

Calculus with Geogebra

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Introduction to Geogebra

1 Introduction

In the last decades, the computational power of computers have converted them in powerful tools for disciplines that, as Mathematics, require a large amount of complex computations.


Geogebra¹ is one of the most used programs for doing numerical and symbolic computations. Beyond their capabilities for the numerical, vectorial and matrix calculus, it also makes graphical representations. This allows to solve a lot of problems of Algebra, Analysis, Calculus, Geometry and even Statistics. The advantage of Geogebra versus other software as Mathematica, Maple or MATLAB, is its simplicity, what makes it suitable for teaching Maths, and that is open source software, so that it can be modified and installed for free.



This software can be downloaded from the web <https://www.geogebra.org>. There is also in this web an on-line version of the program that can be used as a web application without installing it in the computer. This web also contains a lot of tutorials and educational resources available to the users. In fact, any user can register and upload to this site activities developed with Geogebra.

The goal of this practice is to introduce to the student the basic usage of this program for Calculus.

2 Starting the program

As any other Windows applications, to start the program you have to click the Windows start button and then select All the programs Geogebra or simply double click the desktop shortcut icon  if there is one.

When the program starts, the initial window is shown (figure 1.1), allowing the user to choose among different working environments or *Perspectives*.

¹These practices are based on version 6.0 of Classic Geogebra

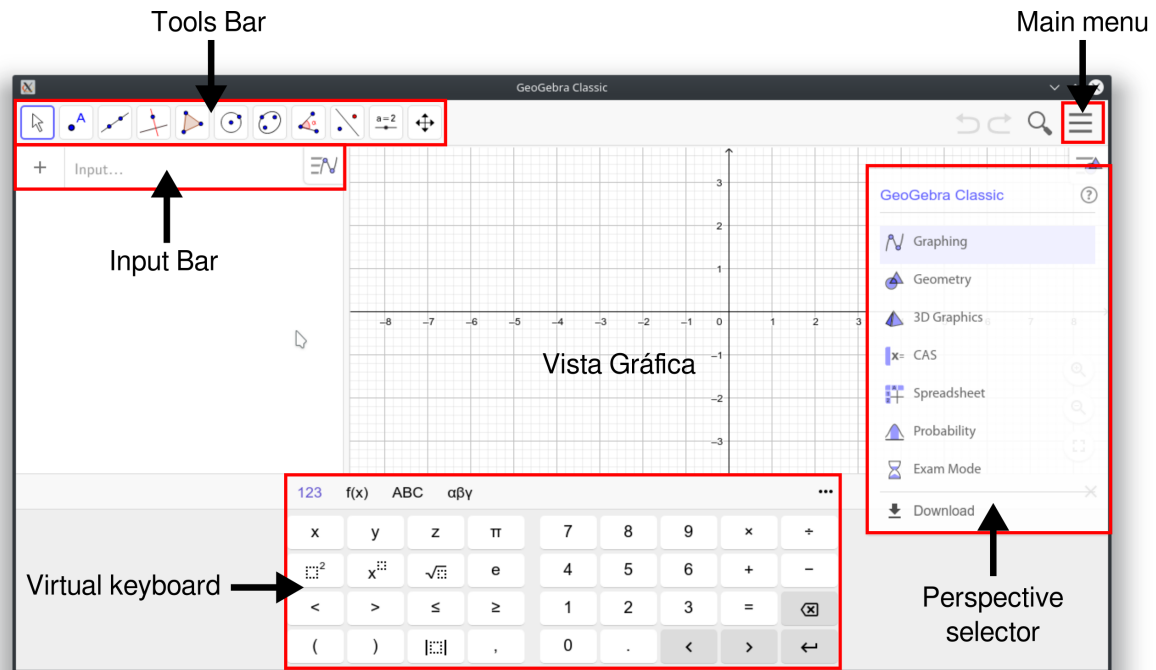





Figure 1.1 – Starting perspective of Geogebra.


3 Views

Geogebra provides several windows that are called *Views* and different working environments called *Perspectives* that combine some views. Both views and perspectives can be activated in the main menu of Geogebra that appears in the top right corner. The most important views that we are going to use during these practices are:

Algebraic View  This view allows to make algebraic and geometric constructions. It provides an Input Bar where the user can enter command and algebraic expressions. This view is active by default when the program starts.

Graphic View  This view allows to represent graphically geometric objects in the real plane. Beside the algebraic view, this view is also active by default when the program starts.

3D Graphics View  This view allows to represent graphically geometric objects in the real space. This view is not activated by default when the program starts, so that it must be activated by the user when it is required.

CAS View  (Computer Algebra System) This view allows to do symbolic calculations. It provides an Input Bar similar to the one of the algebraic view where you can enter commands and mathematical expressions, and evaluate them. This view is not activated by default when the program starts, but *it will be the most used view during these practices*.

4 Expression edition in the CAS View

Before doing any computation with a mathematical expression, you need to know how to enter that expression and learn to manage it.

Entering expressions

Any mathematical expression must be entered in the Input Bar of the CAS View (figure 1.2).



Figure 1.2 – Input Bar.

