

Limnor Studio – User’s Guide

Part – III

Expressions

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1 Introduction to Expressions

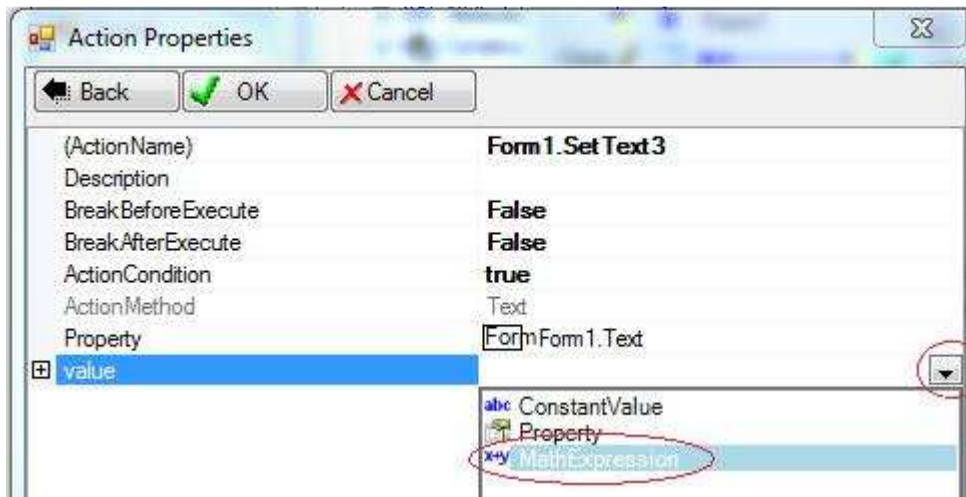
1.1 What are expressions


An expression represents a value formed by constant values, variables, and operators. For example, $x + y$ is an expression formed by variable x and y , and an operator $+$.

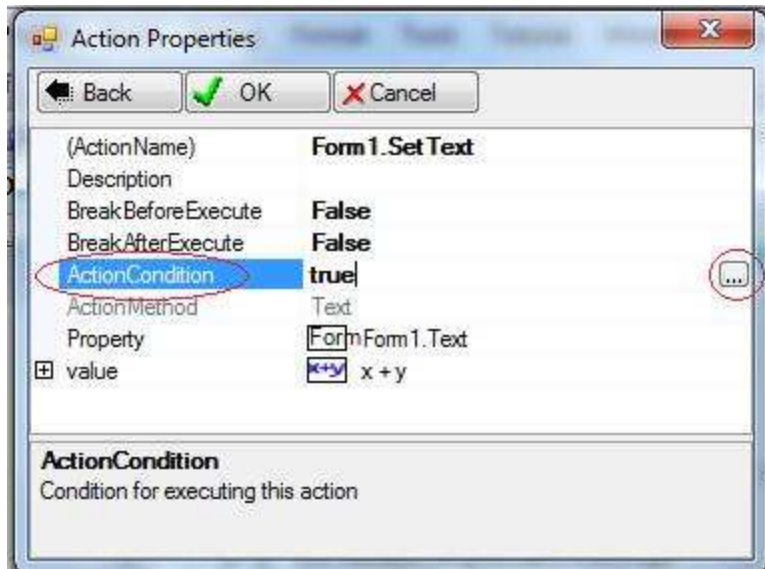
A variable in an expression is mapped to a property in the software project to get value at runtime.

In Limnor Studio, expressions are used in actions to provide values for action parameters and set action conditions.

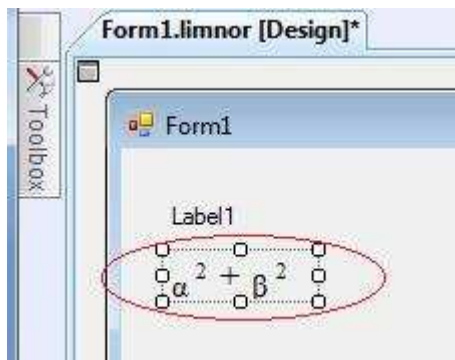
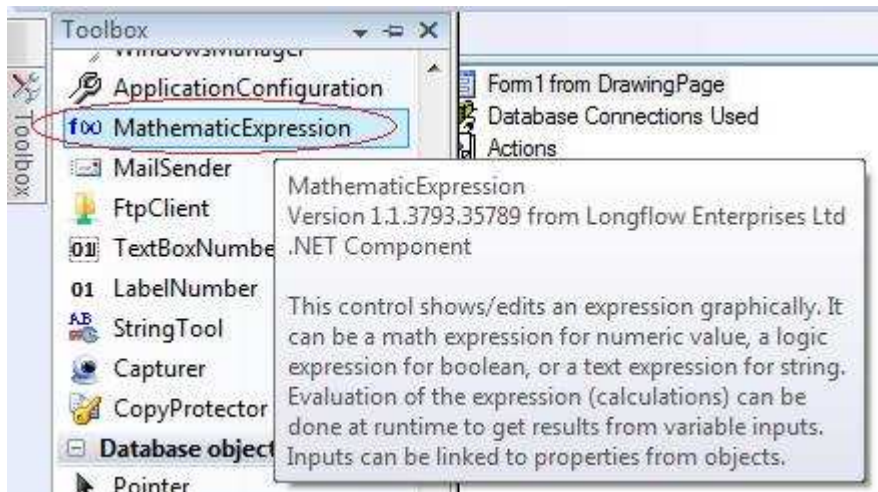
To use an expression to provide value for an action parameter, choose “MathExpression” for it:



To use an expression to set action condition, click  for ActionCondition of the action:



Limnor Studio also provides a Math Expression control for graphically displaying and editing expressions. It allows the user to do calculations at runtime using values from object properties.

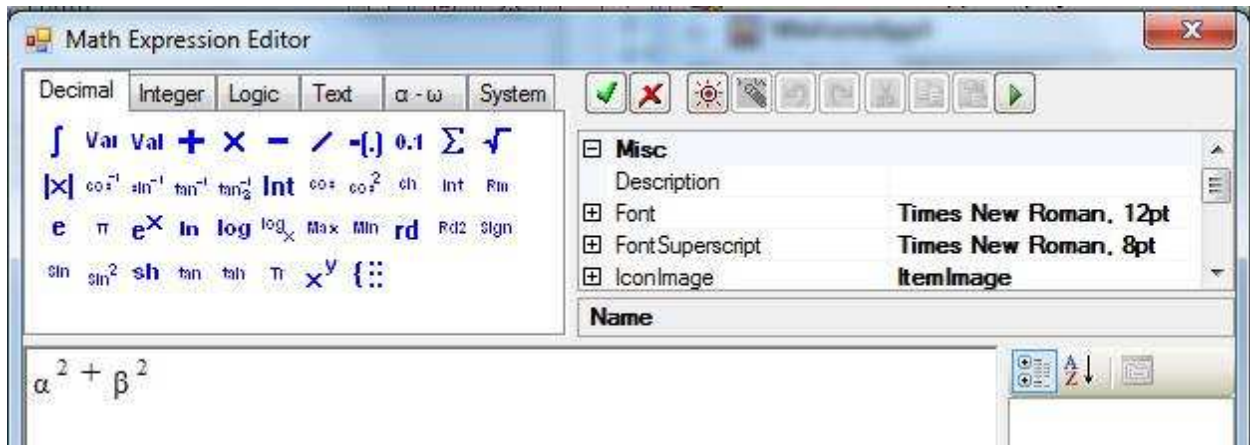


Limnor Studio supports 3 types of expressions: numeric expressions, logic expressions and text expressions.

- numeric expression – the result is a number
- logic expressions – the result is True or False
- text expressions – the result is a string

1.2 Create and edit expressions

Expression Editor is a visual formula editing tool:



The formula is displayed and edited in its original graphic format. The user can intuitively create formula and does not need to learn new texture computer languages. Some examples of expressions:

$$\sqrt{(x_0 - x_1)^2 + (y_0 - y_1)^2}$$

$$\int_0^{\Phi} \sin^2(\beta) d\beta$$

2 Expression Editor

2.1 Expression elements

An expression is constructed using elements. Limnor Studio ships with more than 80 expression elements. New elements can be added by copying the DLL files containing the elements to the Limnor Studio folder and listing the DLL files in an XML file named MathNode.XML. The MathNode.XML file shipped with Limnor Studio has the following contents:

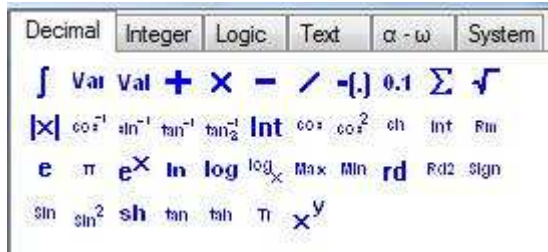
```
<MathNodeLib>
  <Lib>MathItem.dll</Lib>
</MathNodeLib>
```

The expression elements shipped with Limnor Studio are described below.

2.1.1 Numeric expression elements

Numeric expression elements are used to form mathematic expressions.

2.1.1.1 Expression elements dealing with decimals



- +** Plus operator. computes the sum of its two operands
- Minus operator. subtracts the second operand from the first
- ×** Multiplication operator. computes the product of its operands
- /** Division operator. divides its first operand by its second
- ()** Negation operator. Multiply -1 to the selected math expression
- 0.1** constant decimal
- Σ** Sum operator.
- √** square root
- |x|** get absolute value
- ∫** integration

Var A variable

Val A constant decimal value. The value type may be changed.

cos⁻¹ The angle whose cosine is the specified number

sin⁻¹ The angle whose sine is the specified number

tan⁻¹ The angle whose tangent is the specified number

tan⁻¹₂ The angle whose tangent is the quotient of two specified numbers

Int The largest integer less than or equal to the specified number

Int The smallest integer greater than or equal to the specified number

cos The cosine of the specified angle

cos² The square of the cosine of the specified angle

ch The hyperbolic cosine of the specified angle

Rm The remainder resulting from the division of a specified number by another specified number

e The natural logarithmic base, specified by the constant, e

π The ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, specified by the constant TT

e^x e raised to the specified power

ln The base e logarithm of a specified number

log The base 10 logarithm of a specified number

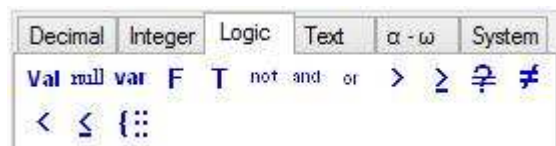
- log_x** The logarithm of a specified number, for a specified base
- Max** The larger of two specified numbers
- Min** The smaller of two specified numbers
- rd** Rounds a value to the nearest integer
- Rd2** Rounds a value to the nearest integer or specified number of decimal places.
- sign** A value indicating the sign of a number
- sin** The sine of the specified angle
- sin²** The square of the sine of the specified angle
- sh** The hyperbolic sine of the specified angle
- tan** The tangent of the specified angle
- tanh** The hyperbolic tangent of the specified angle
- Tr** Calculates the integral part of a number
- x^y** A specified number raised to the specified power

2.1.1.2 Expression elements dealing with integers



- Val** A constant integer value. The value type may be changed.
- +1** Increase the number by 1
- <<** Shift the number left by given bits
- >>** Shift the number right by given bits
- X** Produces the full product of two 32-bit numbers, and generates a 64-bit number
- Generate a random number in a specified range
- var** An integer variable
- %** Computes the remainder of dividing its first operand by its second
- &** Bitwise 'and' operator
- |** Bitwise 'or' operator

2.1.2 Logic expression elements



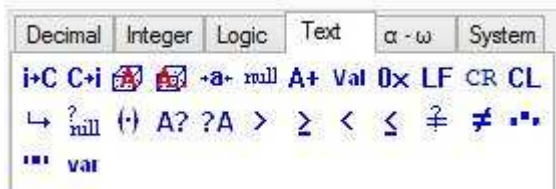
A logic expression evaluates to a Boolean result.

- var** A Boolean variable

- `null` A null value
- `F` A Boolean false
- `T` A Boolean true
- `not` Logic 'not' operator
- `and` Logic 'and' operator
- `or` Logic 'or' operator
- `>` Logic 'greater than' operator
- `≥` Logic 'greater than or equal to' operator
- `≐` Logic 'equal' operator
- `≠` Logic 'not equal' operator
- `<` Logic 'less than' operator
- `≤` Logic 'less than or equal to' operator
- `{::}` Calculations with conditions

Note that if comparison for string then case-sensitive comparison is performed. To use case-sensitivity options, use operators for text expressions.

2.1.3 Text expression elements




These elements deal with strings.

- `0x` It represents an ASCII character. Usually it is used for an unprintable character.
- `LF` It represents a Line Feed character. It is ASCII character 0x0A
- `CR` It represents a Carriage Return character. It is ASCII character 0x0D
- `CL` It represents a Carriage Return and a Line Feed. It is a pair of ASCII characters 0x0D0A. Windows text files usually use it as line separator
- `L` It represents a tab character. It is ASCII character 0x09
- `? null` Tests whether the specified string is null or empty
- `(·)` Tests whether the second string is part of the first string
- `A?` Tests whether the first string starts with the second string
- `?A` Tests whether the first string ends with the second string
- `>` Tests whether the first string is greater than the second string
- `≥` Tests whether the first string is greater than or equal to the second string
- `≐` Tests whether the first string is equal to the second string
- `≠` Tests whether the first string is not equal to the second string
- `""` A constant string

var A string variable

Val It is a constant value. The value type may be changed.

null A null value


 It generates a random string

trim It removes whitespaces from both sides of a string

intToChar It converts an integer to a character. For example, 65 is converted to A, 66 is converted to B, etc.

charToInt It converted a character to its ASCII integer. For example, A is converted to 65, B is converted to 66, etc.

Concat Concatenate two strings together to form a new string

 It generates a random character

substring It gets a sub-string of a string by specifying start position and length.

2.1.4 Greek symbols

Greek symbols are commonly used in mathematic formulas. You can use Greek symbols in any variable names and subscription names.




2.1.5 System elements

Systems elements deal with programming elements.




null It represents a null value. It can be used in a logic expression to test whether a variable is null or not.

 It represents current date and time

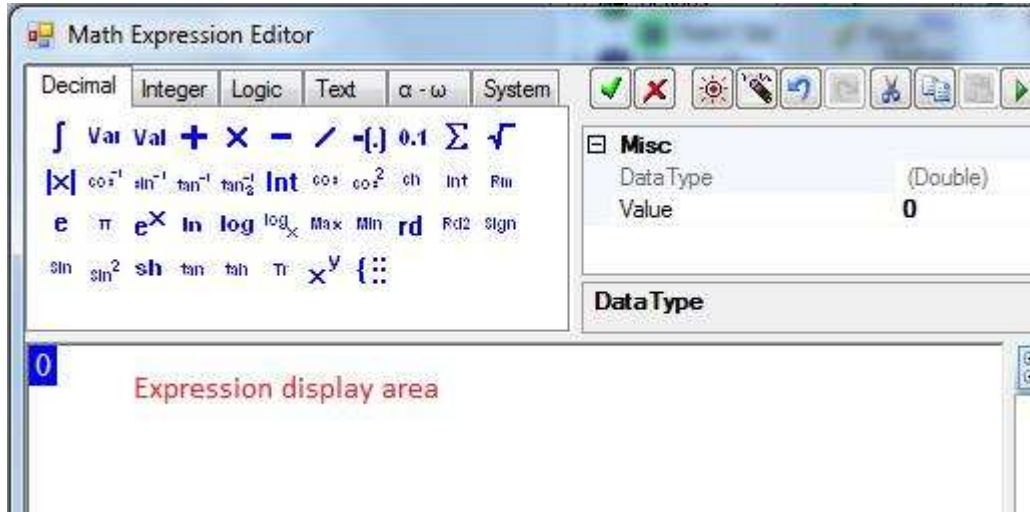
 It is a reference to a property of an object. It can also represent an object, a parameter, or a variable.

 It represents a return value of a method execution.

 It represents an input value of an action. The input of an action is the output of the last action.

2.2 Use Keyboard

When the input focus is at the expression display area, keyboard can be used to edit the expression. If you press a key without a response then the expression display area does not have input focus. Click the expression display area to give it input focus.



Selected element is highlighted. When a key is pressed the editing result depends on which element is selected. **It is very important to pay attention to which parts of an expression are highlighted while you modify the expression.**

2.2.1 Basic operator keys: + - * /

When one of these 4 keys is pressed, a new operand 0 is added to the selected element.

Suppose initially the expression is a 0:

0

Press +. A new operand is added with +:

0 + 0

Press -. A new operand 0 is added with -:

0 + 0 - 0

Press *. A new operand 0 is added with multiplication:

0 + 0 - 0 * 0

The new 0 multiplies the last 0 because the last 0 is selected (highlighted).

