



Python Framework – For structural dynamics

User's Guide

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ABSTRACT

This document represents the user guide that illustrates how to install and run the Python Framework for modeling and simulation of variable-structure models under Windows OS. The aim is to enable the user to create his own models and simulate them with the given Framework. An introduction to the Framework is given and examples explain how to use the Framework.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Before you start	1
1.2	Install Python	1
1.3	Install Dymola	2
1.4	Install OpenModelica	2
1.5	Install Matlab/Simulink	3
2	Getting started with DySMo	4
2.1	Design	4
2.2	Case study: The extended bouncing ball	5
2.3	Body of the parameter file	7
2.4	Simulate a given example	9
	Bibliography	11
	List of figures	11

1 Introduction

In this section we show you how to set up DySMo. If you have any questions or remarks please write an email to a.mehlhasse@tu-berlin.de or leave a comment at <https://bitbucket.org/amehlhasse/dysmo>.

1.1 Before you start

Save the install folder 'DySMo' to your desired destination path. The directory references are relative paths for the rest of the document. If there is a need to change some configurations «yourDirectory» is used.

1.2 Install Python

To install the *python-interpreter* under WindowsOS you can use the link in the software.txt file. It is strongly recommended to use the **Version 2.6**, the source code is not tested with other version. Therefore there is no guarantee that everything will work as expected. For further information about the python-interpreter, refer to the official Python project page www.python.org. Please also install all necessary packages from the software.txt. Please use the recommended versions, otherwise the framework might not work.

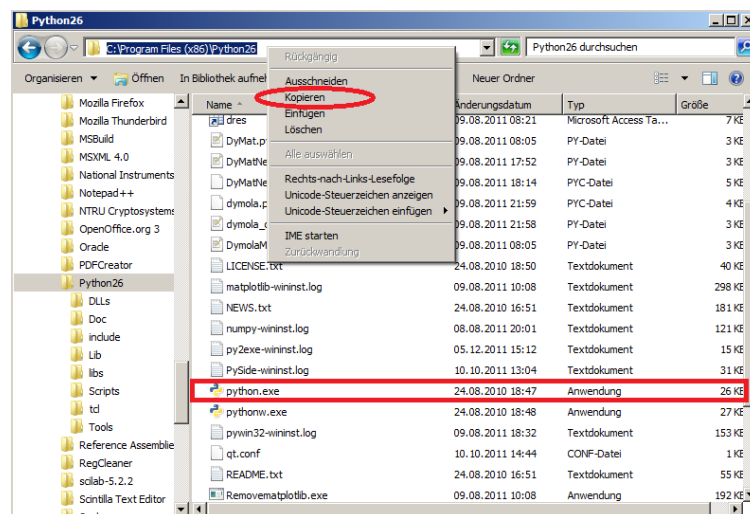


Figure 1: Copy this **path** and paste it to your environment Variables

After the installation you have to set an environment variable, so that it is possible to run the python interpreter from any path. Therefore locate the file *python.exe*. If Python is installed in the default directory, you can find the file under *C : \Program Files(x86)\Python26*, refer to figure 1. Copy this path and open the *environment variables setup* (*Systemcontrol->System->advanced->environment variables*) (*Systemsteuerung->System->Erweiterte Systemeigenschaften->Umgebungsvariablen*), refer to figure 2. Find the variable **Path** and add the copied path from figure 1 separated by a semi-colon. If everything works, you can now open the command line (Eingabeaufforderung) and start the python interpreter. To test it, goto *Start->programs->accessories->execute* (*Start->Programme->Zubehör->Ausführen*) and type in **cmd**. You can now type in **python**, the interpreter should

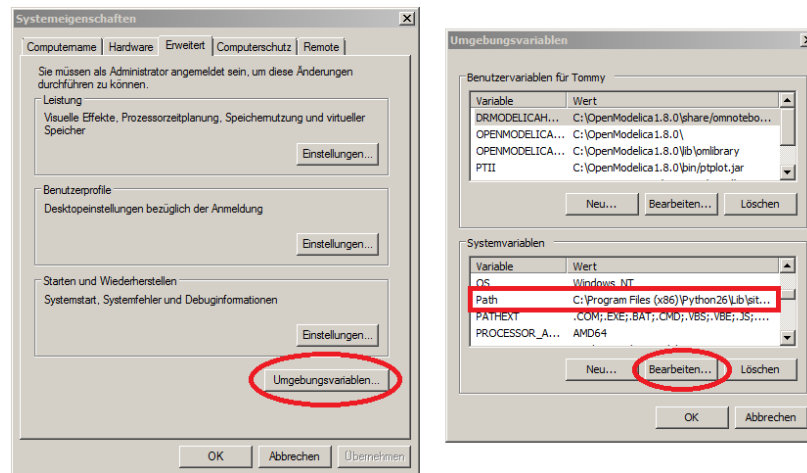


Figure 2: Edit the environment variable **Path**

start and accept your commands, figure 3.