The Input Bar allows to enter mathematical expressions, commands and text annotations. In the mathematical expressions we can enter numbers, roman letters, greek letters, mathematical operators and any symbols that appears in the virtual keyboard. It also allows to enter \LaTeX ² code to format expressions. For instance, it is possible to write superscripts with the command `^` and subscripts with the command `_`.

When the key Enter is pressed after entering a mathematical expression, Geogebra tries to evaluate it and it shows the result of the evaluation just below the expression, or a warning when there is some mistake in the expression.

The most common operators for the construction of mathematical expressions are shown in the table below.

Symbol	Operator
+	Addition
-	Subtraction
*	Product
/	Division
^	Power

At the time of writing a mathematical expression, you must take into account that Geogebra has an order of priority to evaluate the operators. First it evaluates predefined functions and constants, after powers, after products and quotients (both with the same priority and from left to right), and finally additions and subtractions (both with the same priority and from left to right). To force the evaluation of a subexpression, skipping the order of priority, you must use parenthesis. Thus, as it can be appreciated in the table below, depending on how a expression is entered, you can get different results.

Entered expression	Evaluated expression
$4x-1/x-5$	$4x - \frac{1}{x} - 5$
$(4x-1)/x-5$	$\frac{4x-1}{x} - 5$
$4x-1/(x-5)$	$4x - \frac{1}{x-5}$
$(4x-1)/(x-5)$	$\frac{4x-1}{x-5}$

Every expression that is entered in the CAS View is labelled with a number that allows to identify it. Later, every time that we want to reference that expression we can use that identifier instead of writing again the whole expression.

²<https://www.latex-project.org/>


There are two ways of referring to an expression, that are the static and the dynamic references. To do a static reference we must write the symbol # followed by the identifier number of the expression. On the other hand, to do a dynamic reference we must write the symbol \$ followed by the identifier number of the expression. A static reference will not change the expression where the reference is done even when the original expression changes, while for a dynamic reference, when the original expression changes, that change will be reflected in the expression where the reference is done.



It is possible to select any expression or subexpression of the CAS View and then copy and paste it in the Input Bar.

Entering text notes

Geogebra also allows to enter text notes or comments in the Input Bar. For that you have to right-click the Input Bar and select the option Text in the contextual menu that appears. Text annotations are very helpful to explain the steps in a mathematical construction or to interpret the results.

Removing expressions

Of course, it is possible to remove an expression from the CAS View. For that you have to go to the line with the expression to remove and click the button  or right-click that line and select the option Delete row in the contextual menu that appears.

If sometime we commit a mistake entering or deleting a wrong expression, it is possible to undo the last operations or redo them clicking the buttons  or  respectively.

Defining variables

To define a variable we can use roman letters or greek letters. The name of a variable can have more than one letter and, in this case, it is also possible to use numbers but it must start always by a letter. Thus, for Geogebra, the expression xy , is not interpreted as the product of the variables x and y , but the variable xy . In addition, it distinguishes between upper and lower case, so that xy and xY are different variables.

Defining constants and functions

To define a constant or a function the definition operator $:=$ must be used. To define a constant you have to write the name of the constant followed by $:=$ and the value of the constant. For example, to define the gravity constant we have to write $g := 9.81$.

On the other hand, to define a function you have to write the name of the function, followed by the list of variables separated by commas and between parenthesis, then $:=$ and finally the expression that defines the function. For example, to define the function that calculates the area of triangle with base b and high h , we have to write $a(b, h) := (b \cdot h) / 2$ (ver figure 1.3).

If we have defined a constant or function, and we change the definition after, the changes will be reflected in any other expression that contains the constant or function, except if the reference is static.

To remove a definition and free the name of the constant or function, for example c , we can use the command `Delete(c)` or the command $c :=$.

Predefined constants and functions

Geogebra provides several predefined constants and functions that can be used in the mathematical expressions. The syntax of some of these constants and functions is shown in the table 1.1, although, instead of using those commands, we can use the operators and constants of the virtual keyboard.