If we press * when the whole expression is selected $0 + 0 - 0$ then the result becomes

$$(0 + 0 - 0) \cdot 0$$

If we press * when the minus expression is selected $0 + 0 - 0$ then the result becomes

$$0 + (0 - 0) \cdot 0$$

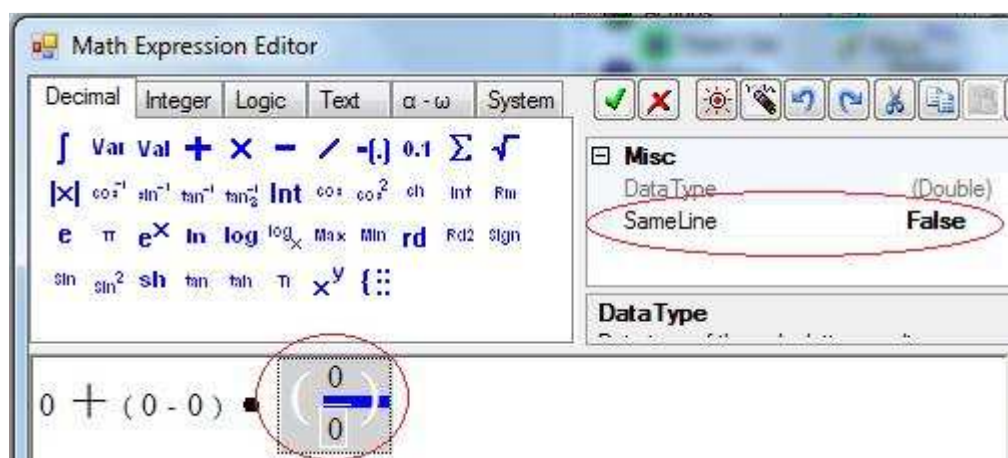
Now press / the expression becomes:

$$0 + (0 - 0) \cdot \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$$

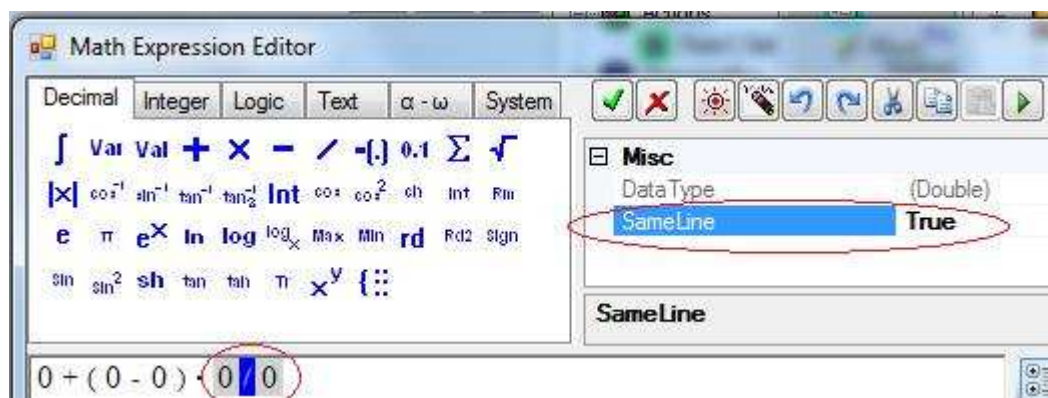
If we press / when the plus expression is selected $0 + (0 - 0) \cdot 0$ then the result becomes

$$\frac{0 + (0 - 0) \cdot 0}{0}$$

When an element is selected the properties of the element are displayed. Changing properties may affect the display of the expression. Let's select the division element:



Change property SameLine to True. The display of the expression becomes:



2.2.2 Number keys

When a number key is pressed while a number element or a variable element is selected, the number being pressed replaces the selected element.

While the last 0 is selected $0 + (0 - 0) \cdot 0 / 0$, press 2, it becomes $0 + (0 - 0) \cdot 0 / 2$.

Keep typing numeric keys to enter the number $0 + (0 - 0) \cdot 0 / 2.345$

2.2.3 Alphabet keys

When an alphabet key is pressed while a number element or a variable element is selected, the selected element is replaced with a variable element using the alphabet key as the first letter of the variable name.

Initially: $0 + (0 - 0) \cdot 0 / 2.345$. Press t: $0 + (0 - 0) \cdot t / 2.345$. Keep typing op: $0 + (0 - 0) \cdot top / 2.345$

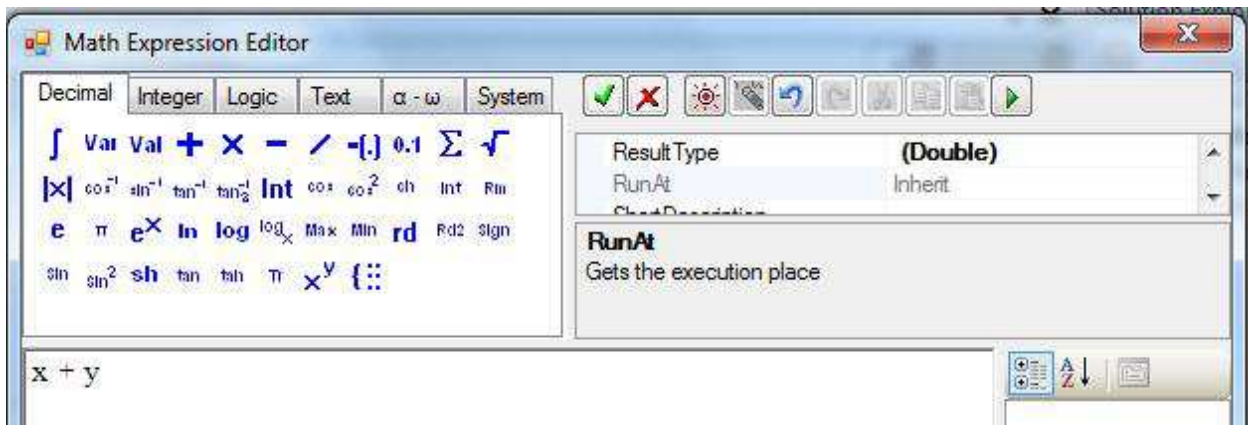
2.2.4 Backspace and Delete keys

Backspace and Delete keys can be used to delete the selected element.

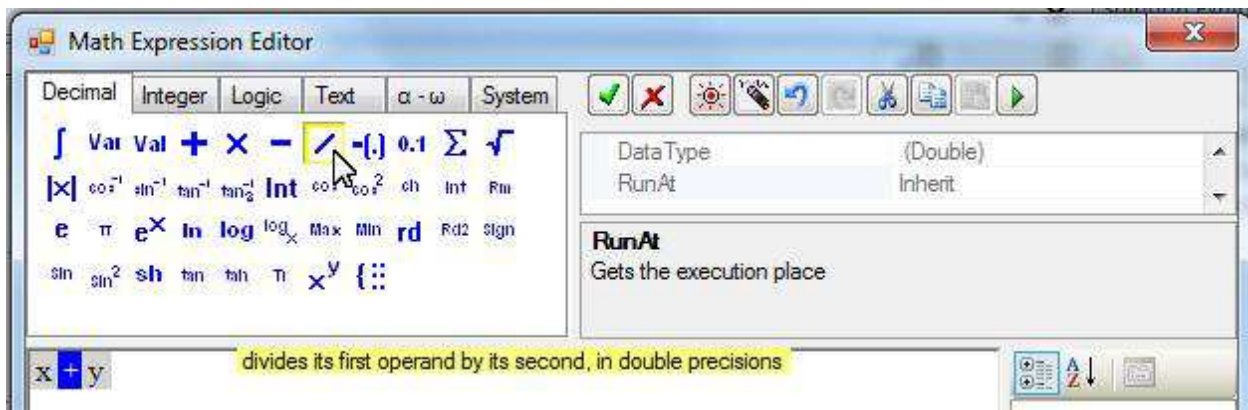
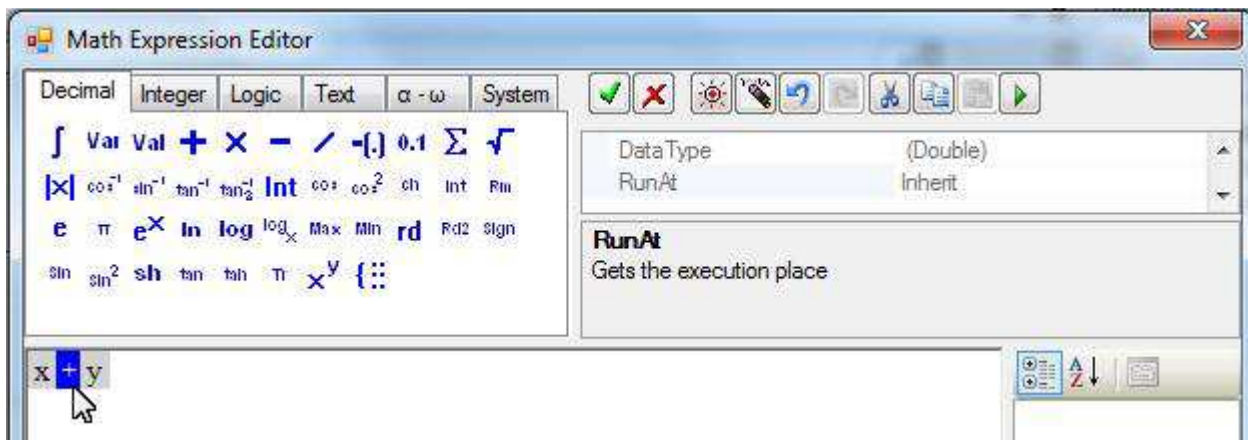
Initially: $0 + (0 - 0) \cdot top / 2.345$. Press Backspace or Delete key: $0 + 0 \cdot top / 2.345$

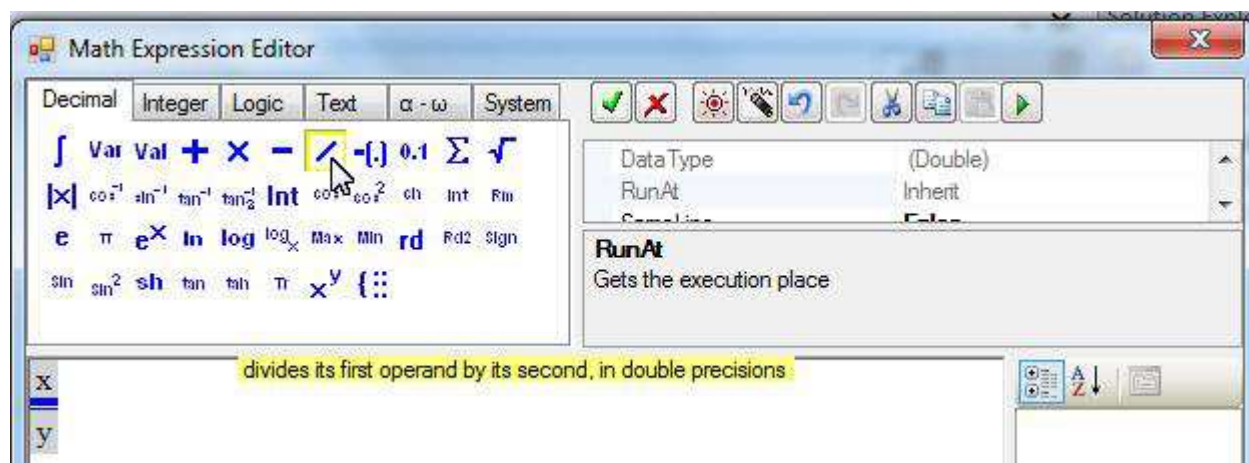
2.3 Replace operators

Suppose we have an expression $x + y$.



If we want to modify it to be x / y then we need to select "+" and click "/".





If you do not want to replace the selected operator but to apply the new operator to the selected operator then you need to use the keyboard. For example, while “+” operator is selected:



Press “/” key, the “/” operator is applied to “x + y” and the expression becomes (x+y)/0:



3 Variables in Expressions

3.1 Create a variable

Select a number, type the first letter of the variable to create the variable. In previous section, we created a variable named top in this way.

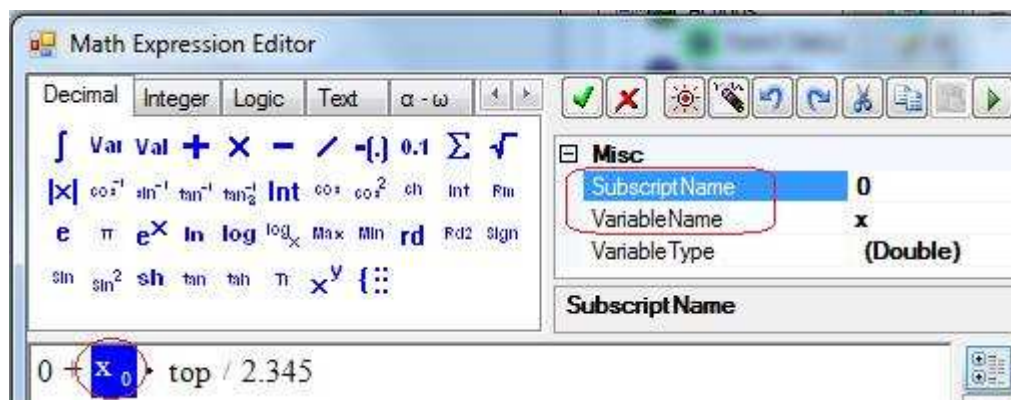
Select an element and click variable icon **Var**. A new variable is created replacing the selected element.

Initially: $0 + (3 \cdot 1) \cdot \text{top} / 2.345$. Click icon **Var**. The expression becomes $0 + \text{x} \cdot \text{top} / 2.345$.

3.2 Name and subscript

A variable name cannot start with a number. Subscript of a variable name can start with a number. A variable is uniquely identified by its name and subscript.


Name and subscript of a variable can be changed when the variable is selected:

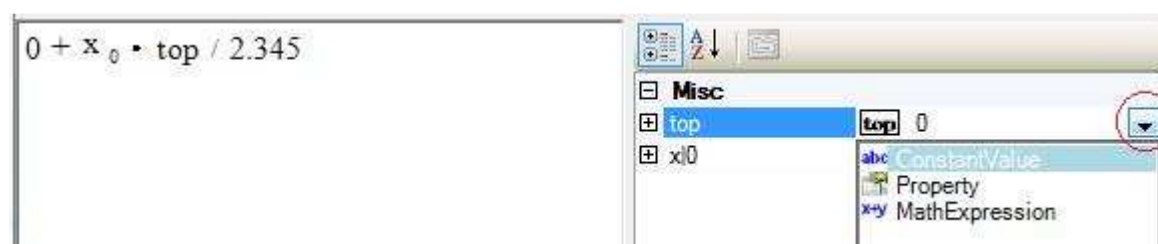


3.3 Provide values to variables

To provide value to a variable we may use the following 3 ways:

- Give it a constant value
- Map the variable to a property in the software within the scope where the expression is used
- Create another expression for it

In the Expression Editor, all variables are listed on the right side of the display area. We may provide values to variables in that list. Select a variable in the list, click 



These 3 ways of providing values are exactly the same as what are described in Part II of the User's Guide in chapter "Use Parameters in Actions". See

<http://www.limnor.com/support/Limnor%20Studio%20-%20User%20Guide%20-%20Part%20II.pdf>.

4 Insert Elements into Expressions

We have seen that by pressing keys +, -, * and \, the expression can grow with new terms. The default new term is a number 0. We may change it to a variable or other element.

Other elements can be added to the expression by clicking the corresponding icons.

4.1 Insert function elements

A function element has one or more parameters.

Click a function element icon, a new function element will be created in the place of the selected element. The selected element will become the first parameter of the function.

The following examples show the process.

Initially: $y + x_0 \cdot \text{top} / 2.345$

If we click \cos then it becomes $\cos(y) + x_0 \cdot \text{top} / 2.345$

If we click \tan^{-1} then it becomes $\tan^{-1}(y, 0) + x_0 \cdot \text{top} / 2.345$

4.2 Insert logic operator elements

A logic operator element operates on two logic elements:

{first logic element} {logic operator} {second logic element}

Click a logic operator element icon, a new logic operator element will be created in the place of the selected element. The selected element will become the first logic element for the logic element. A new logic variable element will be created and used as the second logic element for the logic element.

The following examples show the process.

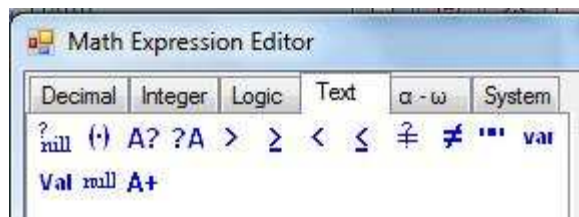
Initially: g_0

If we click $>$ then it becomes $g_0 > x$. Note that g_0 becomes the first logic element for operator $>$ and a new logic variable x becomes the second logic element for operator $>$.

Suppose we select g_0 again: $g_0 > x$. Click or . The expression becomes $(g_0 \text{ OR } x) > x$

4.3 Text testing operators

Text testing operators give logic Boolean results by doing various text testing. You may specify culture information to be used for doing testing.




4.3.1 Check empty

Icon: null

Example: $\text{IsEmpty}(s)$

This expression evaluates to Boolean True if variable s is null or an empty string.