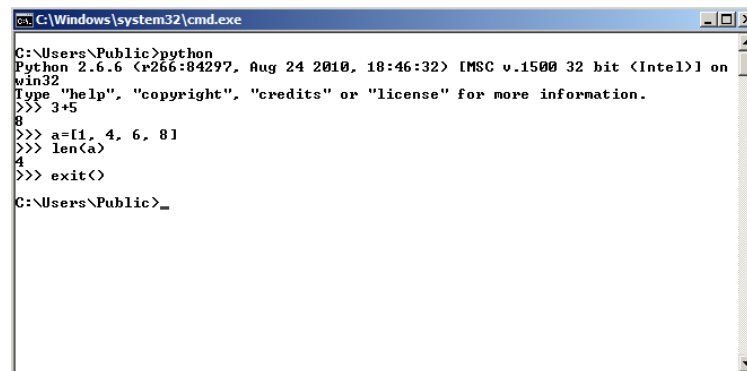


Figure 3: Open your console and test some python commands

1.3 Install Dymola

To install the modeling environment Dymola, please refer to the Dymola user's manual («your-Directory»\ Documentation\ Dymola5Manual.pdf). Make sure you have a fully licensed version, with the demo version the following examples do not work. Furthermore the examples do mostly not work with a borrowed server license (it is supposed to work with the new Version Dymola 2013, but was not tested yet)). For more information about Dymola visit www.dymola.com.

1.4 Install OpenModelica

You can also use OpenModelica to simulate your models. DySMo works with OpenModelica Version 1.8. A link to the installation for OpenModelica on Windows is also given in the software.txt. For further information about OpenModelica, refer to the official project page www.openmodelica.org.

1.5 Install Matlab/Simulink

DySMo does also support Matlab/Simulink. To use Matlab/Simulink in the Framework Matlab/Simulink has to be installed on your computer. The Framework was tested with Matlab 2011a and was not fully tested with other versions, so the Framework might not work with other versions.

2 Getting started with DySMo

DySMo supports different modeling tools and an arbitrary number of mode switches. This chapter gives you a design overview and shows you how you have to prepare your models so that they can be used as variable-structure models in the given Framework. In the second part the focus is on how to run the delivered examples.

2.1 Design

The Framework is implemented through different objects which describe the variable-structure model. Figure 4 presents an overview. The main files are located in «yourDirectory» \ dysmo \ source. For every new variable-structure-model you have to create a parameter file, <modelName>.py. The body of such a file is shown in chapter 2.3.

