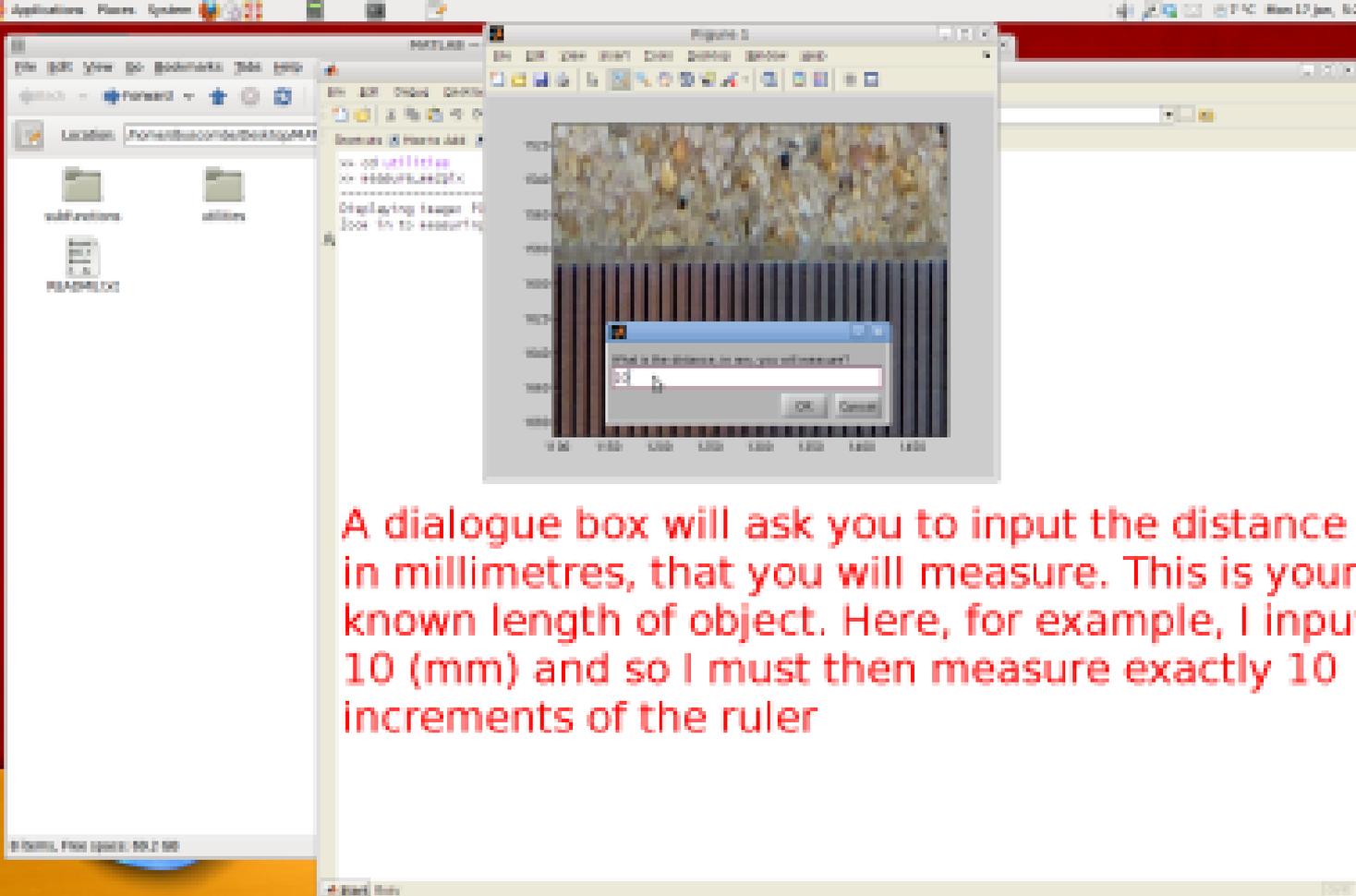


The program will then prompt you to give it a name of the file it will write to contain the result. The program will automatically create this file. By default, it's called 'mm_pix.txt' which you could leave as it is, or modify if you wish.