4.3.2 Check containment

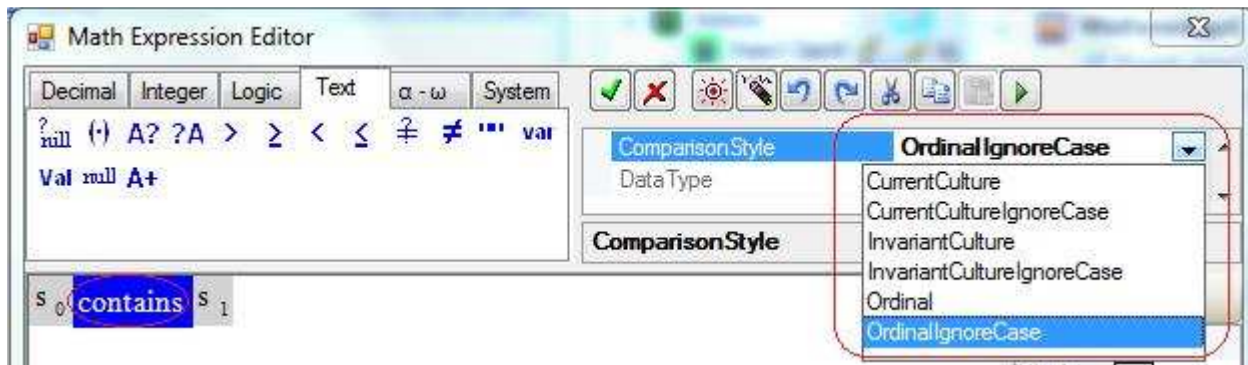
Icon: 

Example: `s0 contains s1`

This expression evaluates to Boolean True if variable s_1 is part of variable s_0 . For example, if s_1 is “Hello World” and s_0 is “llo” then the result is True. If s_0 is “llp” then the result is False.

By default, if s_0 is “LL” then the result is still True because “LL” matches “ll” if ignoring the case.

By default the ComparisonStyle property for the operator  (contains) is “OrdinalIgnoreCase”:




These comparison styles are supported in standalone projects:

- CurrentCulture – The comparison is done using the current culture of the computer, case-sensitively.
- CurrentCultureIgnoreCase – The comparison is done using the current culture of the computer, case-insensitively
- InvariantCulture – The comparison is done culture-independently (in English without regarding countries and regions) and case-sensitively
- InvariantCultureIgnoreCase – The comparison is done culture-independently and case-insensitively
- Ordinal – The comparison is done byte-by-byte and case-sensitively
- OrdinalIgnoreCase – The comparison is done byte-by-byte and case-insensitively

For web client operations, the culture specification is ignored, only case sensitivity option is used.

4.3.3 Checking beginning of text

Icon: 

Example: `s0 startsWith s1`

This expression evaluates to Boolean True if variable s_1 is the beginning part of variable s_0 . For example, if s_1 is “Hello World” and s_0 is “He” then the result is True. If s_0 is “her” then the result is False.

This operator also supports comparison style.

4.3.4 Checking ending of text

Icon: ?A

Example: `s0 endsWith s1`

This expression evaluates to Boolean True if variable s_1 is the ending part of variable s_0 . For example, if s_1 is "Hello World" and s_0 is "Id" then the result is True. If s_0 is "idl" then the result is False.

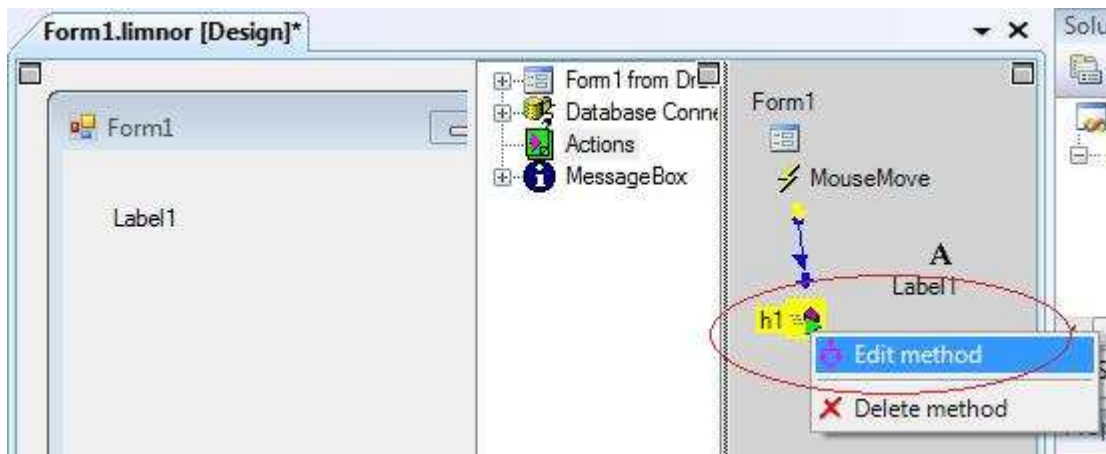
This operator also supports comparison style.


5 An Expression Example

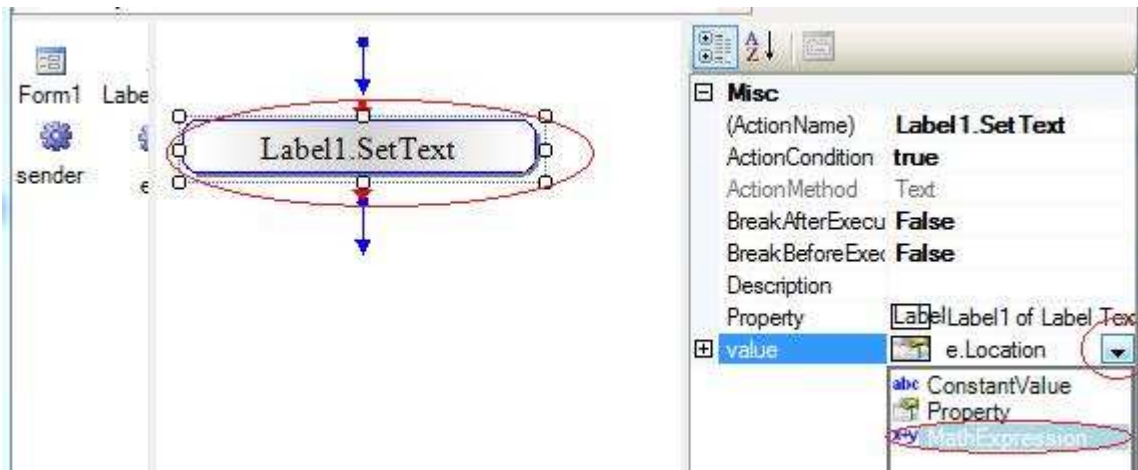
5.1 Sample task

In Part II of the User's Guide, we created a sample of showing mouse pointer location when mouse is moving. We may change it to show a distance between the mouse pointer and the center of the form. This involves creating a math expression to calculate the distance.

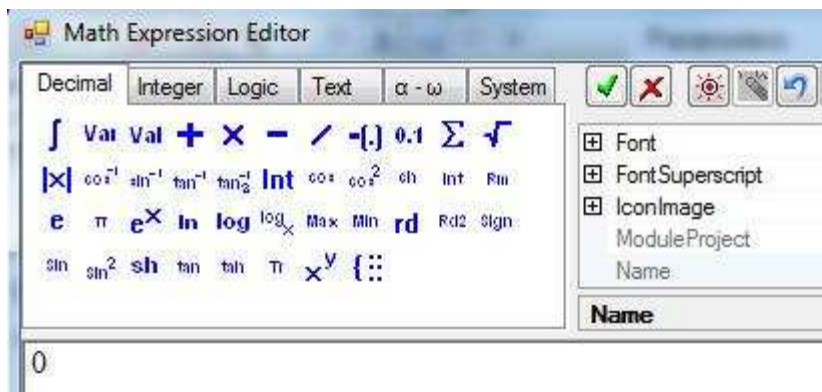
Open that sample project, open class Form1. Right-click the event-handler method icon in the Event Path; choose "Edit method":



Select the action Label1.SetText. In Part II of the User's Guide, the value parameter of this action was set to the event parameter e.Location which is the mouse pointer location. For this sample, we change it to use a math expression to calculate the distance from the mouse pointer location to the center of the form. Click , choose "MathExpression":



The Expression Editor appears for us to create the expression.



5.2 Expression creation process

This is the math expression for calculating the distance between point (x_1, y_1) and point (x_0, y_0) :

$$\sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2}$$

Using the Expression Editor we may create this expression in a few second. We will describe the process of creating this expression. Note that you do not have to follow exactly the process used here to create this math expression. You may have your own preferences and habits. **Pay attention to the highlighting in each step below.**

Press -, the expression becomes $0 - 0$

Press x, it becomes $0 - x$

Click 0, it becomes $0 - x$

Type x, it becomes $x - x$

Click -, It becomes $x - x$

Click x^y , it becomes $(x - x)^2$

Press +, it becomes $(x - x)^2 + 0$

Press y, it becomes $(x - x)^2 + y$

Press -, it becomes $(x - x)^2 + y - 0$

Press y, it becomes $(x - x)^2 + y - y$

Click -, it becomes $(x - x)^2 + y - y$

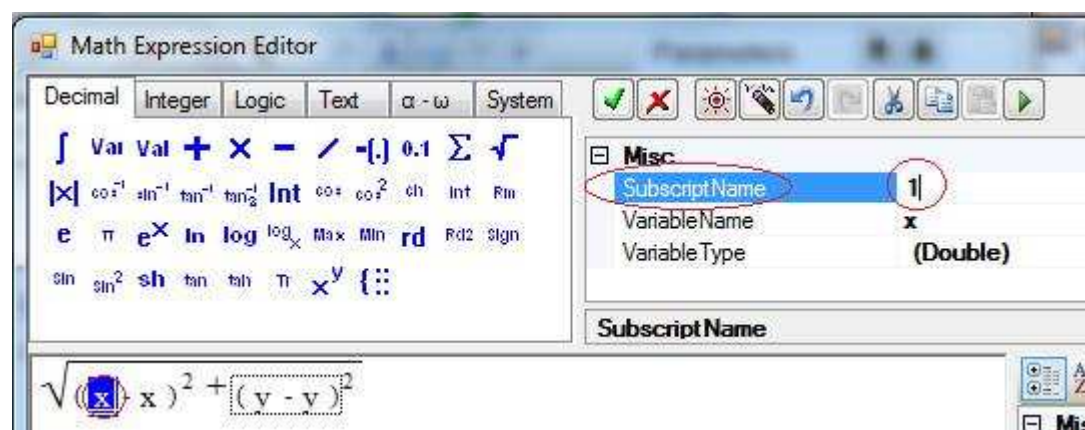
Click x^y , it becomes $(x - x)^2 + (y - y)^2$

Click +, it becomes $(x - x)^2 + (y - y)^2$

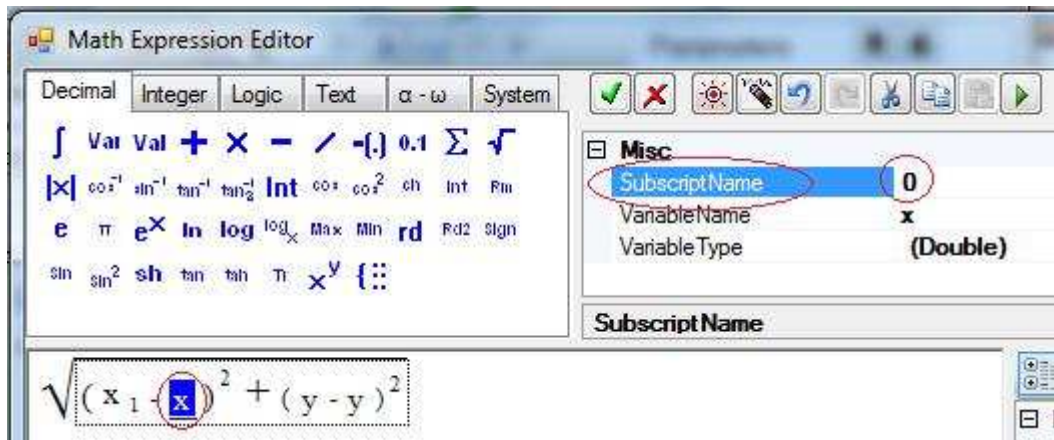
Click $\sqrt{\quad}$, it becomes $\sqrt{(x - x)^2 + (y - y)^2}$

Click the first x, it becomes $\sqrt{(x - x)^2 + (y - y)^2}$

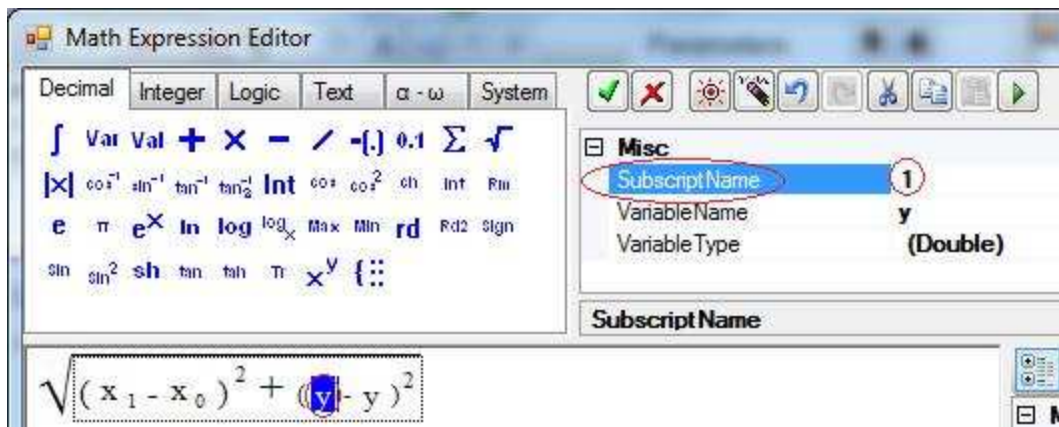
Set SubscriptName to 1:



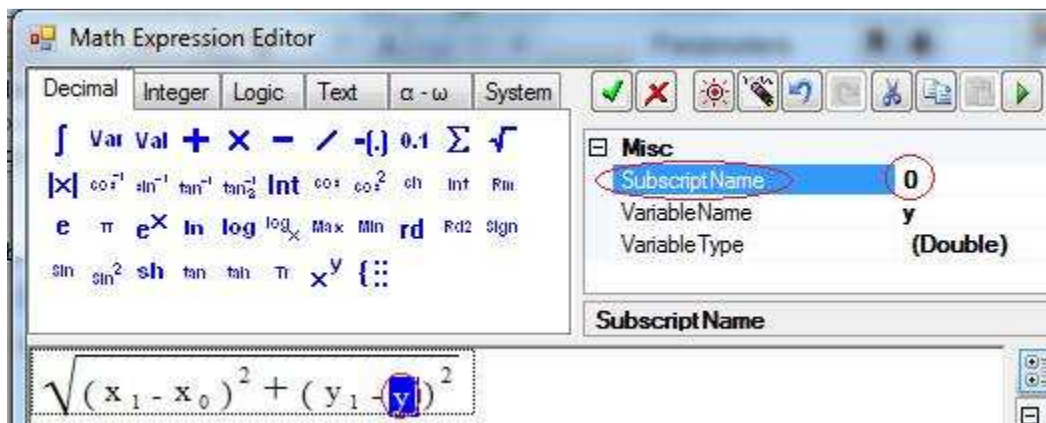
Click the second x and set its SubscriptName to 0:



Select the first y and set its SubscriptName to 1:



Click the second y and set its SubscriptName to 0:




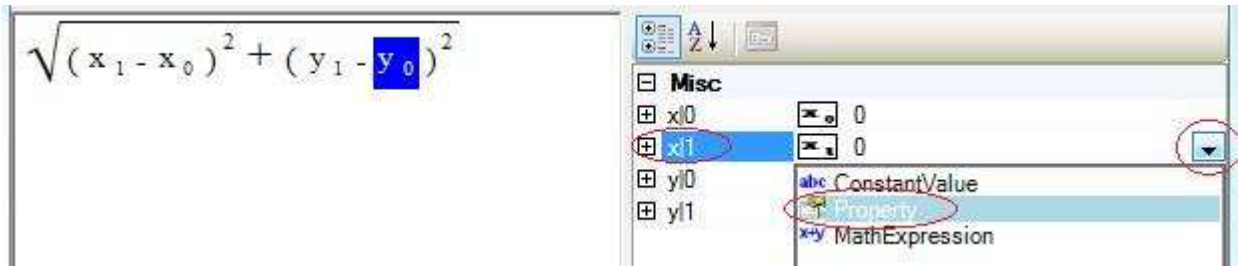
5.3 Provide values to variables

Now we created the expression for calculating distance between two points:

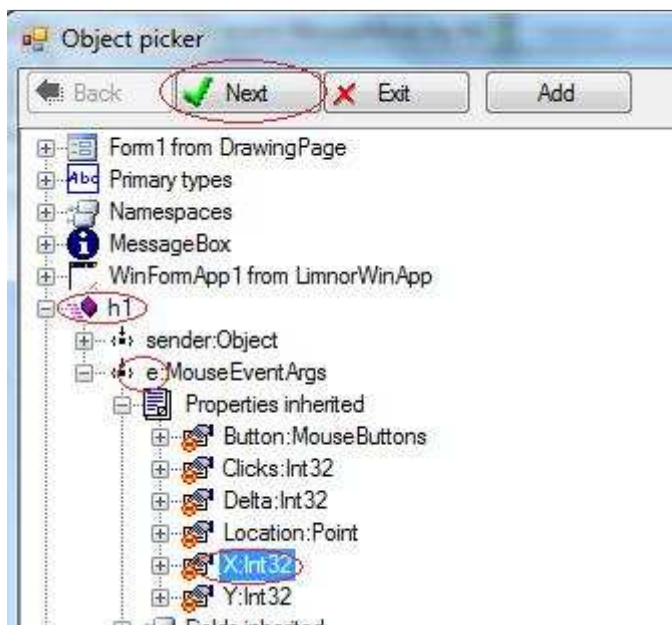
$$\sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2}$$

Here, point (x_1, y_1) is the mouse pointer coordinates and point (x_0, y_0) is the center of the form. We need to enter these values through the variable list.