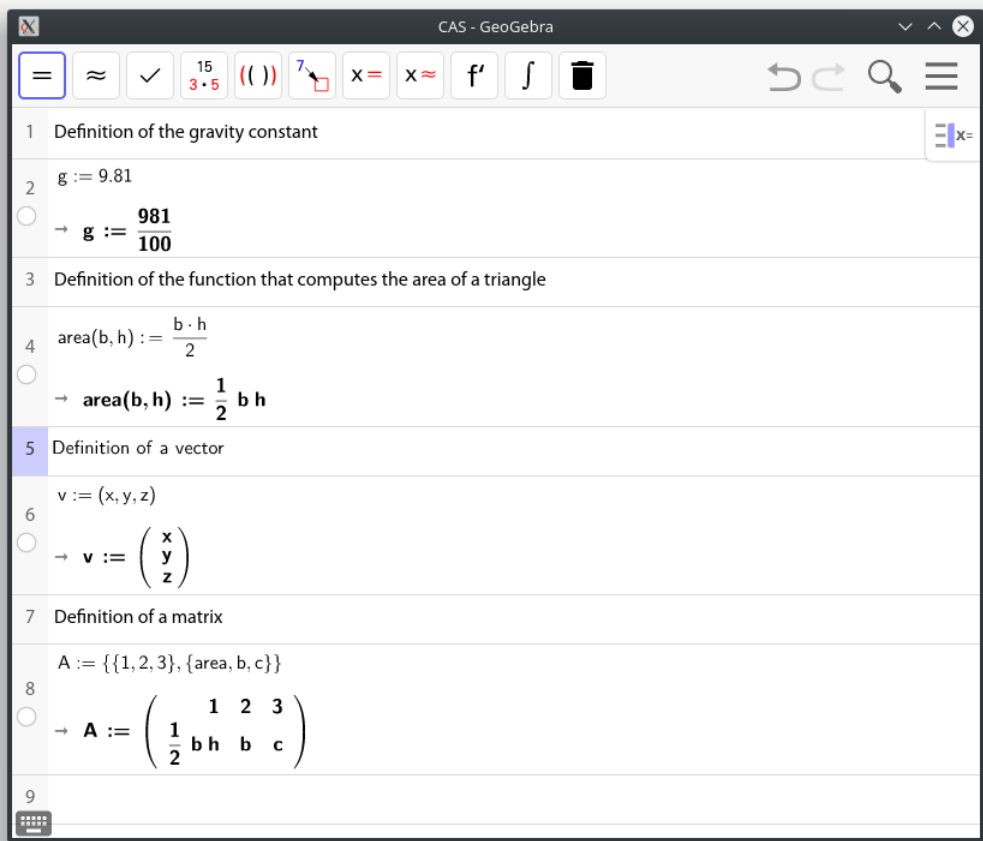


Figure 1.3 – Entering mathematical expressions in the Input Bar.

Sintaxis	Constante o función
pi	The number $\pi = 3.14159 \dots$
Alt+e	Euler's constant $e = 2.71828 \dots$
Alt+i	Imaginary number $i = \sqrt{-1}$
inf	Infinity ∞
exp(x)	Exponential function e^x
log(a, x)	Logarithmic function of base a , $\log_a x$
ln(x)	Neperian logarithmic function $\ln x$
sqrt(x)	Square root function \sqrt{x}
sin(x)	Sine function $\sin x$
cos(x)	Cosine function $\cos x$
tan(x)	Tangent function $\tan x$
arcsin(x)	Arcsine function $\arcsin x$
arccos(x)	Arccosine function $\arccos x$
arctan(x)	Arctangent function $\arctan x$

Table 1.1 – Sintax of some predefined constants and functions in Geogebra.

Entering vectors and matrices

Geogebra allows also to handle vectors and matrices. To define a vector you must write its coordinates separated by commas between parenthesis. For example, to enter the vector (x, y, z) we have to write (x, y, z) (see figure 1.3).

To define a matrix you must enter its elements by rows, separated by commas and between curly brackets. For example, to enter the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ a & b & c \end{pmatrix}$$

we have to write $\{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$ (see figure 1.3).

Simplifying expressions

By default Geogebra always tries to simplify the mathematical expressions when it evaluates them. For example, if you enter $x + x$ the result will be $2x$. To avoid simplification you can change to the Keep Input mode clicking the button \checkmark .

However, when Geogebra evaluates a mathematical expression it does not perform more complex simplifications, like, for instance, the simplification $\sin(x)^2 + \cos(x)^2 = 1$. To do this there are three commands:

Simplify This is the most simple and tries to simplify a mathematical expression the most. For example, the command `Simplify(sin(x)^2+cos(x)^2)` returns 1.

Expand This command tries to expand a mathematical expression computing all the possible powers, products, quotients, additions and subtractions. For example, the command `Expand((x+1)^2)` returns x^2+2x+1 .

Factor This command tries to factorize a mathematical expression. For example, the command `Factoriza(x^2+2x+1)` returns $(x+1)^2$.

In any of these simplifications Geogebra uses by default the exact mode and returns fractional expressions. To get the approximate value of a mathematical expression, with decimals, we must change to the Numeric Evaluation mode clicking the button \approx . The number of decimal places showed can be set in the settings menu of Geogebra.

Lastly, it is possible to replace any variable by a value with the command `Substitute(<Expression>, <Substitution list>)`. For example, the command `Substitute(2x+y, x=2, y=1)` returns 5.

Entering equations and inequations

To define equations in Geogebra the equality symbol $=$ must be used. For example, the command $2x-y=1$ defines the equation of a line.

And to define inequations we can use the symbols less than $<$, greater than $>$, less than or equal to \leq or greater than or equal to \geq . For example, the command $x^2+y^2\leq 1$ defines the circle with radius 1 centered at the origin.

To solve equations and inequation you can use the command `Solve(<equations>)`. For example, the command `Solve(x^2-5x+4=0)` returns $\{x=1, x=4\}$. It is also possible to impose restrictions for the variables. For example, the command `Solve(x^2-5x+4=0, x>3)` returns only the solution $\{x=4\}$.