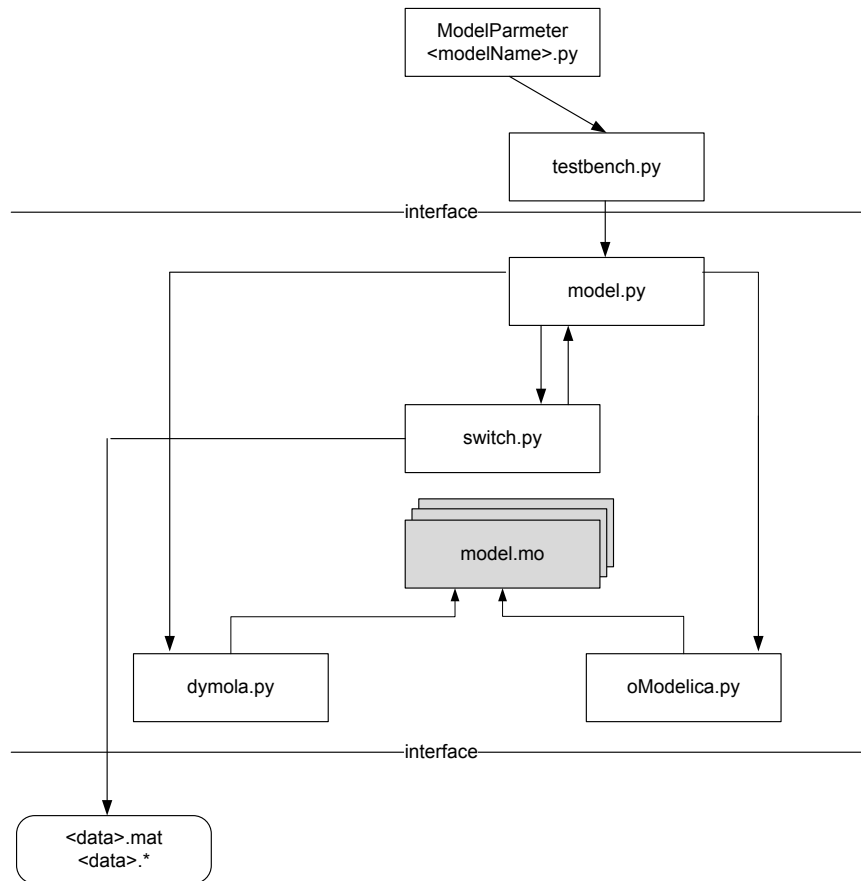


Figure 4: Static framework overview

This parameter file is given to the *main.py* which is the executable Python file which needs to be started. The actual variable-structure model inside the Python Framework is then build by the *main.py*. After building the variable-structure model the model is handed to the method *switch.py*. This method handles the actual mode switch, the initialization of the new mode and the saving of the simulation results of each simulation. In the following a few examples are introduced to show how the Framework can be used.

2.2 Case study: The extended bouncing ball

In this section a case study is designed to illustrate a simulation cycle using the Framework. You can find the same model implemented under `«yourDirectory»\sample \ mechStruk`.

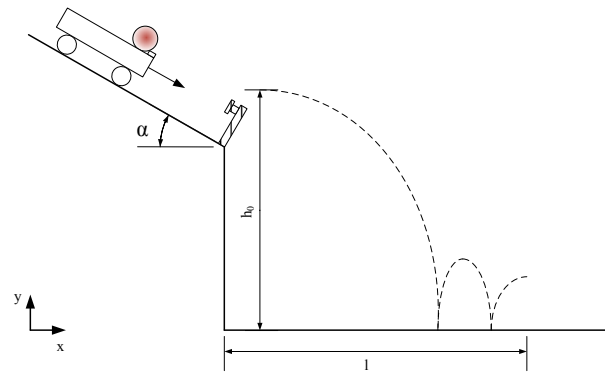


Figure 5: Physical representation: The extended bouncing ball

For the given model, three modes are needed (wagen_struc ID=1, contact_struc ID=2, ball_struc ID=3). Every mode has a terminate condition, for example the model terminates from wagon to ball when the end of the ramp is reached (mode 1->2). These conditions have to be specified in the corresponding model (refer to `«yourDirectory»\sample \ mechStruk \ mechanik.mo`). When this condition is reached a variable called `switch_to` (this variable is expected to have this name) has to be set, to the number of the mode to switch to. Figure 5 shows how the system to the model might look like.

A sequence diagram which shows the sequence of the simulation is shown in figure 6. (You can switch translation/compilation of the model on / off in `main.py`, refer to chapter 2.4).