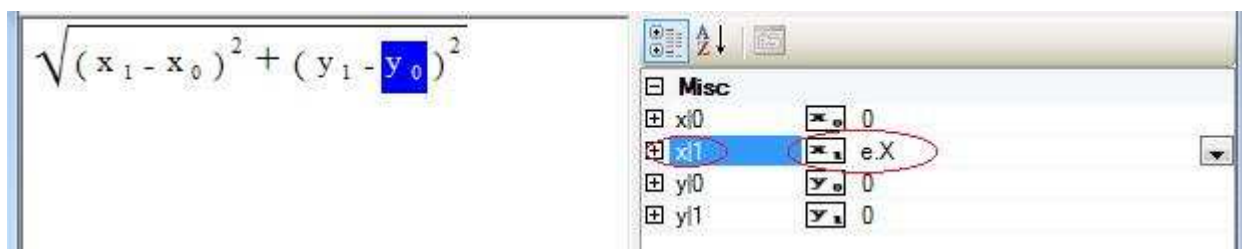
In the variable list, for x_1 , click  and select Property to get mouse location:



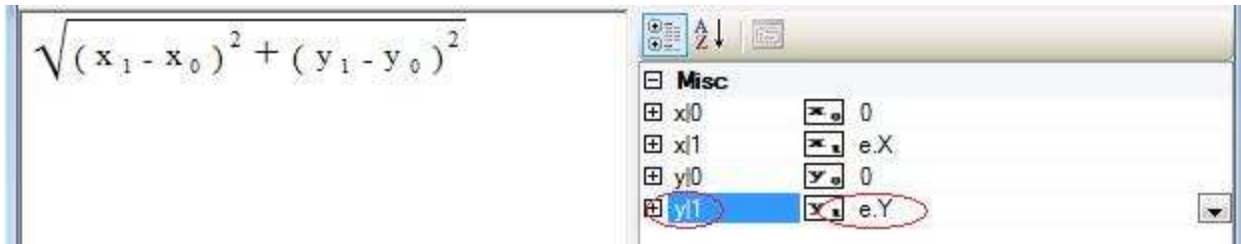
Under the event-handler method, find the mouse pointer location, select X, click Next:



The X coordinate of the mouse pointer location is provided to x_1 :




In the similar process, the Y coordinate of the mouse pointer location is provided to y_1 :



Point (x_0, y_0) is the center of the form.


x_0 can be calculated by a math expression {Width of the form}/2.

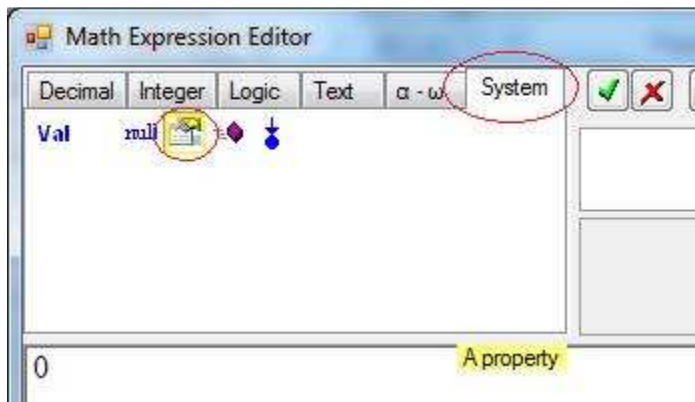
y_0 can be calculated by a math expression {Height of the form}/2.

In the variable list, for x_0 , click  and select MathExpression to get mouse location:

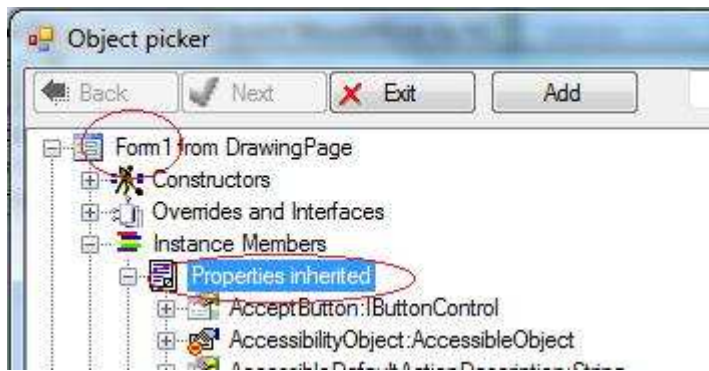


The Expression Editor appears.

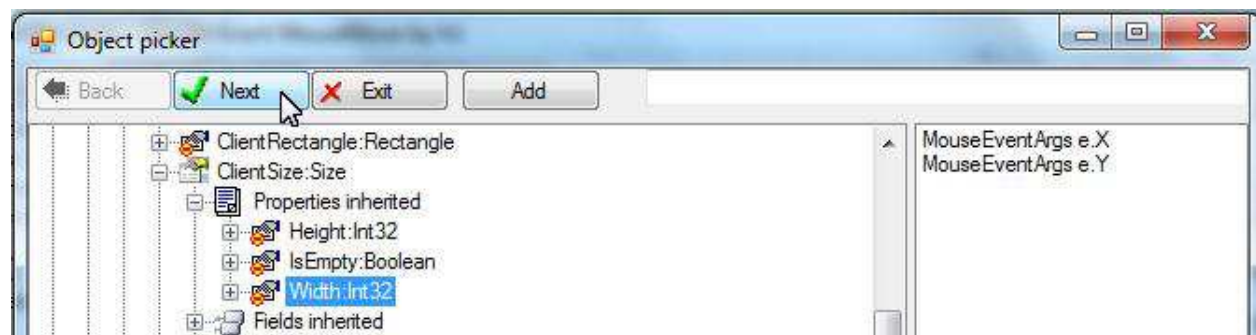
Click Property icon  in the System tab because we want to use the Width property of the form:



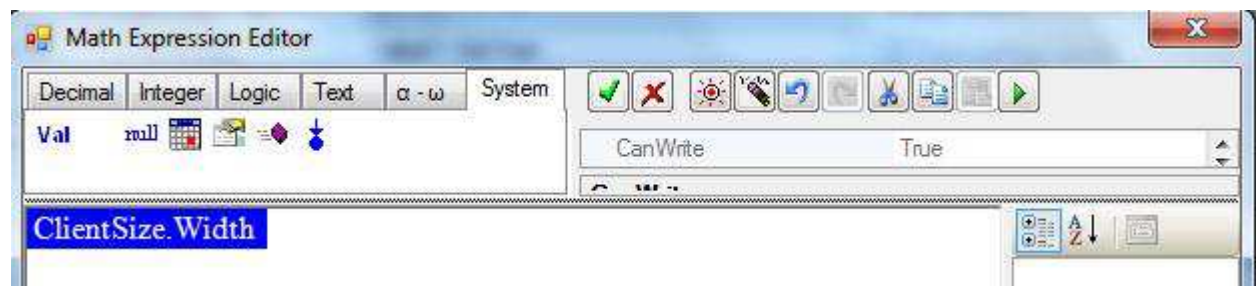
Expand the node “Properties inherited” to find the Width property of the form:



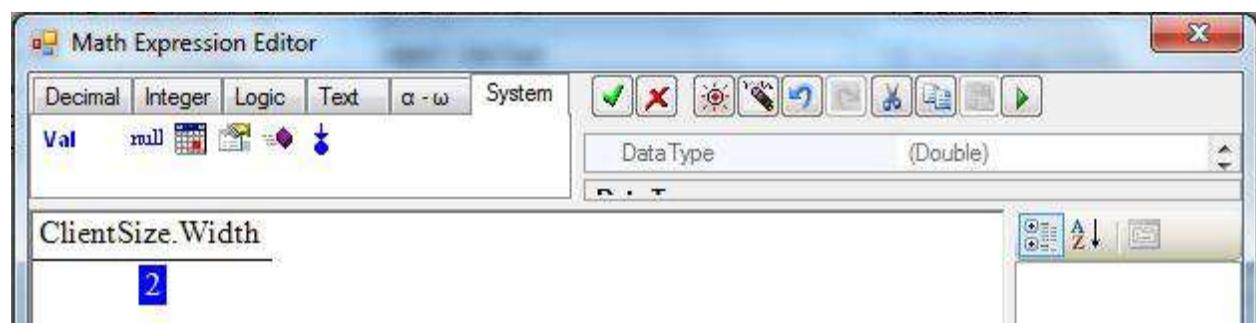
Select the Width property under ClientSize. Click Next:



ClientSize.Width appears in the expression:



Type /2:




Click . This expression is assigned to x₀:

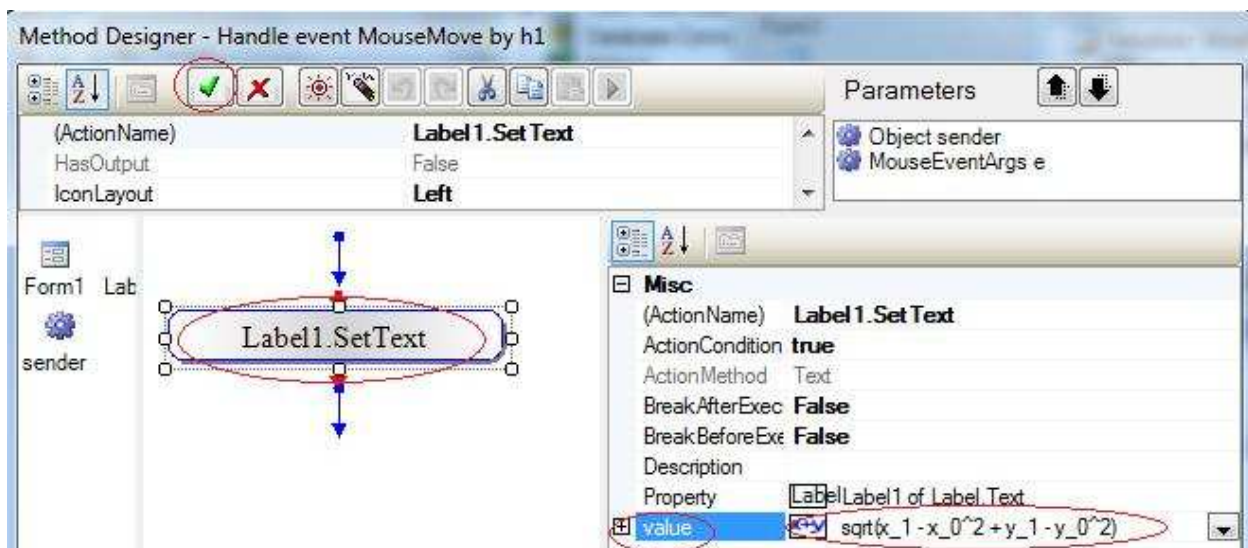



Here we see that a math expression is used to provide value to a variable in another math expression. The expression is formed by property “ClientSize.Width” of the form divided by 2.

In a similar way, we may use an expression to provide value to y_0 . The expression is formed by property “ClientSize.Height” of the form divided by 2:




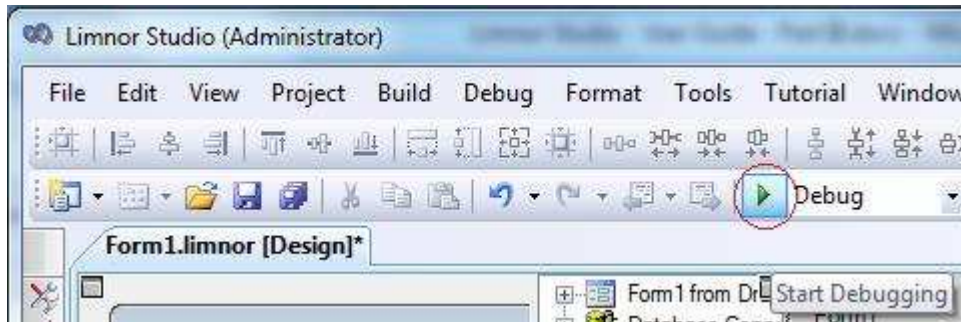
Click  to finish creating this expression. The expression is used to provide value for parameter “value” of the action:



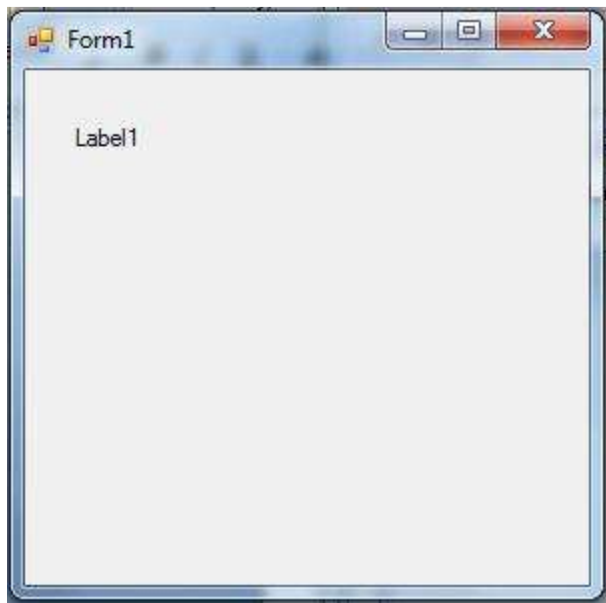
Click  to finish modifying this event-handler method.

5.4 Test the sample

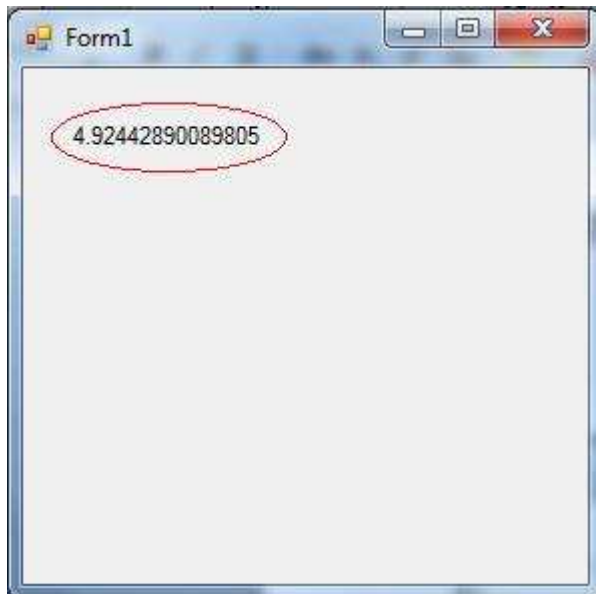
Click  to compile and test the project:



The project is compiled and started. The first form appears:

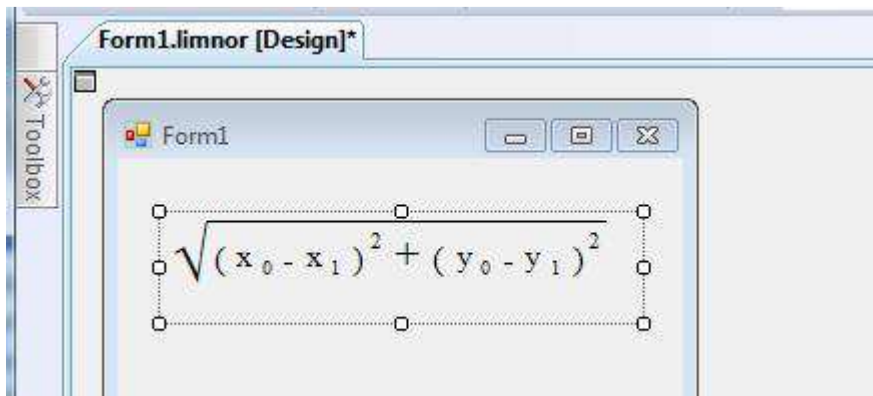


Now move mouse over the form. The distance between the mouse pointer and the center of the form appears in the Label. You can see that the value shown in the label getting smaller when moving mouse towards the center of the form; the value getting larger when moving the mouse away from the center of the form.