To solve systems of equations you must enter the list of equations separated by commas and between curly brackets. For example, the command `Solve(2x+3=7, x-y=-1)` returns $\{x=3, y=2\}$.

This command also solves inequations. For example, the command `Solve(3x-2<1)` returns $\{x<1\}$.

5 Graphical representations

One of the strengths of Geogebra is its graphics capabilities, since it allows to represent graphically a lot of geometric objects both in the plane and in the real space.

Graphical representations in the real plane

To represent geometric objects in the real plane \mathbb{R}^2 , Geogebra uses the Graphics View. By default any function defined in the CAS View will be plotted in this view. To graphically represent other objects like constants, equations or inequations, it is required to click on the circle that appears to the left of the expression (see figure 1.4). To hide back the object in the Graphics View you have to click again on this circle.

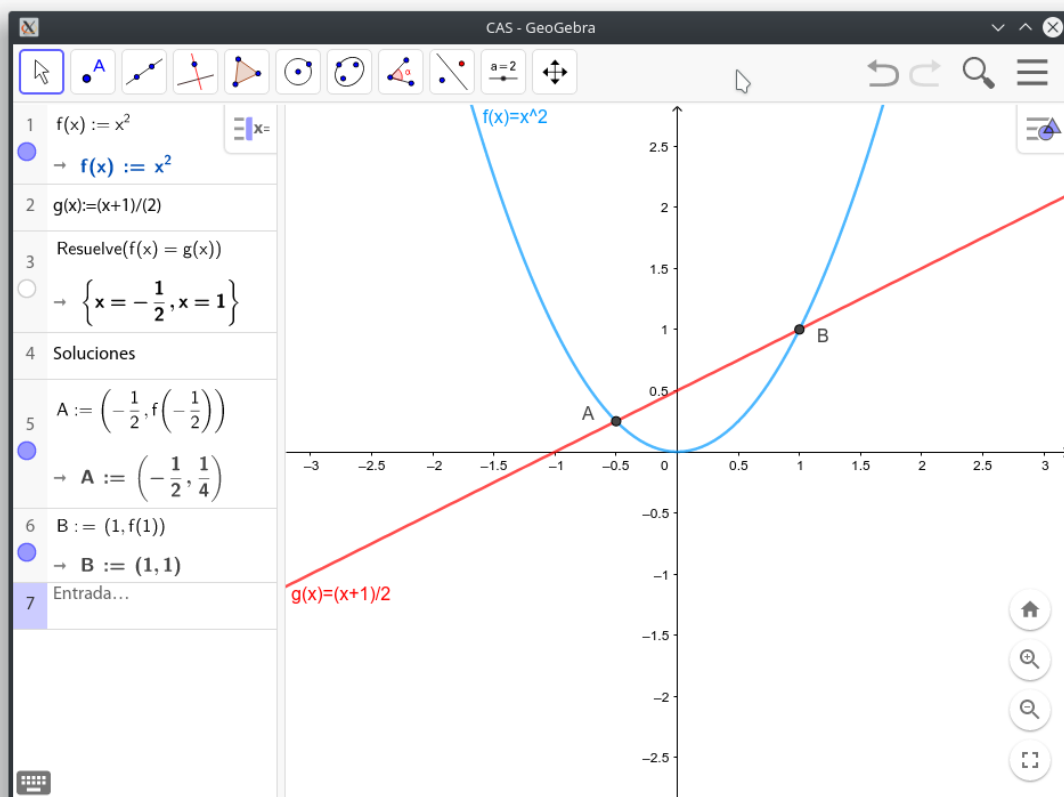




Figure 1.4 – Graphical representations in the Graphics View.

Geogebra allows also the graphical representation of parametric functions defining the vector with the coordinate functions depending on one parameter. For example, the command $g(t) := (\cos(t), 2\sin(t)\cos(t))$ plots the curve of the figure 1.5.

It is possible to change the aspect of any geometric object right-clicking on it and selecting the option Settings in the contextual menu that appears. This opens a panel that allows to change the name of the object, the colour, the thickness or the opacity of the line, or even to enter a label that will appear next to the object in the Graphics View.

The Graphics View is centered at the origin of coordinates by default, but it is possible to make a zoom in or out clicking on the buttons  and  respectively. It is also possible to move the view clicking at