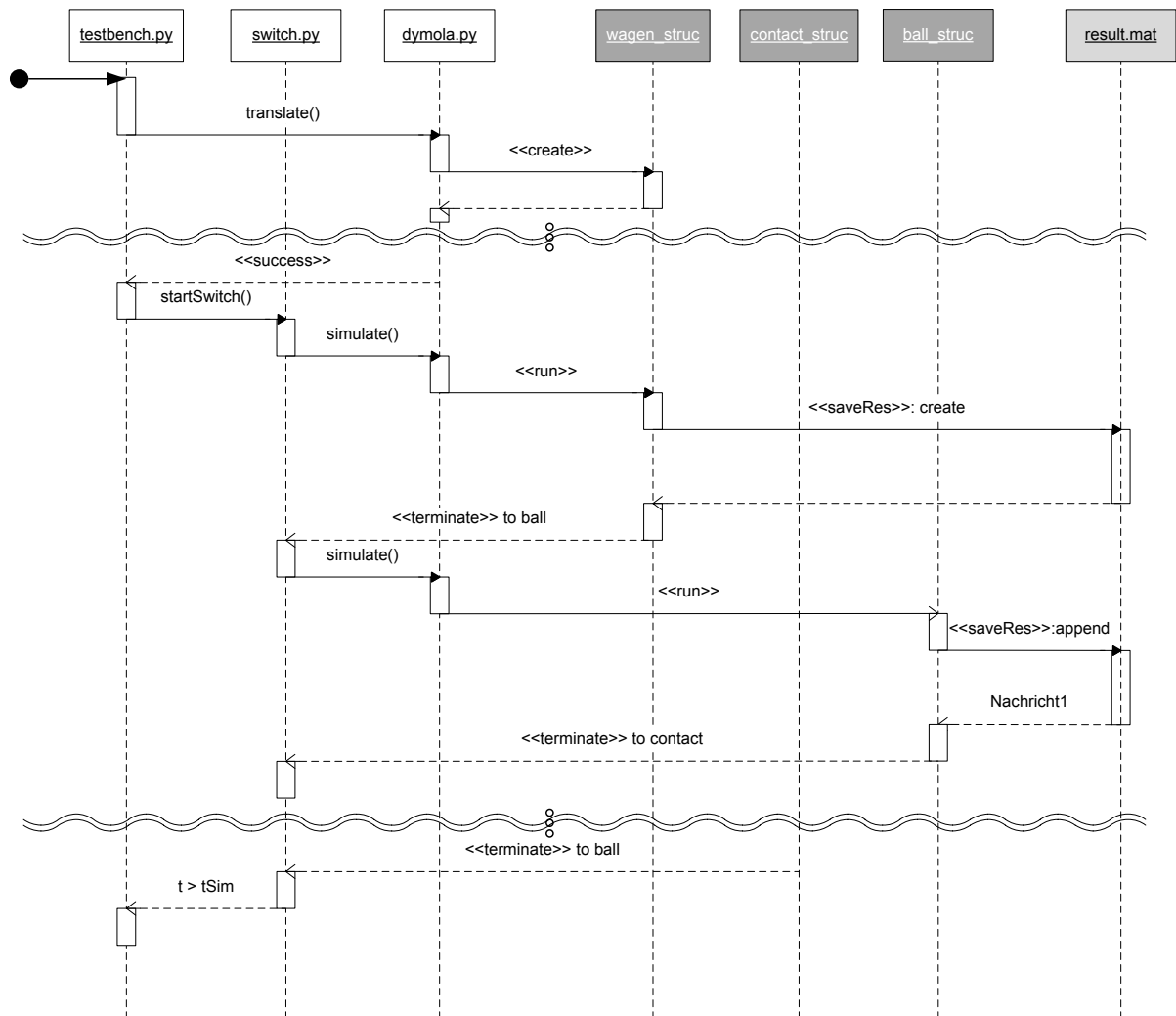


Figure 6: Sequence Diagram: The extended bouncing ball

TODO

Figure 7: Figure of objects

2.3 Body of the parameter file

Here the model parameter file is described. You can find the complete file in your folder *sample\mechStruk*. The idea is to specify an object-oriented structure of you model. This models are quite easy to specify. The object structure can be seen in figure ??.

First you have to set your simulation settings in the object `simInfo`. Parameters like Interval length, Number of Intervals, Tolerance, fixed stepsize and simulation time have to be set here, refer to listing 1. If you need further information for these parameters, refer to the Modelica users guide, the necessary information is based on Modelica models. In Simulink only the `stopTime` is used as valuable information. Otherwise the intern model settings are used (this will change in future versions).

```

1 simInfo.startTime = 0          # SET: start time of simulation
  simInfo.stopTime = 10         # SET: simulation time
3 simInfo.solver = Solver.DASSL # SET: default solver for the model
  simInfo.tolerance = 3e-05     # tolerance of solver
5 simInfo.intervalNum = 500     # number of saved data
  simInfo.intervalLen = 0       # interval length for saved data
7 simInfo.fixed = 0             # fixed step size

```

Listing 1: Simulation parameters

Following the global settings of the variable-structure model needs to be set. First an instance of a model is created (do not change this). Then the `simInfo`, that was already defined, is added to the model (don't change that). Next changes are necessary. There the Model files need to be specified. If more than one file is needed please separate them with a comma. The directory in which the models are lying is specified in `model.modelPath`. Here only one path is expected, for future versions it might be possible to give more than one directory. In `model.resFolder` a result folder can be specified this folder will be created in the `modelPath` and is used to save the simulation data. In `model.arrToSave` the names for the variables to be saved after the simulation can be specified. These names will be the names of the saved columns. In the `plotList` the data to be plotted after the simulation through Python can be specified. You always have to specify a variable for the x-axis and the y-axis. The variable "t" is always the time and saved as default.

```

1 model = d.model() ### DO NOT CHANGE###

3 model.simInfo = simInfo ### DO NOT CHANGE###

5 model.moFile = ["mechanik.mo"]
  model.modelPath = "..\..\sample\MechStruk"
7 model.resFolder = "result"
  model.arrToSave = ['x', 'y']
9 model.plotList = [['t', 'y']]

