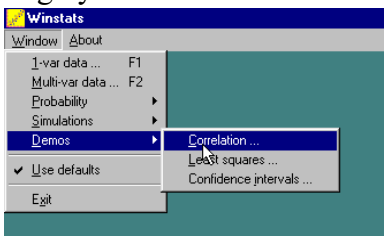
WinPlot (30-60 min)

WinPlot is a graphing utility written and maintained by Richard Parris, a teacher at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. The program is "totally free" and the newest version can be downloaded from Parris''s web site at http://math.exeter.edu/rparris/ . All of the WinPlot modules have fairly thorough Help menus which give detailed information about the workings of the program. An online database for WinPlot and related programs can be found at http://www2.spsu.edu/math/Dillon/Peanutdocs/ . This database includes a WinPlot tutorial in pdf format, so you will need Adobe Acrobat to view it. The reader is referred to these other sources for features not discussed in this tutorial.

WinPlot is actually a part of a larger group of programs known as Peanut Software, and there are excellent programs such as WinStats, WinGeom, WinDisc (for drawing networks such as in Math 1204, unit 2), and so on. There are some help files for some of these other programs located at http://www2.spsu.edu/math/Dillon/Peanutdocs/ .

Highly recommended: In Winstats, the demos for Correlation and Least Squares



The instructions for these demos can be found in the handout ***Directory of Technology Resources***, created by Dennis Ivany.

Tasks

Go to the tutorial located at http://matcmadison.edu/alehnen/winptut/winpltut.htm#2D%20Graphs. The idea is to get an introduction to WinPlot and see its functionality for now. If you find it to be of interest, then you can go on to explore and use it more at another time. There is another tutorial by Paul Gosse located at http://dev.cdli.ca/eteach/pgosse/ - it is not finished (e.g. 3D is not done yet), but it does a good job with the Getting Started and 2-Dim tutorials.

Work through as much of the tutorial as you can in the next 30 minutes, but concentrate on the **Getting Started** and **Graphs in 2D** sections. Only work on those areas of the tutorial that are relevant to you e.g. a person teaching AP calculus may be interested in some different features than someone teaching Math 1204 [NOTE: When you have created a graphic you would like to paste back into WordPerfect, you may have difficulty using the FILE-COPY TO CLIPBOARD option in WinPlot and then pasting into WordPerfect If so, use the FILE - BITMAP TO CLIPBOARD option. For Microsoft Word users, this does not appear to be a problem.]

Create a graph. Copy and paste it into WordPerfect. Set the anchors and resize it as necessary.