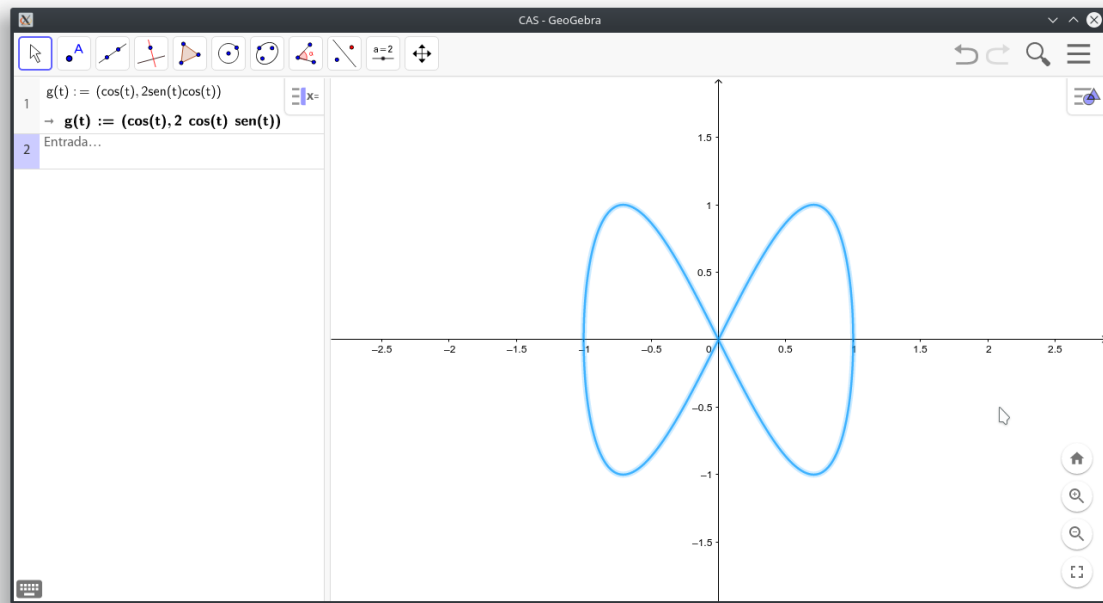



Figure 1.5 – Graphical representation of a parametric curve in the real plane.

any position in the view and dragging the mouse. To come back to the original view you can click on the button .





Graphical representations in the real space

To represent geometric objects in the real space \mathbb{R}^3 , Geogebra uses the 3D Graphics View.

By default, any function of two variables defined in the CAS View will be plotted in this view. To graphically represent other objects like equations it is required to click on the circle that appears to the left of the expression (see figure 1.6). Para ocultar de nuevo el objeto en la Graphics View basta con volver a hacer clic sobre ese círculo.

The same than in the Graphics View it is also possible to represent parametric functions defining the vector with the coordinate functions depending on one parameter. For example, the command $h(t) := (\cos(t), \sin(t), t/2)$ plots the curve of figure 1.7.

The same than in the Graphics View, it is possible to change the aspect of any geometric object right-clicking on it and selecting the option Settings in the contextual menu that appears. This opens a panel that allows to change the name of the object, the colour, the thickness or the opacity of the line, or even to enter a label that will appear next to the object in the 3D Graphics View.

In the same way, it is possible to make a zoom in or out clicking on the buttons  and  respectively. It is also possible to move the view with the button  or to rotate it with the button .

6 File management

The mathematical expressions and calculus of the CAS View and the graphics of the Graphics View and 3D Graphics View can be saved into a file.

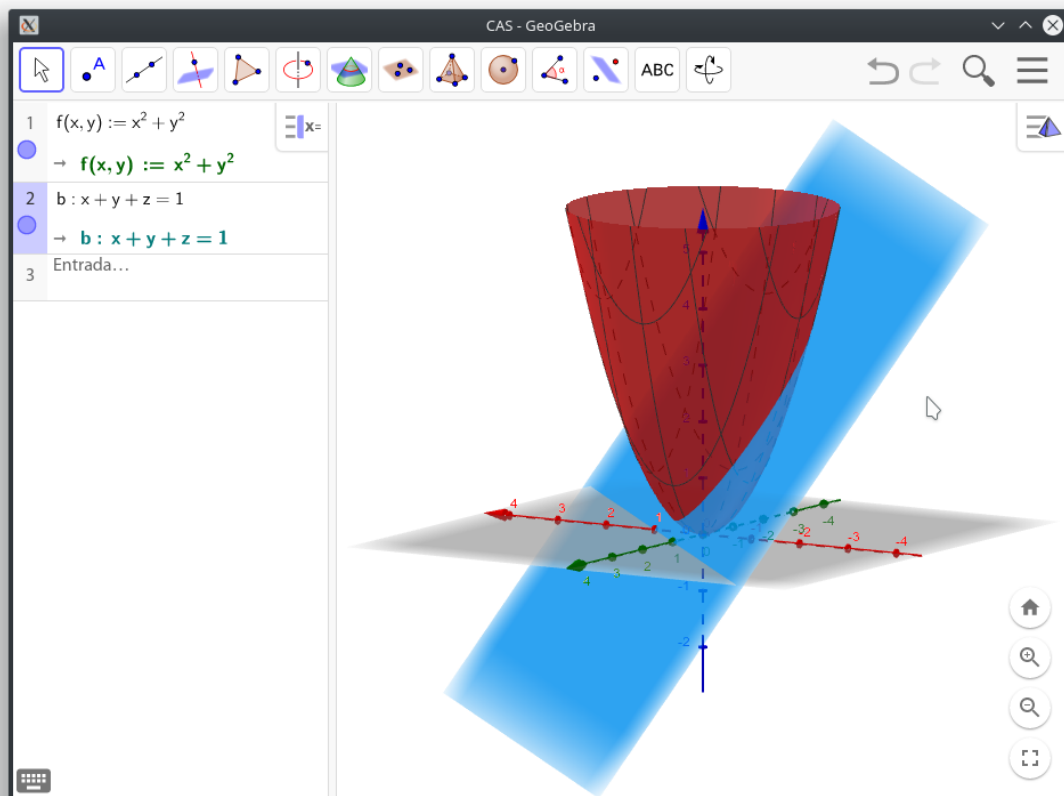


Figure 1.6 – Graphical representations in the 3D Graphics View.