```

Listing 2: Path settings

```

1 model = d.mode() # instance of a new mode

3 model.modeName = "mechanik.wagen_struc" # SET: name of the model for this mode
  model.tool = Env.DYMOLA # SET: tool which is used for the simulation of this mode
5 model.arrToSave = ['x', 'y'] # SET: variables to be observed, these will be saved
  under the specified names in the model
  model.simInfo = d.simInfo() # SET: empty solver settings, means the global settings
  are used
7 ##### Example on how to change specific solver information just for this mode
  #model.simInfo.solver = Solver.RADAU
9 #model.simInfo.tolerance = 1e-03

```

Listing 3: Specifying a mode

In listing 3 you see how a new mode can be specified. First a new instance is created. Then the name of the model which represents the mode is set. Here the first mode is called "mechanik.wagen_struc". The attribute "tool" shows which tool should be used to simulate the mode. The modeler can choose between Env.DYMOLA, Env.OMODELICA, and Env. SIMULINK. The user then has to (this will be optional in later versions) specify the variables that should be observed. These variables will be mapped to the array which was set in model.arrToSave. Each mode has simulation information saved in simInfo. If this object is empty, as is default, the global simulation information from mode.simInfo will be used. The data can be overwritten if wanted.

In the next step you have to specify the transitions leading out of this mode. In listing 4 a new transition is instantiated. Then the ID to where this transition leads is set. Afterwards the names of the variables which should be read from the current mode are set. These values are then mapped to the names of the variables from the new mode with the new mode ID.

```

1 trans1_2 = d.trans() # creates new instance of a transition

3 trans1_2.modeIDToSw = 2 # SET: mode ID of the next mode
  trans1_2.outName = ['x', 'y', 'der(x)', 'der(y)'] # SET: variable names to read
  from model
5 trans1_2.inName = ['x', 'h', 'vx', 'vy'] # SET: corresponding variable names to be
  initialized in the new mode
  model.transitions = [trans1_2] # transition is added to the mode

```

Listing 4: Map Variables and create transitions

This has to be repeated for each desired mode.

As a last step all defined modes have to be added to the model.

```
model.modes = [model, mode2, mode3]
```

Listing 5: Add modes to model

2.4 Simulate a given example

Now that all preconditions are fulfilled, we can devote to the simulation. Note there are more possibilities to start the scripting via the interface, refer to figure 4. This subsection shows how to start it via the command window.

Open the file *main.py* and uncomment the parameter file *mechStruk*, figure 8. Make sure that all other entries are commented. You can uncomment them later to get familiar with the framework. Set the *TRANSLATE*-flag to *True*, this ensures that your model will be compiled and all necessary folders will be created.

