

MATH1110H-B-lab-F01-2023-10-10

October 11, 2023

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[1]: # MATH 1110H-B Lab 2023-10-10
#
# Our objective is to learn to solve (simple!) differential equations
# using SageMath. To do this, we need to be able to declare a generic
# function, be able to take derivatives of functions, generic or
# otherwise, and solve equations including such derivatives.
#
# We first declare y to be a generic function of x:
#
y = function('y')(x) # y = function('y',x) should work, too.
#
# diff(y,x) represents the derivative of y with respect to x, and the
# desolve command is optimized to solve equations involving derivatives.
# Note that as with the basic solve command, desolve needs to be told
# explicitly what to solve for.
#
desolve(diff(y,x) == x^2,y)
#
# Note the generic constant _C in the answer provided by desolve.
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[1]: $1/3*x^3 + _C$

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[2]: # In most applications of differential equations we are also given
# requirements along the lines of "when x= we should have y=". These
# are called "initial conditions" and can be specified in desolve by
# adding ics[<x-value>,<y-value>]. For example, if we were to specify
# that when x=4 we should have y=4 in the example above, we would type
# in:
#
desolve(diff(y,x) == x^2,y,ics=[4,4])
#
# Note that desolve then gives what was formerly a generic constant an
# explicit value.
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[2]: $1/3*x^3 - 52/3$

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[3]: diff(sin(x^2),x) # One can also use the diff operator to just take
      # the derivative of a function...
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[3]: 2*x*cos(x^2)
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[4]: diff(sin(x^2),x,2) # ... or its second derivatives, i.e. the
      # derivative of the derivative.
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[4]: -4*x^2*sin(x^2) + 2*cos(x^2)
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[5]: desolve(diff(y,x) == y^2, y) # desolve can also cope with equations
      # where y also appears outside the
      # derivative, though you may need to do
      # a bit more work to actually finish
      # solving for y.
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[5]: -1/y(x) == _C + x
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[6]: desolve(diff(y,x) == y^2, y, ics=[500,2]) # Again, we can pin down the
      # generic constant by giving
      # initial conditions, in this
      # case y=2 when x=500.
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[6]: -1/y(x) == x - 1001/2
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[7]: N(sin(169)) # One little bonus trick: if you need or prefer a decimal
      # a decimal approximation to some expression that gives a
      # number, use the N command to get 15 digits of accuracy.
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[7]: -0.601999867677605
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