Saving a file

To save the mathematical expressions, calculus and graphics of a working session you must select the menu **File > Save**. If you have not logged in to the Geogebra web site a dialog appears asking for the user name and password to log in (see figure 1.8). If you have no account in this site now is possible to register, but if you do not want to log in just click the link Continue without signing in now.

If you have logged in to the Geogebra web site, it will ask for the file name and the file will be uploaded to the Geogebra web site. This way the file will be available whenever we are connected to this site with our user account.

If you have not logged in to the Geogebra web site, then a dialog is shown where you can enter the file name and select the local folder where to save the file in your computer. Geogebra's files have extension *.ggb.

Once the file is saved, its name will appear in the title bar of the Geogebra window.

Opening a file

To open a file in Geogebra you can use the menu **File > Open**. In the dialog shown you can choose to open a file from the Geogebra web site or to open a local file.

If you have logged in to the Geogebra web site, the files saved in our user account will appear automatically. Even if you are not logged in, you can open any public file in the Geogebra cloud. For that we can search for a file entering a keyword in the search bar and Geogebra will show a list with all the files that contains that word. Selecting any of them will download the file and open it.

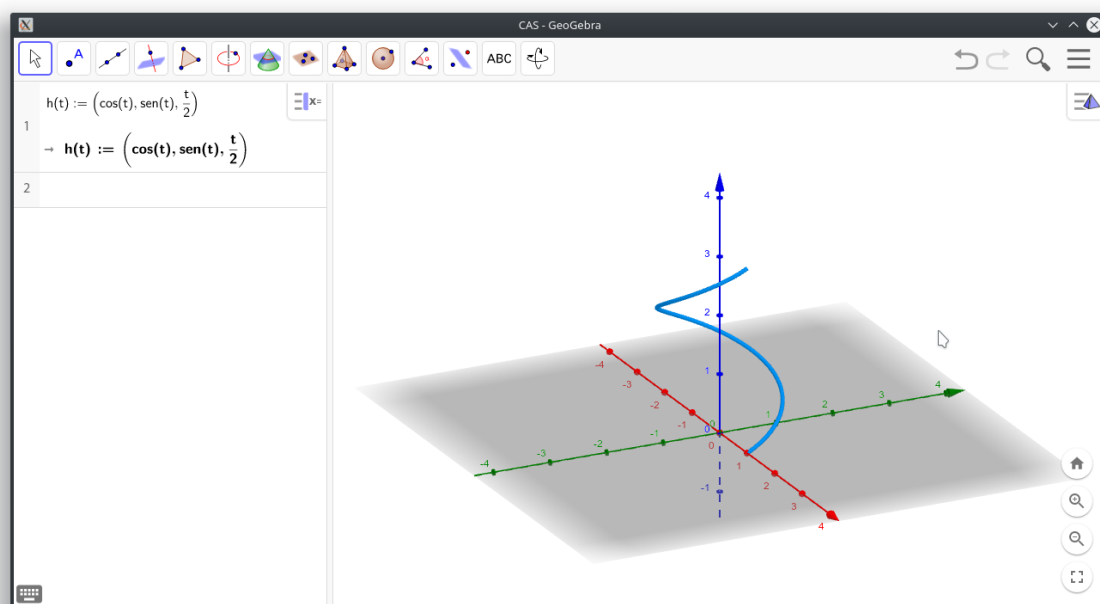


Figure 1.7 – Graphical representation of a parametric curve in the real space.

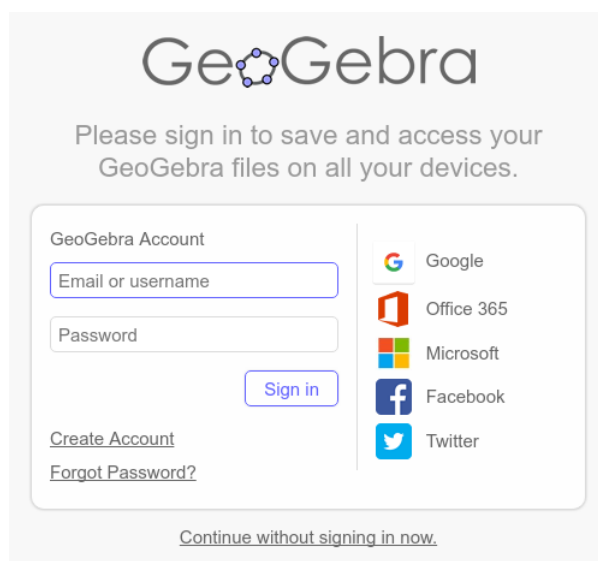


Figure 1.8 – Login dialog of Geogebra web site.

If you want to open a local file you have to click on the folder icon. This will open a dialog where you can select the file to open.