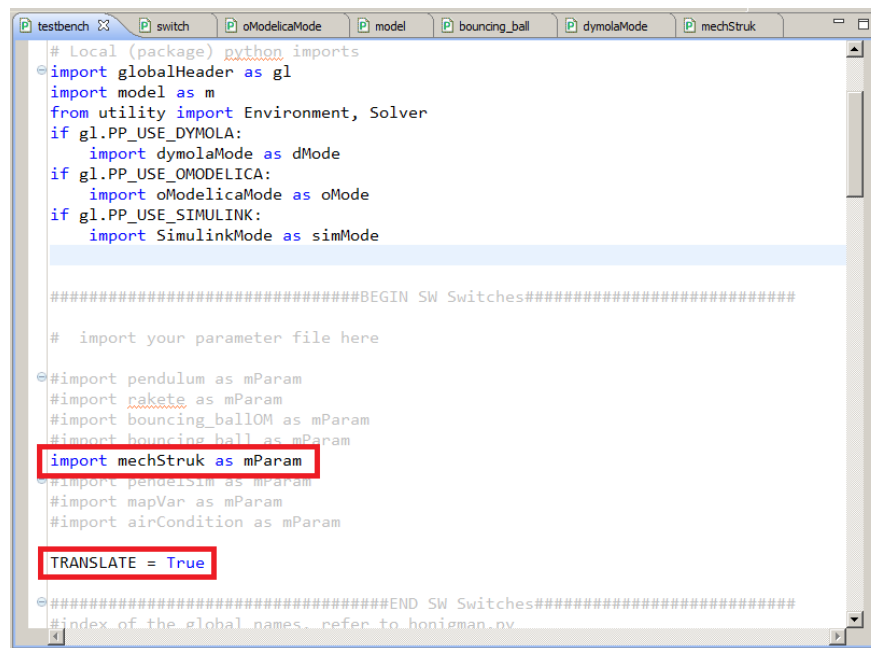


Figure 8: Settings in main.py

Now open the console, (as shown in figure 3) and start the scripting with **python main.py**. If everything is ok, Dymola starts and translate your model. Also OpenModelica translates a mode in the background. After few seconds you should be able to pursuit the simulation process, as shown in figure 9.

Another few seconds later a plot with the results should open, like in figure 10. The different colors indicate the different modes.

Now you can try to change the simulation parameters, maybe plot *x over y*. Now you are also able to simulate the other delivered examples.

```
python testbench.py
Mode mechanikOM.ball_struc terminated successfully
time: 0
Switch to modelID: 2
time: 4.49688165906
info ! model terminate ! Simulation terminated at time 5.47199
Switch to modelID: 3
time: 5.47198501769
Switch to modelID: 2
time: 5.57447349433
info ! model terminate ! Simulation terminated at time 7.26894
Switch to modelID: 3
time: 7.26894312684
Switch to modelID: 2
time: 7.37273677933
info ! model terminate ! Simulation terminated at time 8.36394
Switch to modelID: 3
time: 8.3639375149
Switch to modelID: 2
time: 8.47005501662
info ! model terminate ! Simulation terminated at time 9.03504
Switch to modelID: 3
time: 9.03503829394
Switch to modelID: 2
time: 9.145490974
info ! model terminate ! Simulation terminated at time 9.45094
```

Figure 9: Information during the simulation process

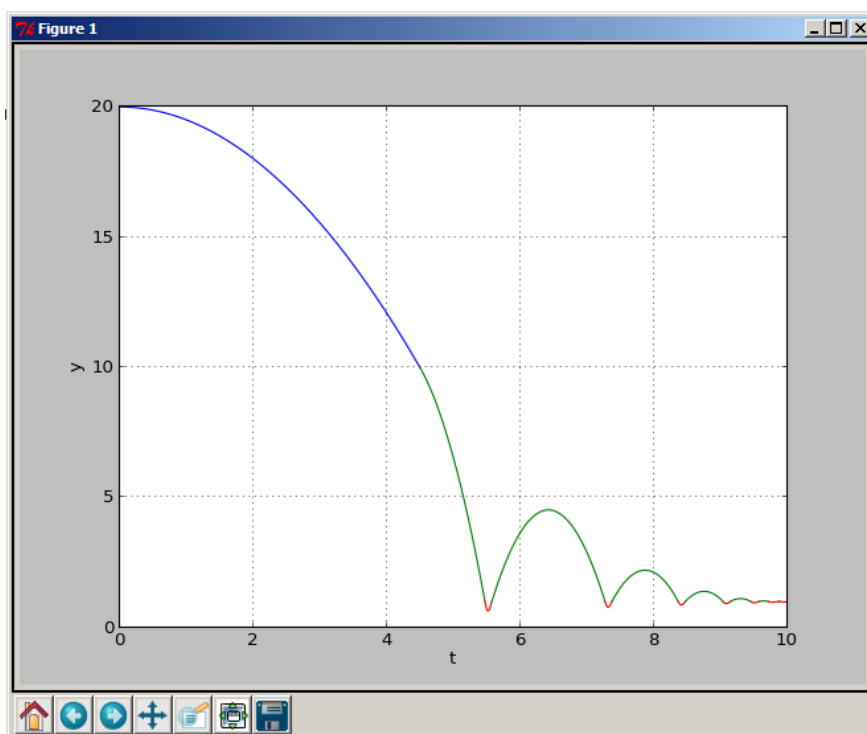


Figure 10: Graphical representation of the simulation results

References

List of Figures

1	Copy this path and paste it to your environment Variables	1
2	Edit the environment variable Path	2
3	Open your console and test some python commands	2
4	Static framework overview	4
5	Physical representation: The extended bouncing ball	5
6	Sequence Diagram: The extended bouncing ball	6
7	Figure of objects	7
8	Settings in main.py	9
9	Information during the simulation process	10
10	Graphical representation of the simulation results	10