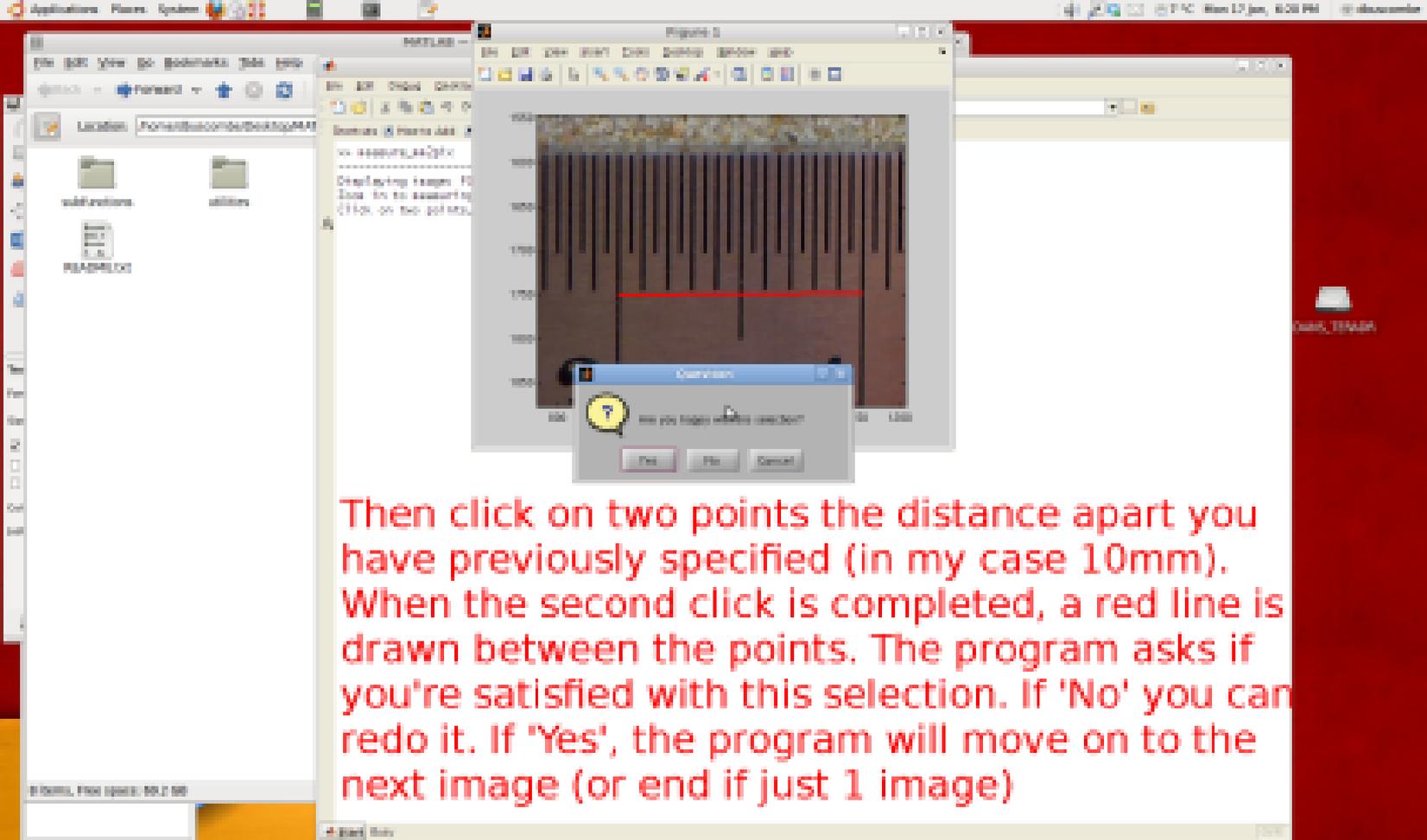


The screenshot shows a MATLAB workspace with several windows open. On the left is a File Browser window showing a directory structure with folders 'subfunctions' and 'utilities', and a file 'README.txt'. In the center is a Command Window displaying the following text: `set(gcf, 'Name', 'Figure 1');`, `imshow('image.png');`, and `display('In zoom');`. On the right is a Figure window titled 'Figure 1' showing a zoomed-in image of a textured surface. The image has a vertical axis on the left ranging from 0 to 200 and a horizontal axis at the bottom ranging from 0 to 200. A ruler is visible at the bottom of the image, with markings from 1 to 10. The background of the desktop is red, and there is a 'C:\Users\THAN...' folder icon on the right side.

Then the cursor will turn into a 'in zoom' cross-hairs when hovered over the image. The program expects you to zoom in to the part of the image which contains your object for scale. You can only do this once so you need to get it right first time



A dialogue box will ask you to input the distance in millimetres, that you will measure. This is your known length of object. Here, for example, I input 10 (mm) and so I must then measure exactly 10 increments of the ruler



Then click on two points the distance apart you have previously specified (in my case 10mm). When the second click is completed, a red line is drawn between the points. The program asks if you're satisfied with this selection. If 'No' you can redo it. If 'Yes', the program will move on to the next image (or end if just 1 image)

And here's the inside of the file. If several scale images were used, there would be 1 number per line corresponding to each image

This value is multiplied to grain sizes in pixels calculated by 'batch_magic' or 'magic_grainsize' in order to give grain sizes with units millimetres

Feedback, Questions and Comments? Email Dan Buscombe:

daniel.buscombe@plymouth.ac.uk

Look out for version 3 featuring an automated statistical estimate of grain size standard deviation (sorting) - coming soon!

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