7 Solved exercises

1. Enter and evaluate the following expressions.

(a) $4x - \frac{1}{x} - 5$.



Enter the expression $4x-1/x-5$ in the Input Bar of the CAS View.

(b) $\frac{4x-1}{x} - 5$.



Enter the expression $(4x-1)/x-5$ in the Input Bar of the CAS View.

(c) $4x - \frac{1}{x-5}$.



Enter the expression $4x-1/(x-5)$ in the Input Bar of the CAS View.

(d) $\frac{4x-1}{x-5}$.



Enter the expression $(4x-1)/(x-5)$ in the Input Bar of the CAS View.

2. Define the following mathematical objects and plot them.

(a) The constants $a = 2$ and $b = 3$.



- i. Enter the command $a:=2$ in the Input Bar of the CAS View and activate the Graphics View.
- ii. To plot the slider of the constant click the circle that appears to the left of the previous expression.
- iii. Enter the command $b:=3$ in the Input Bar.
- iv. To plot the slider of the constant click the circle that appears to the left of the previous expression.

(b) The line $f(x) = a + bx$. Use the sliders of the constants to see how the line changes.



Enter the command $f(x):=a+b*x$ in the Input Bar.

(c) The equation $ax^2 + by^2 = 8$. Use the sliders of the constants to see how the conic changes.



Enter the command $a*x^2+b*y^2=8$ in the Input Bar.

3. Define the following functions and plot them.

(a) $f(x) := x^2$.



Enter the command $f(x):=x^2$ in the Input Bar of the CAS View and activate the Graphics View.

(b) $g(x) := \log(x)$.



Enter the command $g(x) := \log(x)$ in the Input Bar.

(c) $h(x) := \sin(x)$.



Enter the command $g(x) := \sin(x)$ in the Input Bar.

(d) $g \circ f(x)$.



Enter the command $g(f(x))$ in the Input Bar and click the circle that appears to the left of the expression.

(e) $h \circ g \circ f(x)$.



Enter the command $h(g(f(x)))$ in the Input Bar and click the circle that appears to the left of the expression.

(f) $f \circ g \circ h(x)$.



Enter the command $f(g(h(x)))$ in the Input Bar and click the circle that appears to the left of the expression.

4. Given the matrices

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the vector $\mathbf{v} = (x, y, z)$, se pide:

(a) Define the matrices A and B , and the vector \mathbf{v} .



- i. Enter the command $A := \{\{a_{11}, a_{12}\}, \{a_{21}, a_{22}\}, \{a_{31}, a_{32}\}\}$ in the Input Bar of the CAS View.
- ii. Enter the command $B := \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5, 6\}\}$ in the Input Bar.
- iii. Enter the command $\mathbf{v} := (x, y, z)$ in the Input Bar.

(b) Compute $A \cdot B$.



Enter the command $A*B$ in the Input Bar.

(c) Compute $B \cdot A$.



Enter the command $B*A$ in the Input Bar.

(d) Compute $\mathbf{v} \cdot A$.



Enter the command $\mathbf{v}*A$ in the Input Bar.

(e) Compute $B \cdot \mathbf{v}$.



Enter the command $B*\mathbf{v}$ in the Input Bar.

- (f) Substitute $x = 1, y = 1$ and $z = 0$ in the previous vector and plot it.



Enter the command `Substitute($,{x=1,y=1,z=0})` in the Input Bar and click the circle that appears to the left of the expression.

- (g) Compute the modulus of the previous vector.



Enter the command `|$|` in the Input Bar and click the circle that appears to the left of the expression.

- (h) Change the previous substitution for $x = 0, y = 0$ and $z = 1$ and observe how changes the modulus of the previous vector.



Edit the line with the substitution and change it for `Substitute($,{x=0,y=0,z=1})` in the Input Bar.

5. Find out the points where the graphs of the functions $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = \frac{x+1}{2}$ intersect and plot them.

- Enter the command `f(x):=x^2` in the Input Bar of the CAS View and activate the Graphics View.
- Enter the command `g(x):=(x+1)/2` in the Input Bar.
- To solve the equation, enter the command `Solve(f=g)` in the Input Bar.
- To plot the intersection points, enter the command `Intersect(f,g)` in the Input Bar and click on the circle that appears to the left of the expression.

6. Plot the parametric function

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} \cos(t) \\ 2\sin(t)\cos(t) \end{cases} \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$



Enter the command `g(t):=(cos(t), 2sin(t)cos(t))` in the Input Bar of the CAS View and activate the Graphics View.

7. Plot the following surfaces

$$f(x,y) = \frac{2\sin(x^2+y^2)}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}, \quad x^2+y^2+(z-2)^2=1$$

and and the parametric curve

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} \sin(t) \\ \cos(t) \\ t/2 \end{cases} \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$



- Enter the command `f(x,y):=2sin(x^2+y^2)/sqrt(x^2+y^2)` in the Input Bar of the CAS View and activate the 3D Graphics View.
- Enter the command `x^2+y^2+(z-2)^2=1` in the Input Bar.
- Enter the command `h(t):=(sin(t),cos(t),t/2)` in the Input Bar.

