Mathematica

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Who is Stephen Wolfram?

- Creator of Mathematica, Wolfram|Alpha, and the Wolfram Language
- Youngest recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship (1981)
- Aimed to make the world's knowledge computable and accessible to everyone

Let’s get started!

- Open up a new notebook.
- Add new sections by pressing the down arrow key.
- By default, Mathematica expects an input cell to have Wolfram Language code. You can press the plus button on the left to insert different types of input and text.

Free-Form Input

General things to know...

- The user can type in commands in plain English, which makes it more simple to understand.
- Start with = *userinput*. Press Shift+Enter to signal that you're done inputting commands. Then, it searches for what you've typed.
- You will be able to see a suggestion bar below the output.

Wolfram Language

Some syntax to start...

- Uses symbolic expressions: in the format head[arguments]
- Assignment works the same way as in most languages (ie x=5; this is also known as immediate assignment). You can also use := to continuously assign values (ie t := LocalTime[] will continuously set t to the current time in your time zone)
- Rational numbers are represented by fractions, which is useful because it prevents rounding errors that are found in many languages when using decimals. I represents imaginary numbers.

Functions!

- Function parameters are placed in brackets [] unlike Python, which uses parenthesis ().
- The first letter of each word in a function is capitalized.
- f[x_, y_] := x+y
    - You can also do f[5] = 9, and f[5] will always return 9

Lists

- Lists use one-based indexing and go in curly braces {}
- This is to differentiate between standard lists, which use zero-based indexing, and Mathematica lists.

Let’s now go over some useful functions…

- Range[n]
  - Returns a list of numbers from 1 to n
- ListPlot[{{x_1, y_1}, …, {x_n, y_n}}]
  - Returns a scatter plot of points with the given coordinates.
- Print[*expr*]
  - Prints *expr* as an output.

Functions (continued)

- Graphics[*primitives*, *options*], Graphics3D[*primitives*, *options*]
  - Returns a 2D or 3D graphical image based on the primitives and options.
- Sphere[*p*, *r*]
  - Returns a sphere with radius *r* centered at point *p*.

Functions (continued)

- Plot3D[f, {x, x_{min}, x_{max}}, {y, y_{min}, y_{max})}]
  - Returns a 3D graph of a function f with minimum and maximum x and y values.
- TemplateApply[“hello ``, it is now <* Now *>”, {“user”}]
  - `` inserts values, <*...*> evaluates values

Interactive Features

- Manipulate[item, {n, min, max, *step*}]
  - Adds a slider to the item like desmos and links it to the value of n
- TabView[a, b, c, ...]
  - Takes in a list of items and allows you to switch between them using tabs
- Button[TextString, action]
  - Creates a button with TextString as the label and links it to an action when the user clicks on it

Applications

Web Development

- Mathematica can be used to create interactive websites.
- You can create embeddable code through EmbedCode[APIFunction[], *language*].
- Without the *language* argument, EmbedCode returns a string to be inserted into an HTML file. You must use CloudDeploy on the APIFunction for it to work. There must be another argument inserted, which is Permissions -> “Public”, for the Mathematica object to be viewed by everyone who visits the page.
    - EmbedCode[CloudDeploy[Print[“Hello World!”]], Permissions -> “Public”]