Elementary functions

1 Solved exercises

1. Plot the graph of the function

$$f(t) = \frac{t^4 + 19t^2 - 5}{t^4 + 9t^2 - 10}.$$

and determine, looking at the graph, the following:

(a) Domain.



- i. Enter the expression $(t^4 + 19t^2 - 5) / (t^4 + 9t^2 - 10)$ in the Input Bar of the CAS View and activate the Graphics View.
- ii. To determine the domain look at the values of x where the function does exist, that is, where there is graph.
- iii. Remember that, for this and the other parts of this exercise, we pretend to get approximate conclusions looking at the graph of the function.

(b) Image.



Look at the values of y that are output of the function, that is, where there is graph.

(c) Asymptotes.



Look at the lines (horizontal, vertical or oblique) where the graph approaches (the distance between the graph and the line tends to zero as they tend to infinity).

(d) Roots.



Look at the values of x where the graph cuts the horizontal axis.

(e) Sign.



Look at the values of x where the graph is over the horizontal axis (positive) and where it is under the horizontal axis (negative).

(f) Growth.



Look at the values of x where y increases when x increases (increasing) and the values where y decreases when x increases (decreasing).

(g) Concavity.



Look at the values of x where the curvature of the graph is \cup (concave up or convex) and where the curvature is \cap (concave down or simply concave).

(h) Local extrema.



Look at the values of x where the graph has a peak (relative maximum) and where the graph has a valley (relative minimum).

(i) Inflection points.



Look at the values of x where the curvature changes continuously.

2. Plot the graphs of the exponential functions 2^x , e^x , 0.7^x , 0.5^x . Looking at the graphs of the functions, determine for which values of the base the exponential function increases and for which ones decreases.



- Enter the expression 2^x in the Input Bar of the CAS View.
- Enter the expression e^x in the Input Bar.
- Enter the expression 0.7^x in the Input Bar.
- Enter the expression 0.5^x in the Input Bar.
- The exponential function a^x increases for $a > 1$ and decreases for $0 < a < 1$.

3. Plot the graphs of the following functions and determine their periods and amplitudes.

(a) $\sin x$, $\sin x + 2$, $\sin(x + 2)$.



- Enter the expression `sen(x)` in the Input Bar of the CAS View.
- Enter the expression `sen(x)+2` in the Input Bar.
- Enter the expression `sen(x+2)` in the Input Bar.
- When a value is added to the sine or to the argument of the sine, the period and the amplitude does not change.

(b) $\sin 2x$, $2 \sin x$, $\sin \frac{x}{2}$.



- Enter the expression `sen(2x)` in the Input Bar.
- Enter the expression `2sen(x)` in the Input Bar.
- Enter the expression `sen(x/2)` in the Input Bar.
- When the sine is multiplied by a value, the amplitude is multiplied by that value, and when the argument of the sine is multiplied by a value, the period is divided by that value.

4. Plot the graph of the piecewise function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -2x & \text{si } x \leq 0; \\ x^2 & \text{si } x > 0. \end{cases}$$



Enter the expression `If (x<=0, -2x, x^2)` in the Input Bar.

2 Proposed exercises

1. Plot the graphs of the following functions and determine their domains looking at their graphs.

(a) $f(x) = \frac{x^2 + x + 1}{x^3 - x}$

(b) $g(x) = \sqrt{x^4 - 1}$.

(c) $h(x) = \cos\left(\frac{x+3}{x^2+1}\right)$.

(d) $l(x) = \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{1+x}\right)$.

2. Consider the function

$$f(x) = \frac{x^3 + x + 2}{5x^3 - 9x^2 - 4x + 4}.$$

Plot the function and determine looking at its graph:

- (a) Domain
 - (b) Image
 - (c) Asymptotes
 - (d) Zeros
 - (e) Sign
 - (f) Continuity
 - (g) Increasing and decreasing
 - (h) Concavity
 - (i) Relative extrema
 - (j) Inflection points
3. Plot in the same graphic window the graphs of the functions $\log_{10} x$, $\log_2 x$, $\log x$, $\log_{0.5} x$.
- (a) Looking at their graphs determine which functions are increasing and which ones are decreasing.
 - (b) Deduce for what values of a the function $\log_a x$ is increasing and for what values it is decreasing?
4. Plot the following functions and complete the following sentences with the word equal or the number of times that is lower or greater in any case.
- (a) The function $\cos(2x)$ has a period than the function $\cos x$.
 - (b) The function $\cos(2x)$ has an amplitude than the function $\cos x$.
 - (c) The function $\cos(x/2)$ has period than the function $\cos(3x)$.
 - (d) The function $\cos(x/2)$ has an amplitude than the function $\cos(3x)$.
 - (e) The function $3 \cos(2x)$ has a period than the function $\cos(x/2)$.
 - (f) The function $3 \cos(2x)$ has an amplitude than the function $\cos(x/2)$.
5. Find the solutions of the equation $e^{-1/x} = \frac{1}{x}$ graphically.
6. Plot the graph of the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^3 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ e^x - 1 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$