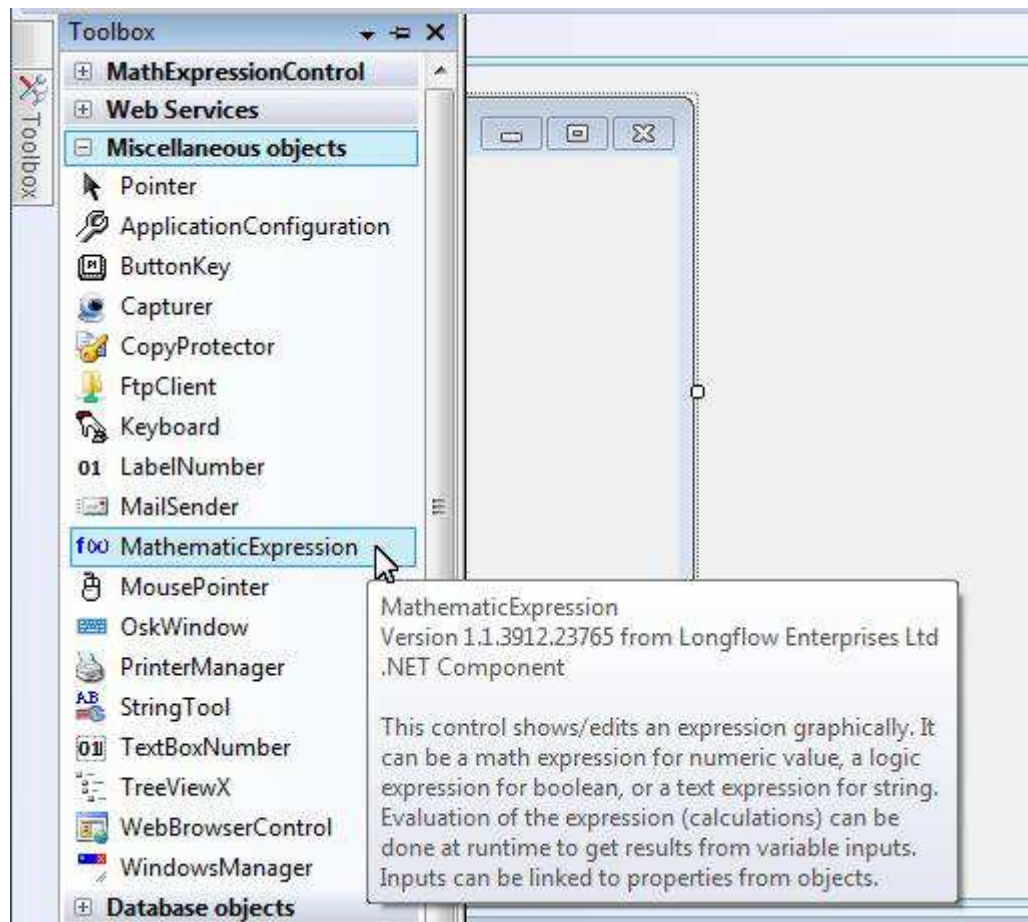
6 Use Math Expression Control

In previous samples all math expressions are used in action parameters. Math expressions may also be displayed as a user interface and used directly.

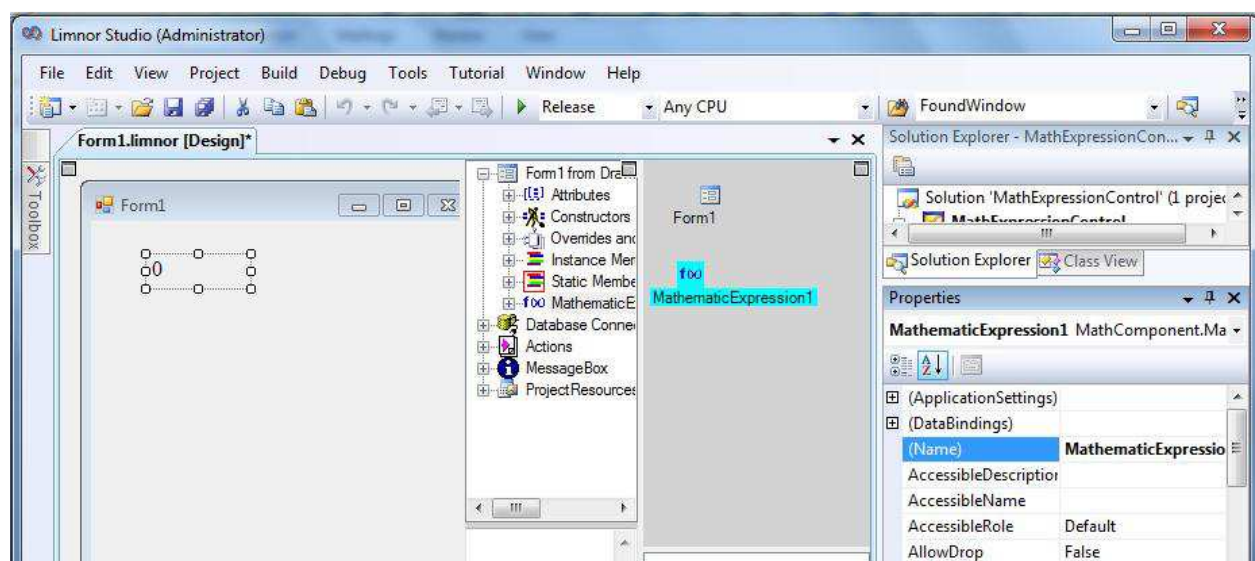


6.1 Add Math Expression Control

Drop a Math Expression control to a form to use it:

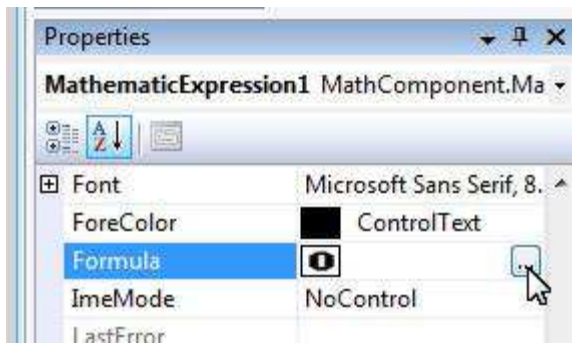


A Math Expression Control appears on the form:

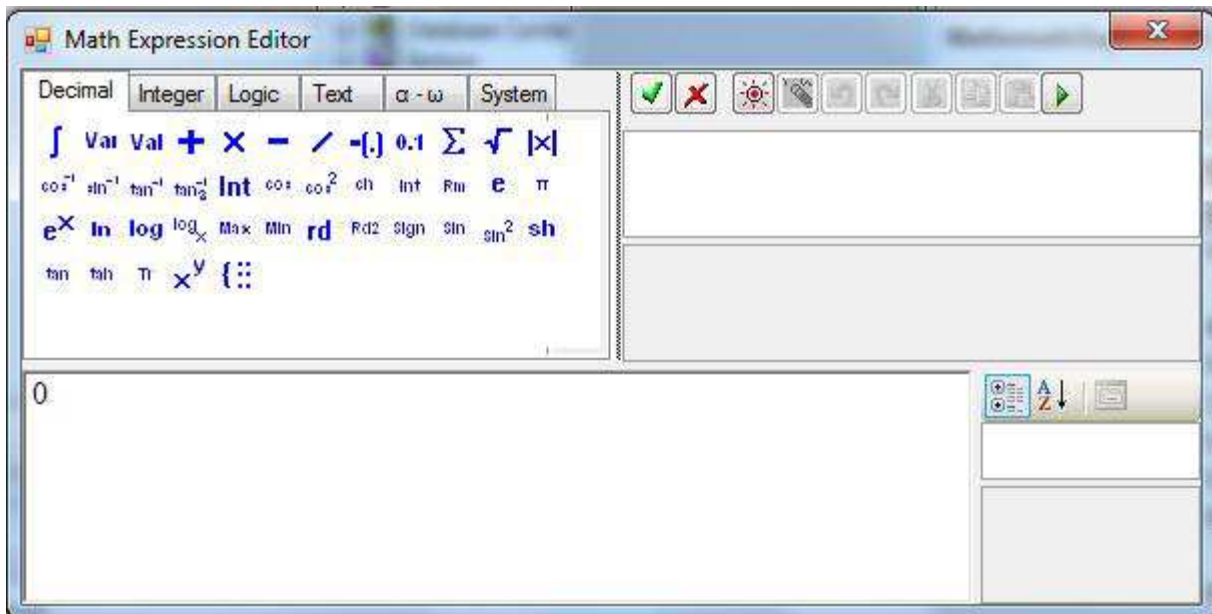


6.2 Enter formula at design time

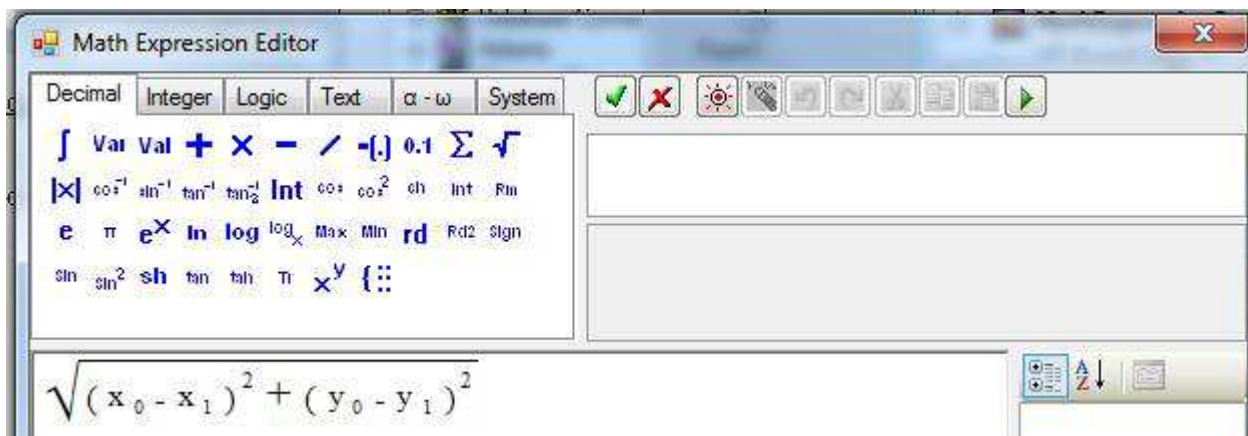
Set the Formula property at the design time:



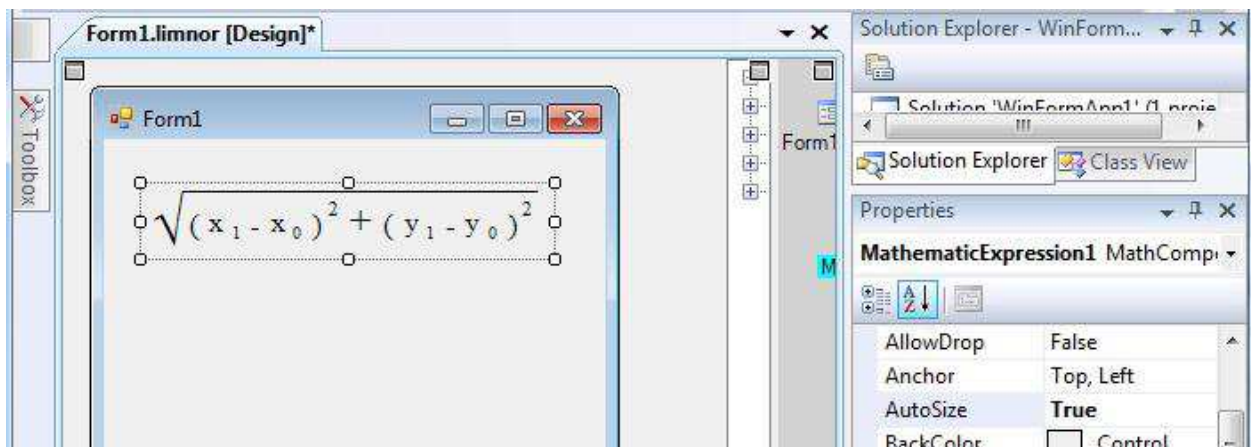
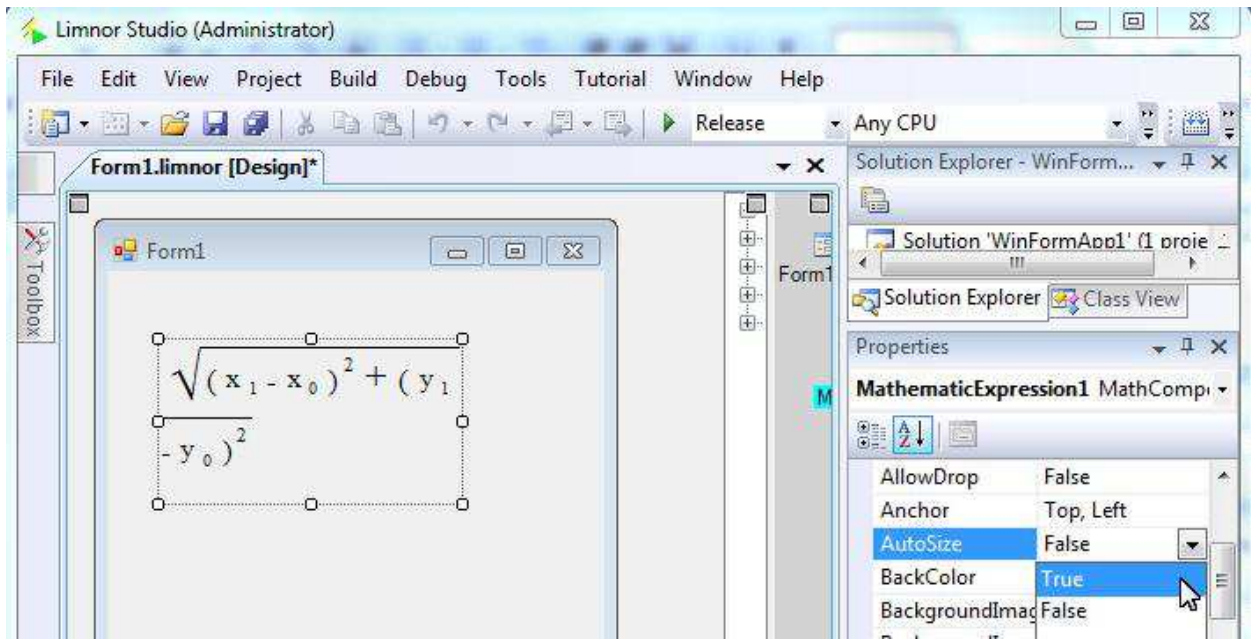
The Math Expression Editor appears.



The use of the Math Expression Editor has been described previously. We do not need to go through the use of the Math Expression Editor. Suppose we entered the following formula:

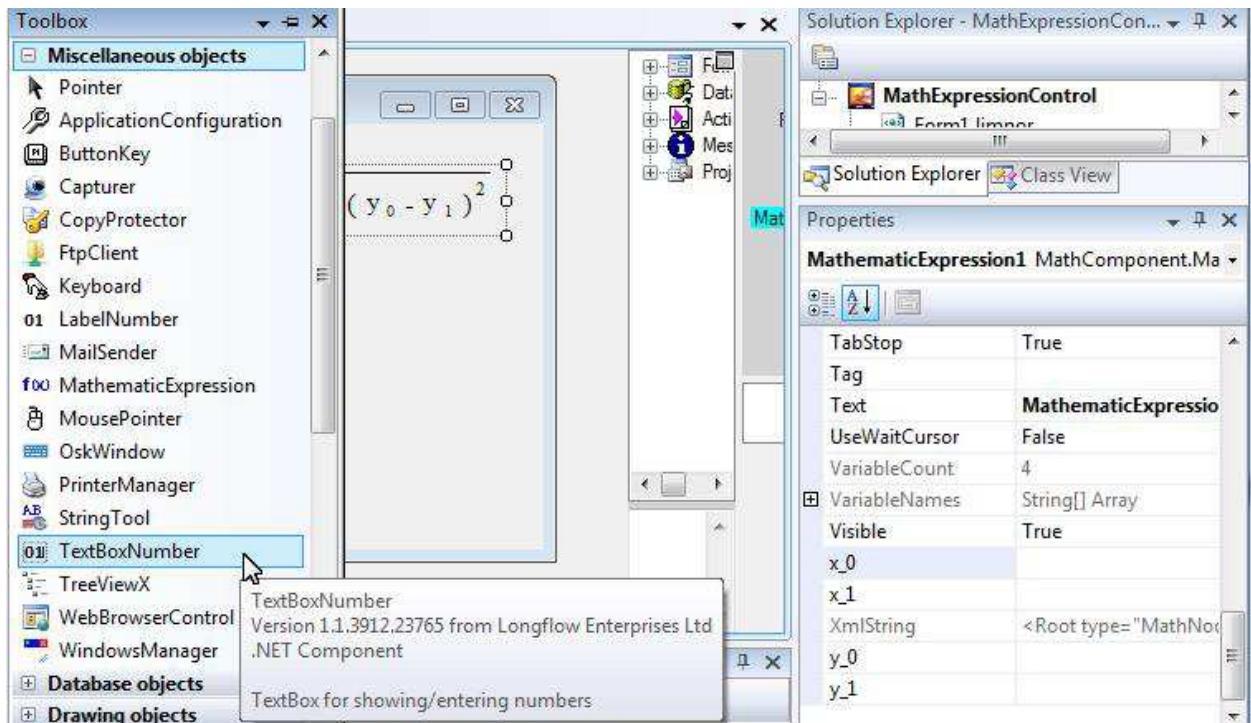


The formula is displayed on the form. Set AutoSize property to True to resize it:

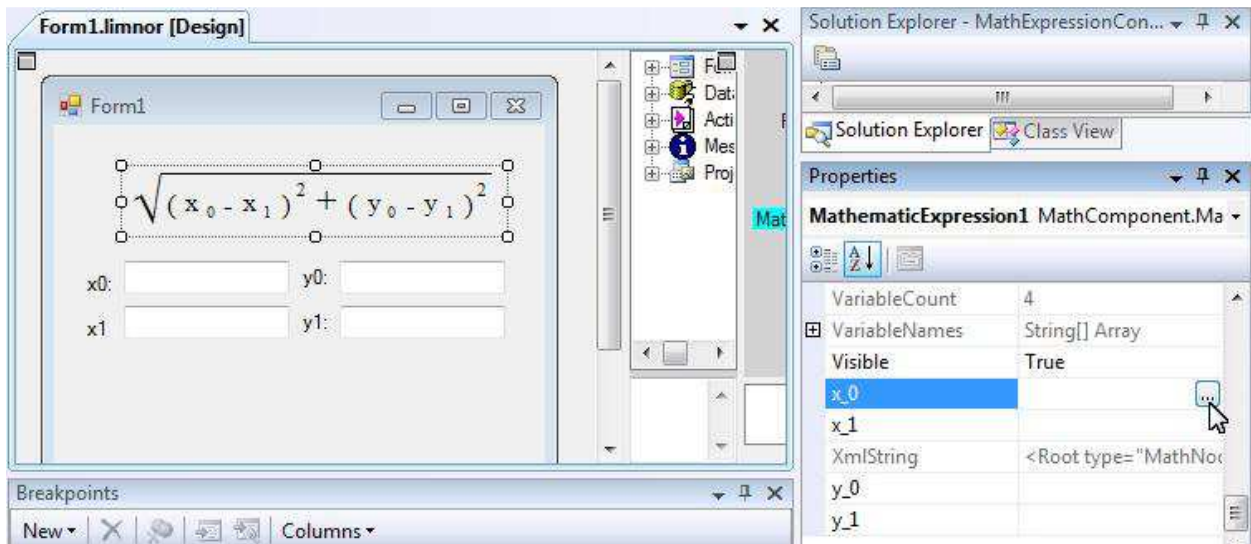


6.3 Map variables to properties at design time

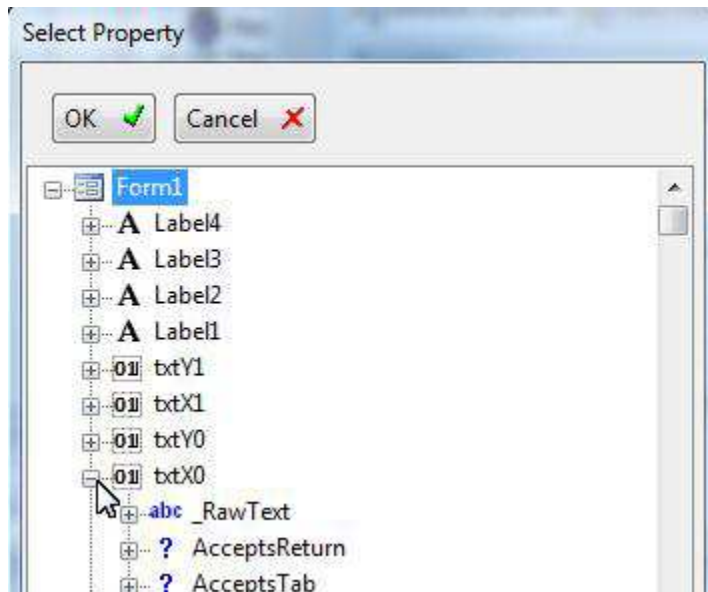
The variables in the formula become the properties of the Math Expression Control. We may link the variables to properties in the program to provide data for calculating the formula value. Let's add some text boxes for providing data for this formula:



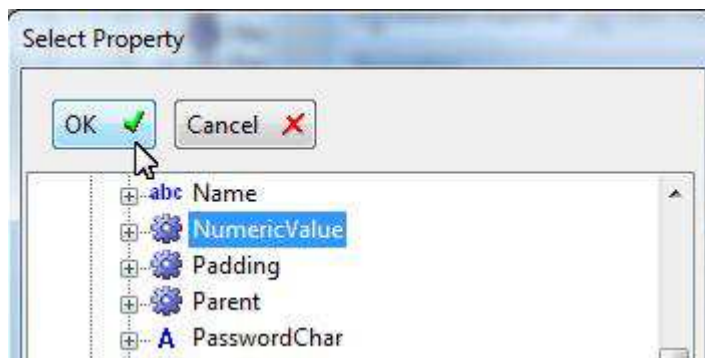
Link x0 to a text box:



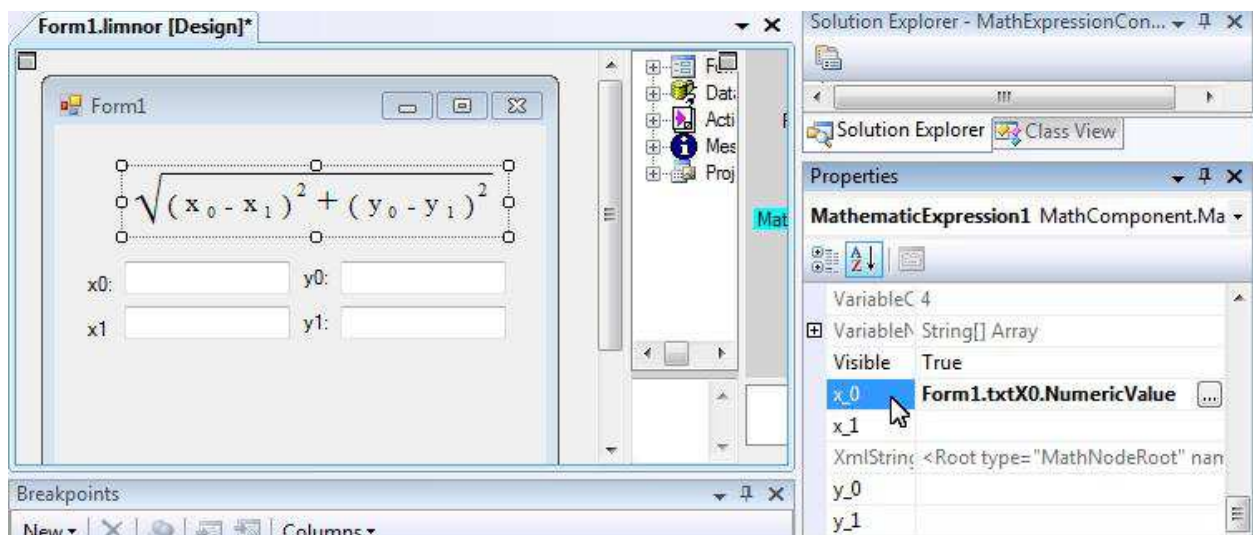
Expand the text box txtX0:



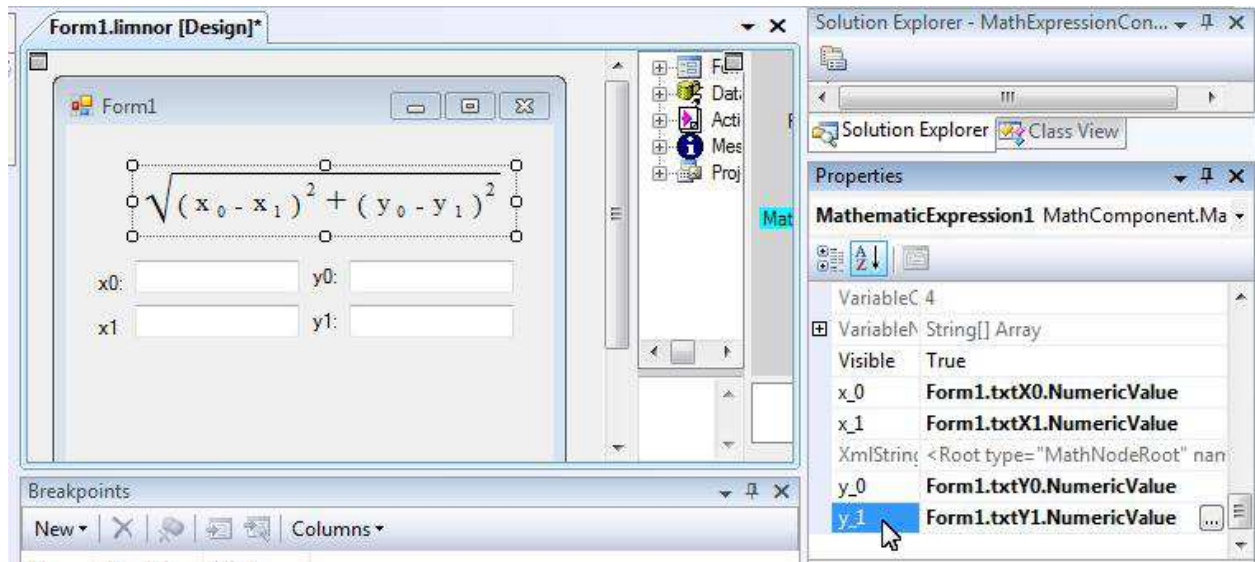
Select NumericValue property:



We linked variable x0 to the text box txtX0:



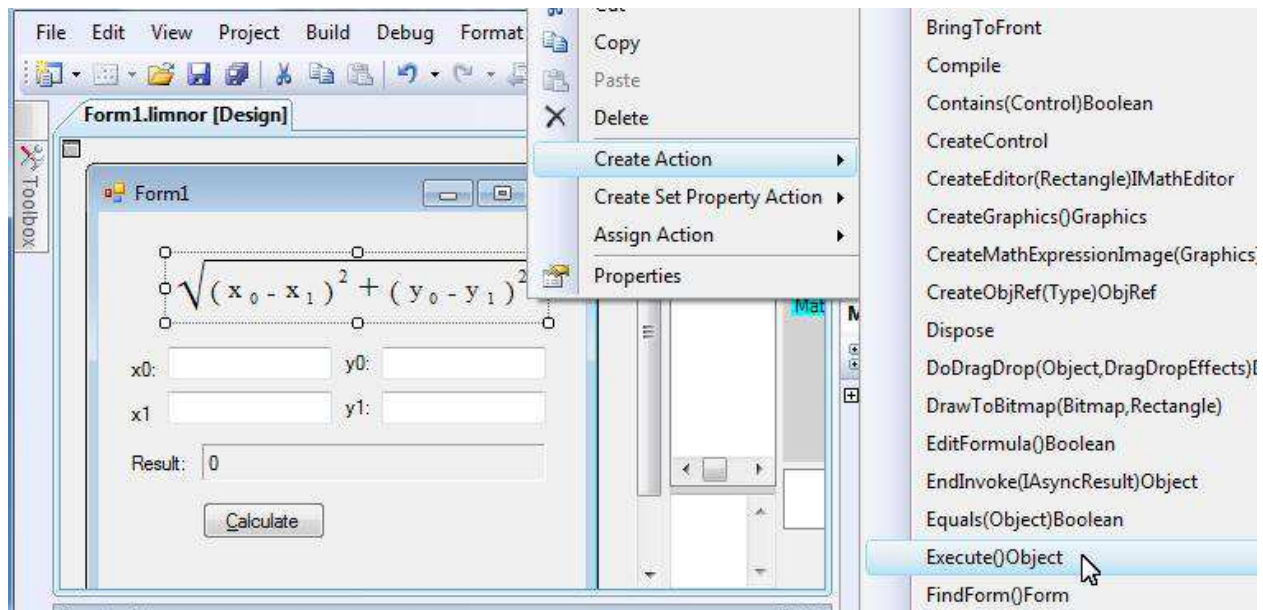
We may make links for the other variables:



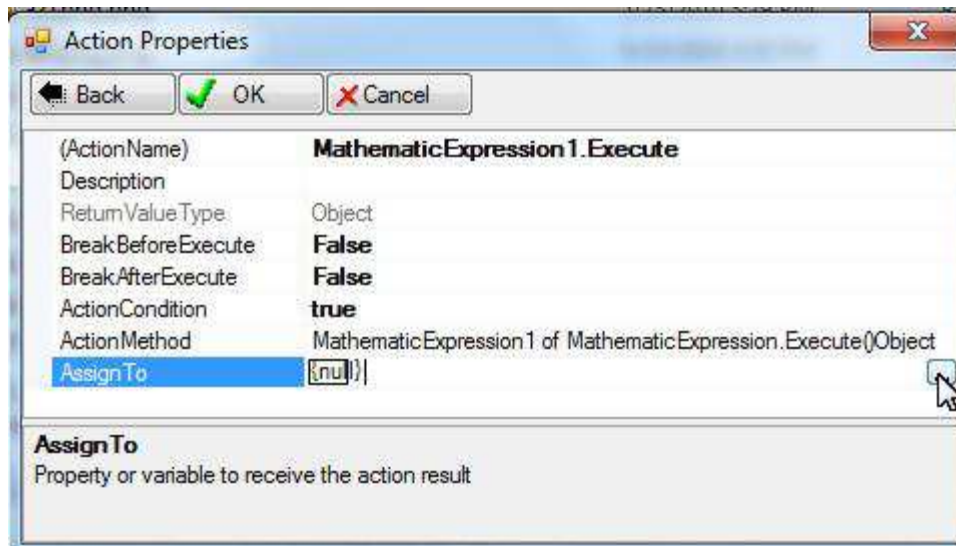
Let's use a label to display calculation result. To do the calculation, create an Execute action.

6.4 Use Execute action to do calculation

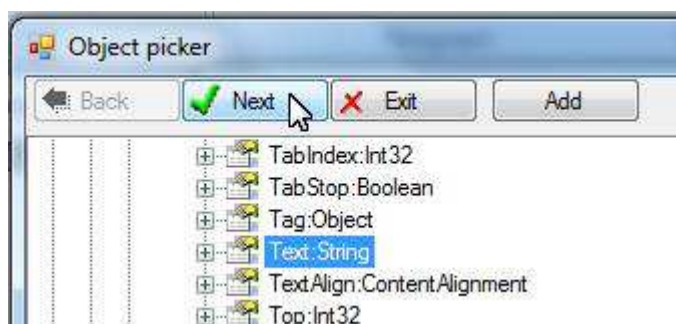
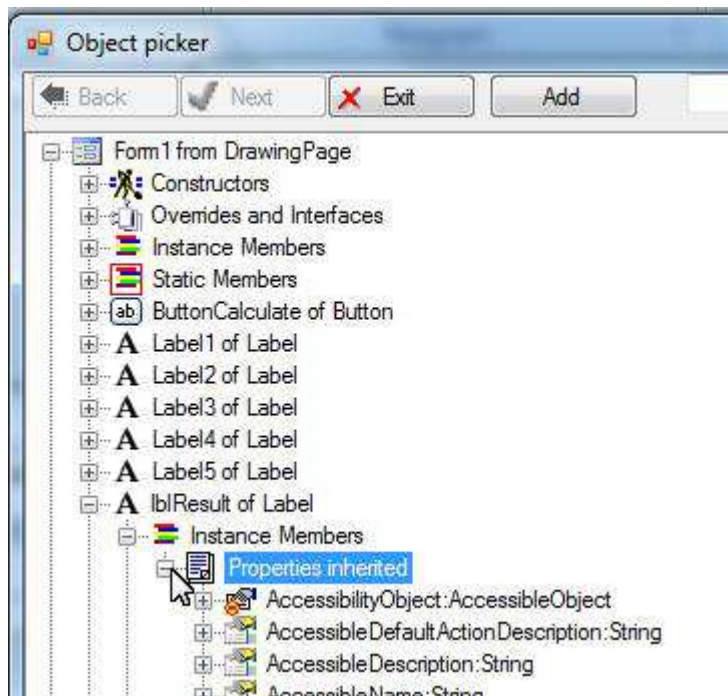
Right-click the Math Expression Control; choose "Create Action". Choose "Execute" method:



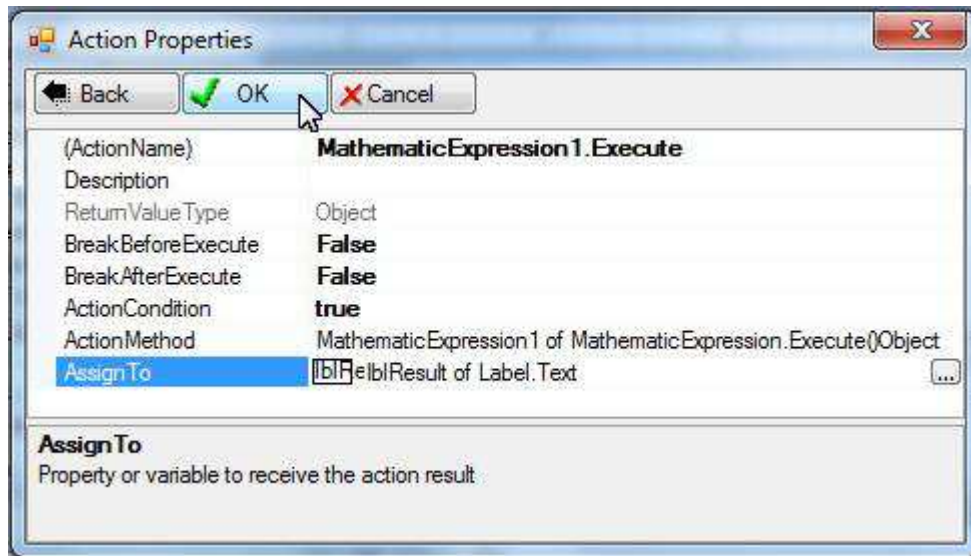
Set the AssignTo property of the action:



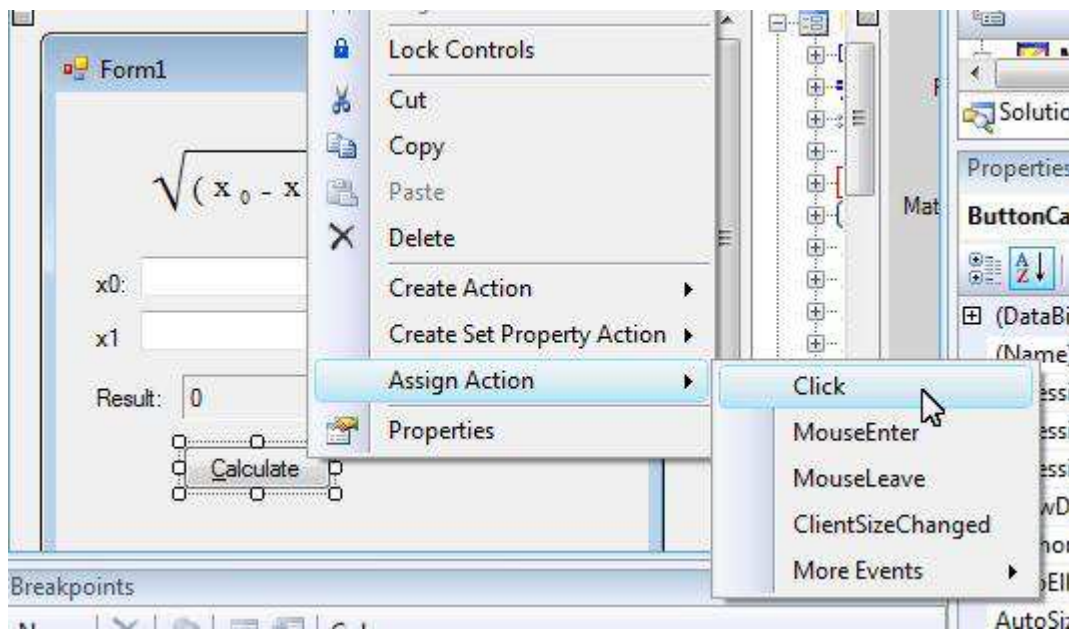
Select the Text property of the label:

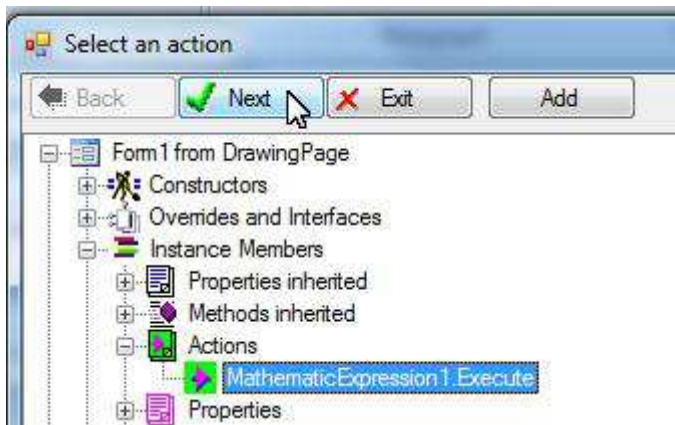


Click OK to finish creating the action:

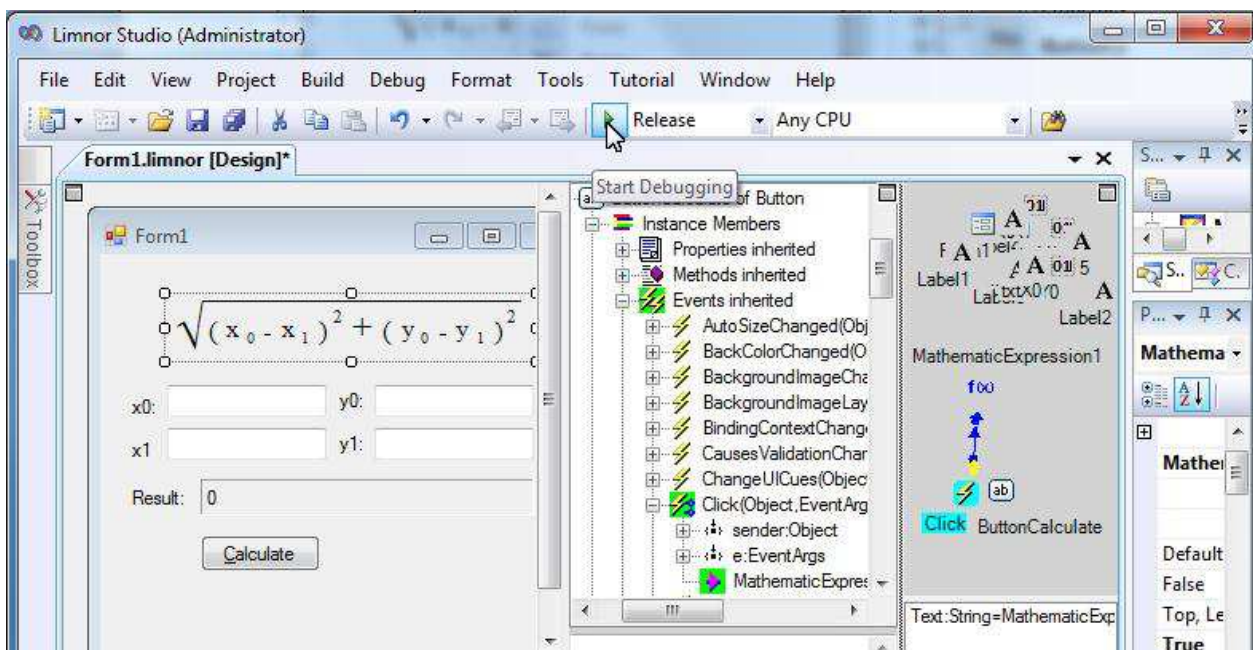


Assign the action to the Click event of the button:

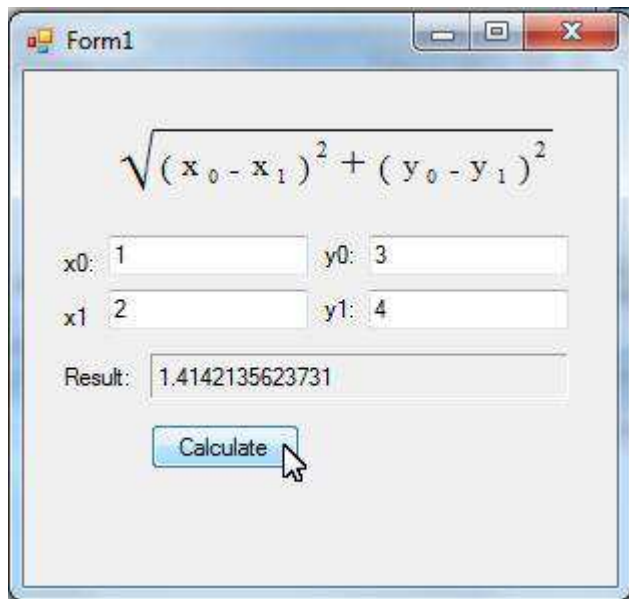




We may test it now:



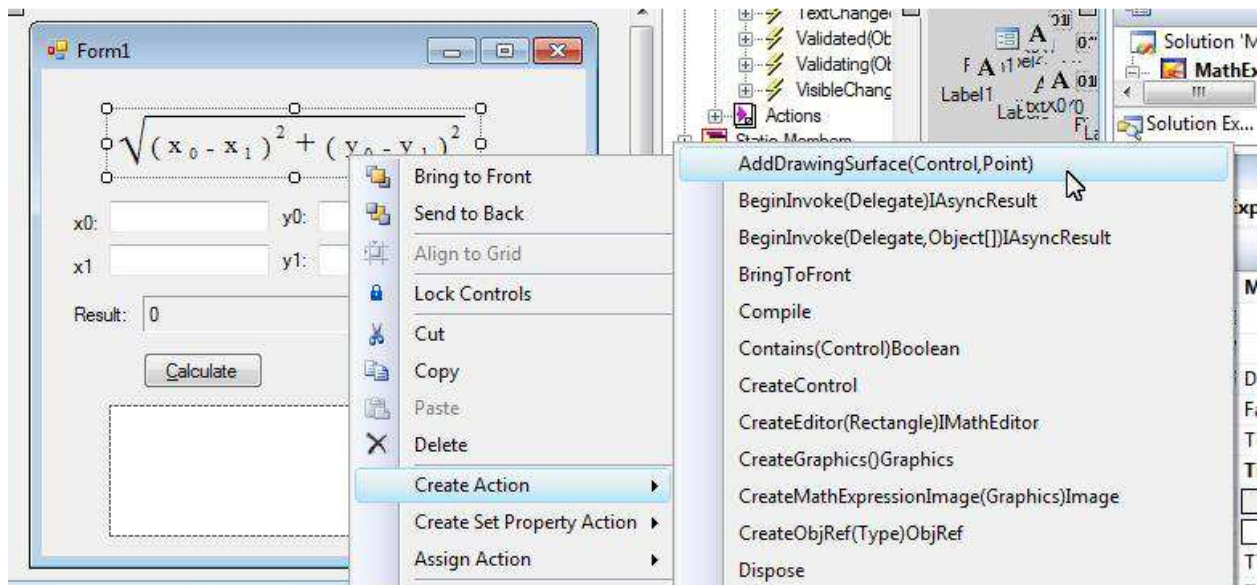
Type in some values in the text boxes. Click the button. The calculation result is displayed in the label:



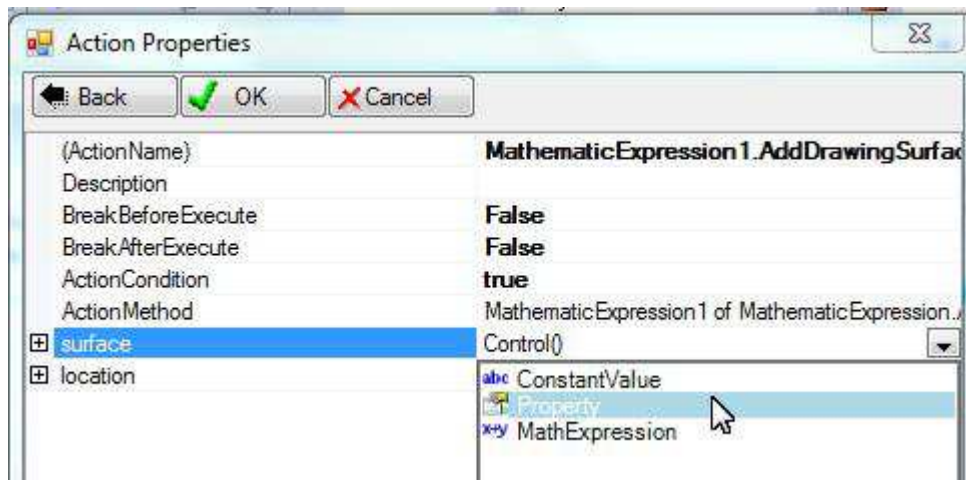
6.5 Display Math Expression on Controls

A Math Expression can be displayed on any controls, and on more than one controls. Here we use a Picture Box to demonstrate this feature. It works for other types of controls for examples, labels, text boxes, buttons, etc.

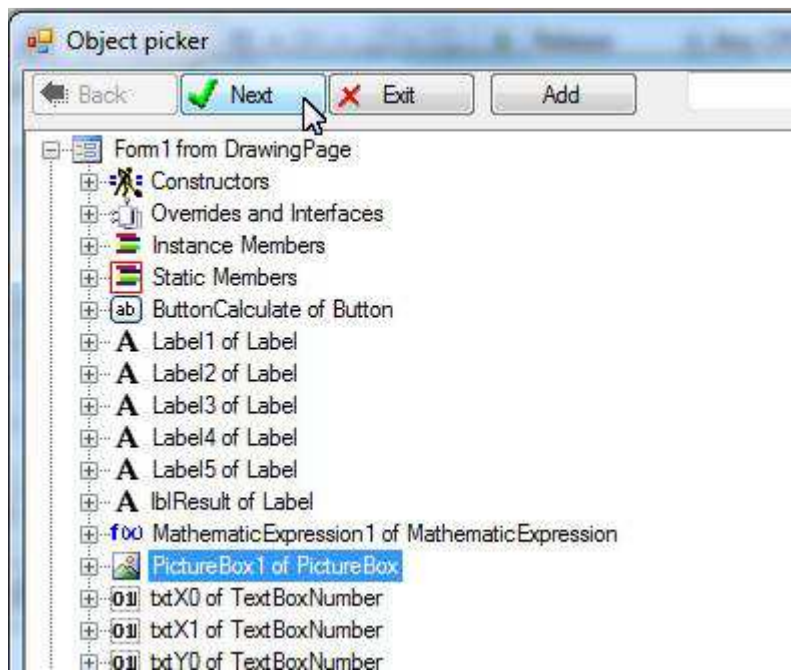
Right-click the Math Expression Control; choose “Create Action”; choose “AddDrawingSurface”:



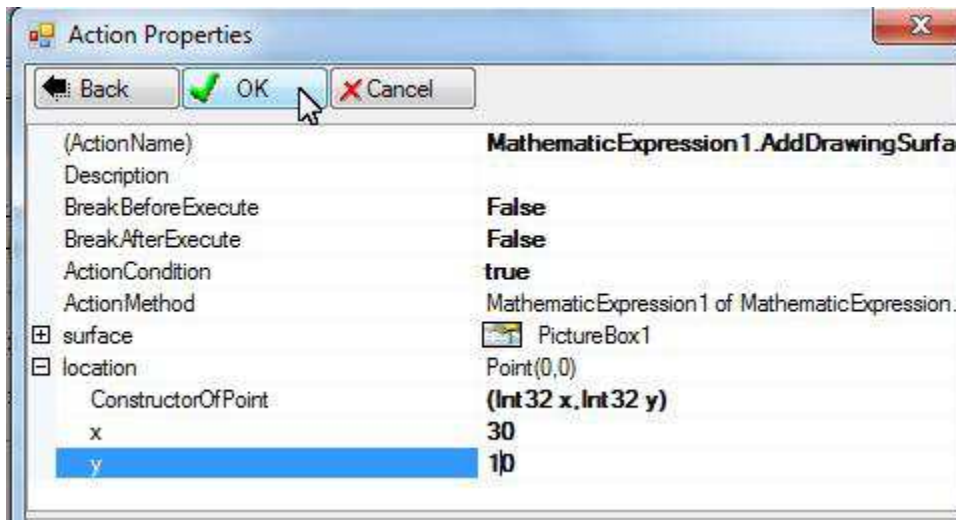
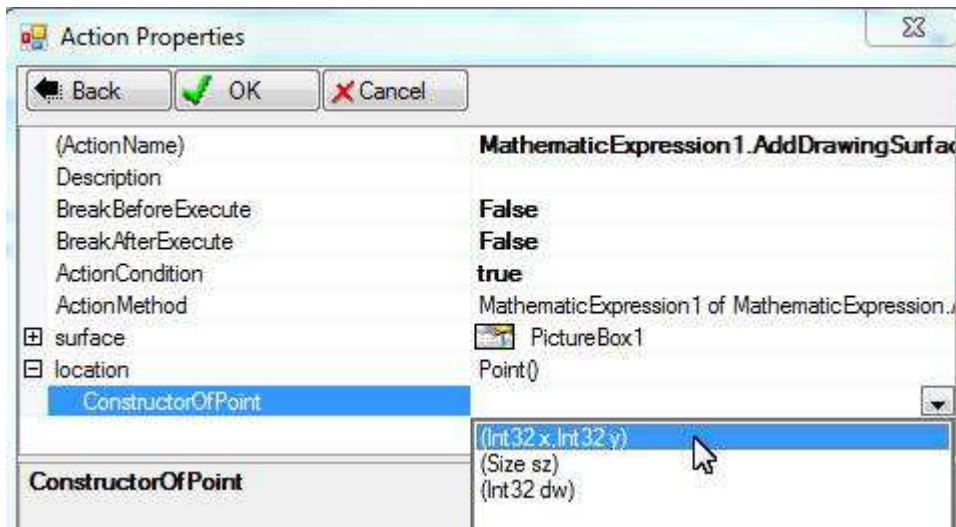
Choose Property for the surface:



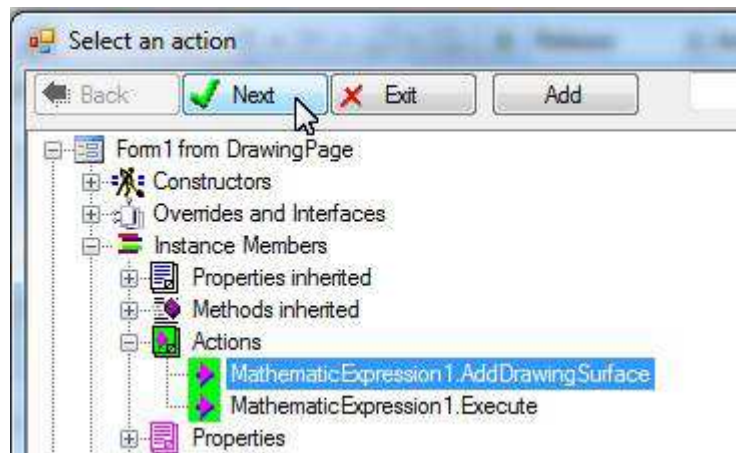
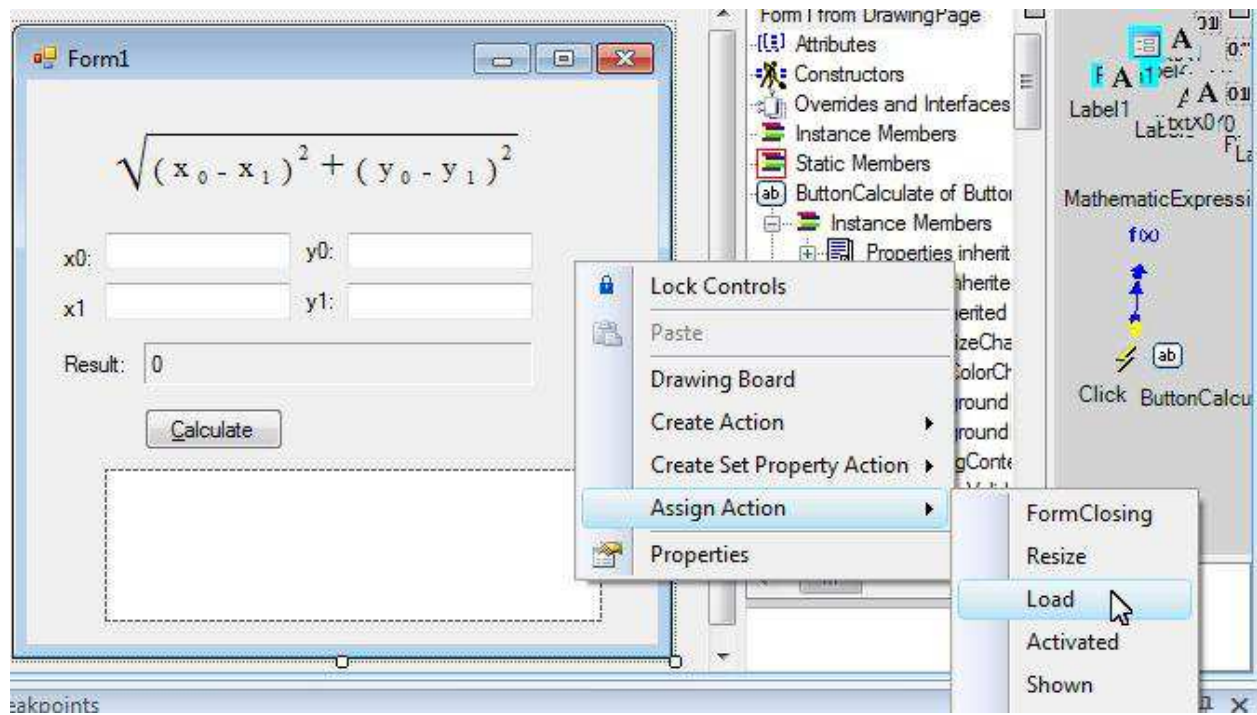
Select the Picture Box:



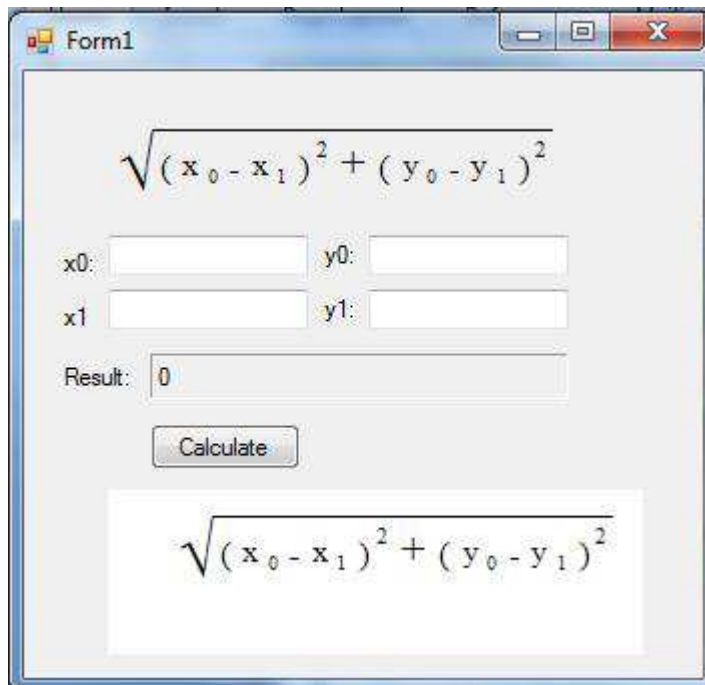
Enter starting point for displaying the Math Expression:



Let's assign this action to the Load event of the Form:



Run this application. We can see that the Math Expression is displayed on the Picture Box:

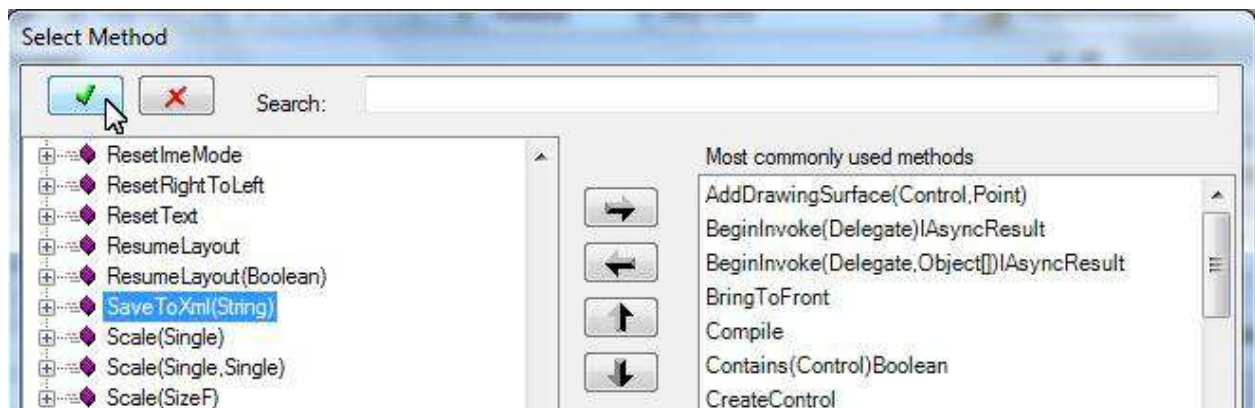


To remove the display of the Math Expression from a control surface, use a `RemoveDrawingSurface` action.

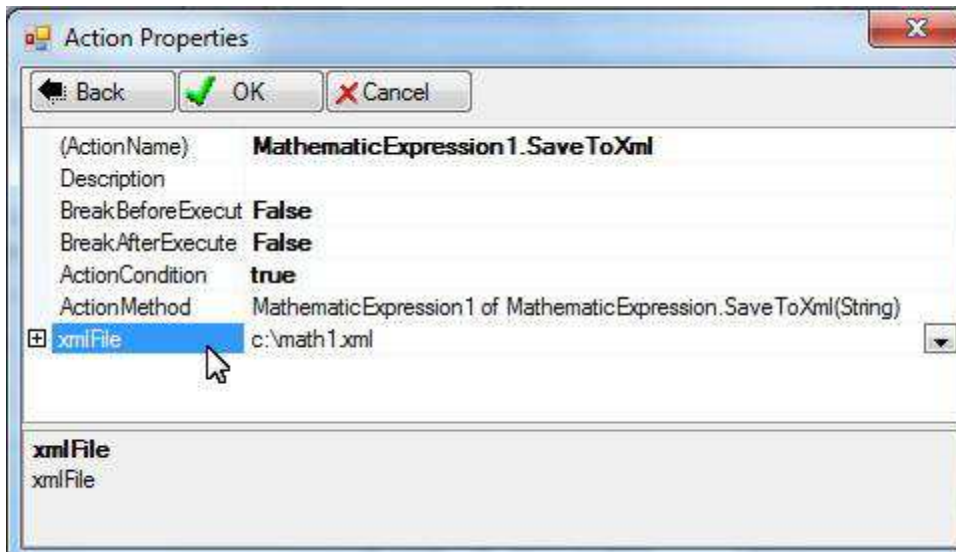
6.6 Save Formula to an XML File at Runtime

The formula in a Math Expression is represented in XML text, which can be retrieved by the `XmlString` property. A method, `SaveToXml`, is provided to save the `XmlString` property to a file.

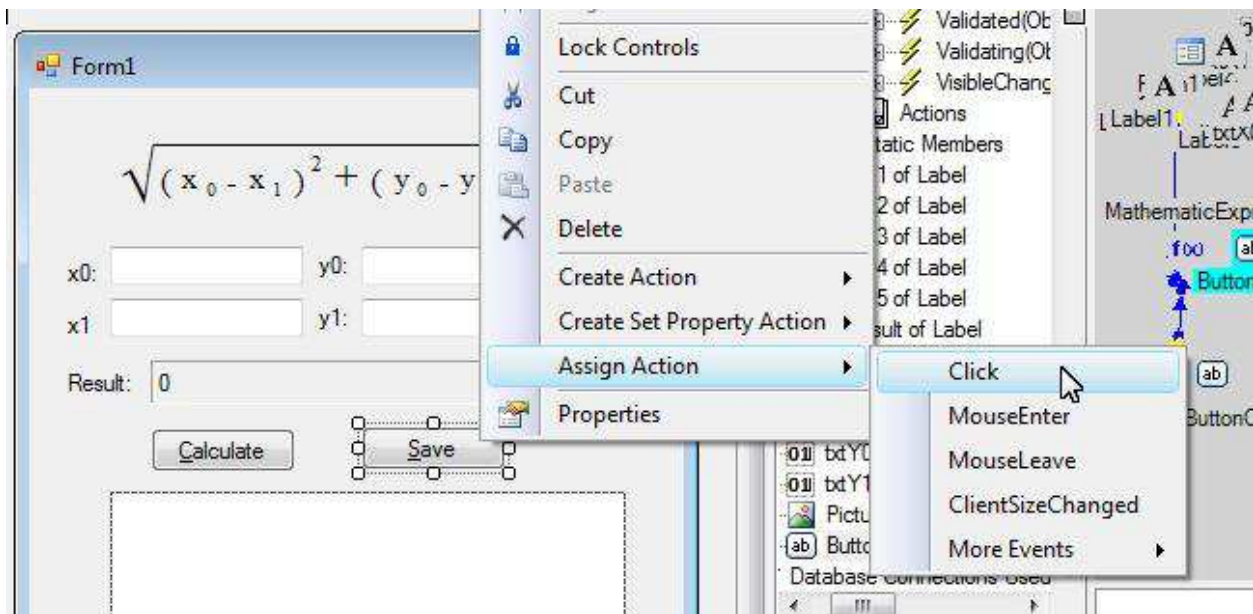
Right-click the Math Expression Control; choose “Create Action”. Choose “More Methods” and “All Methods”. Select “SaveToXml”:

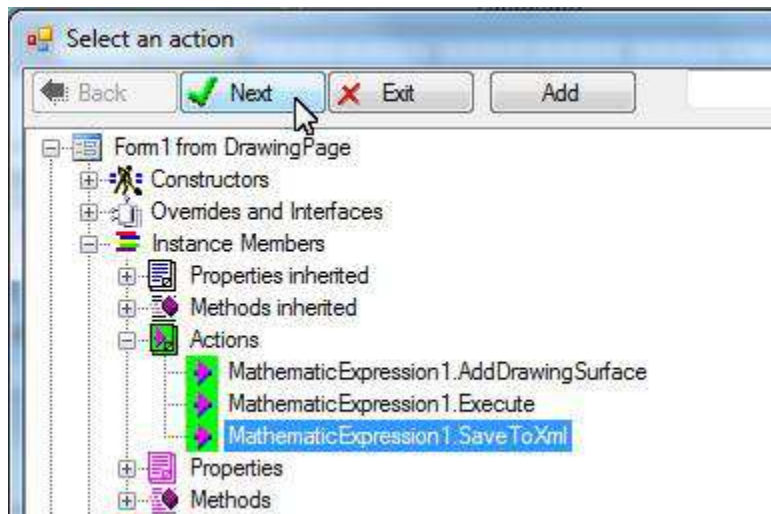


For simplicity, give it a constant file name:

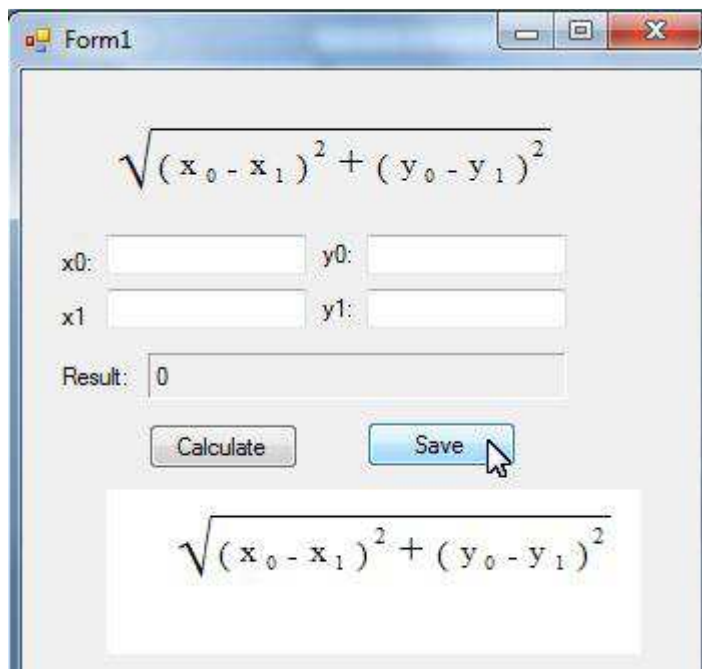


Assign the action to the Click event of a button:

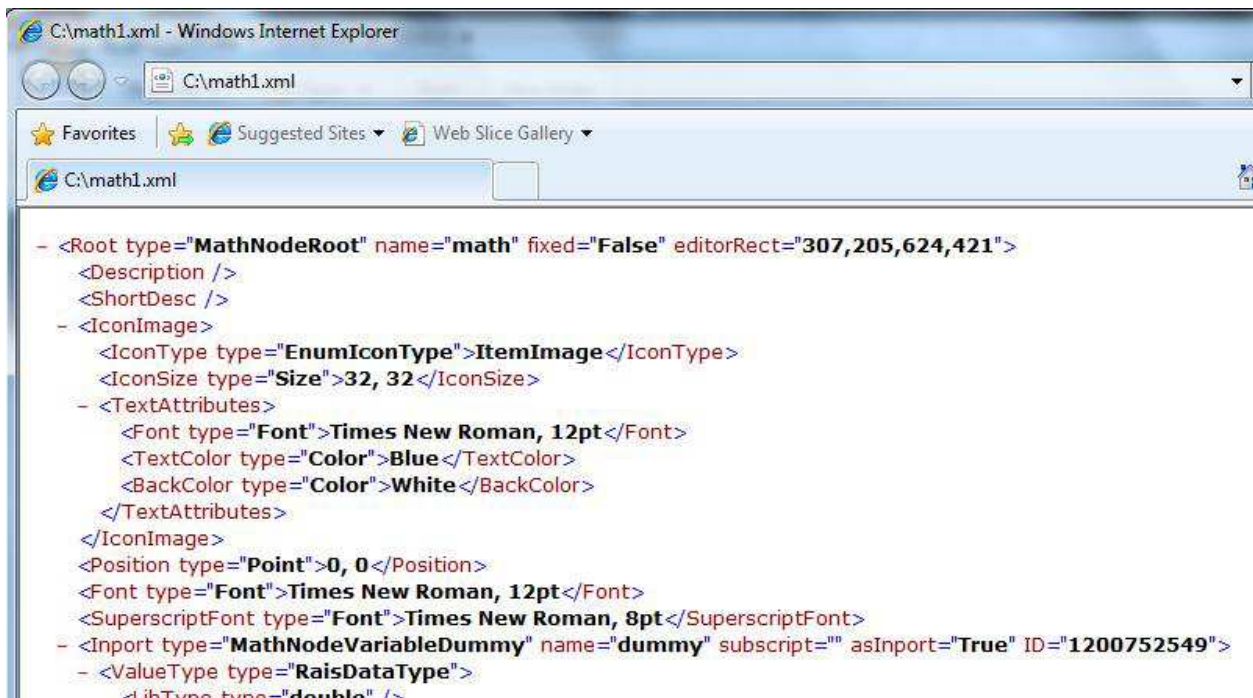




Run the application. Click the Save button.



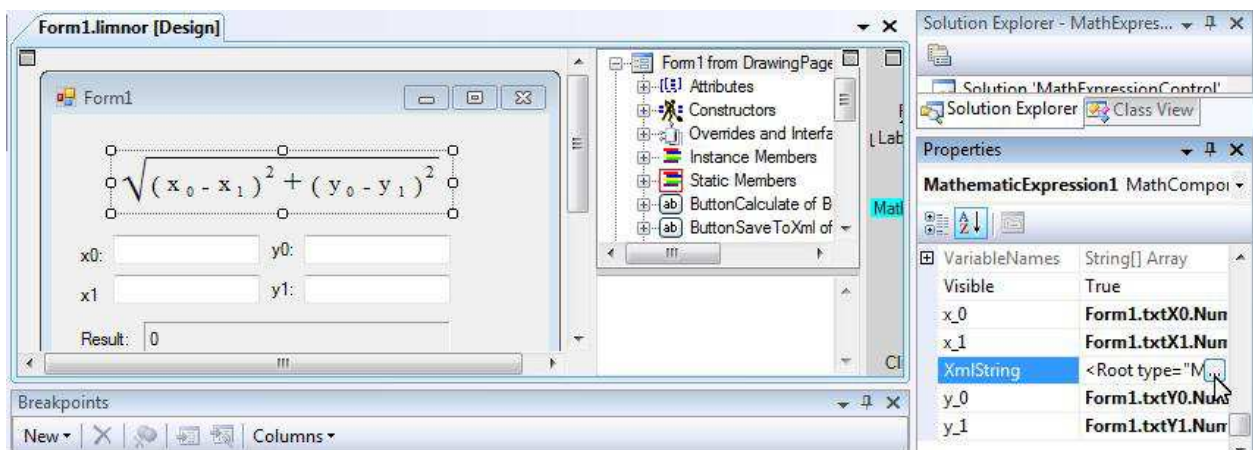
An XML file is generated:



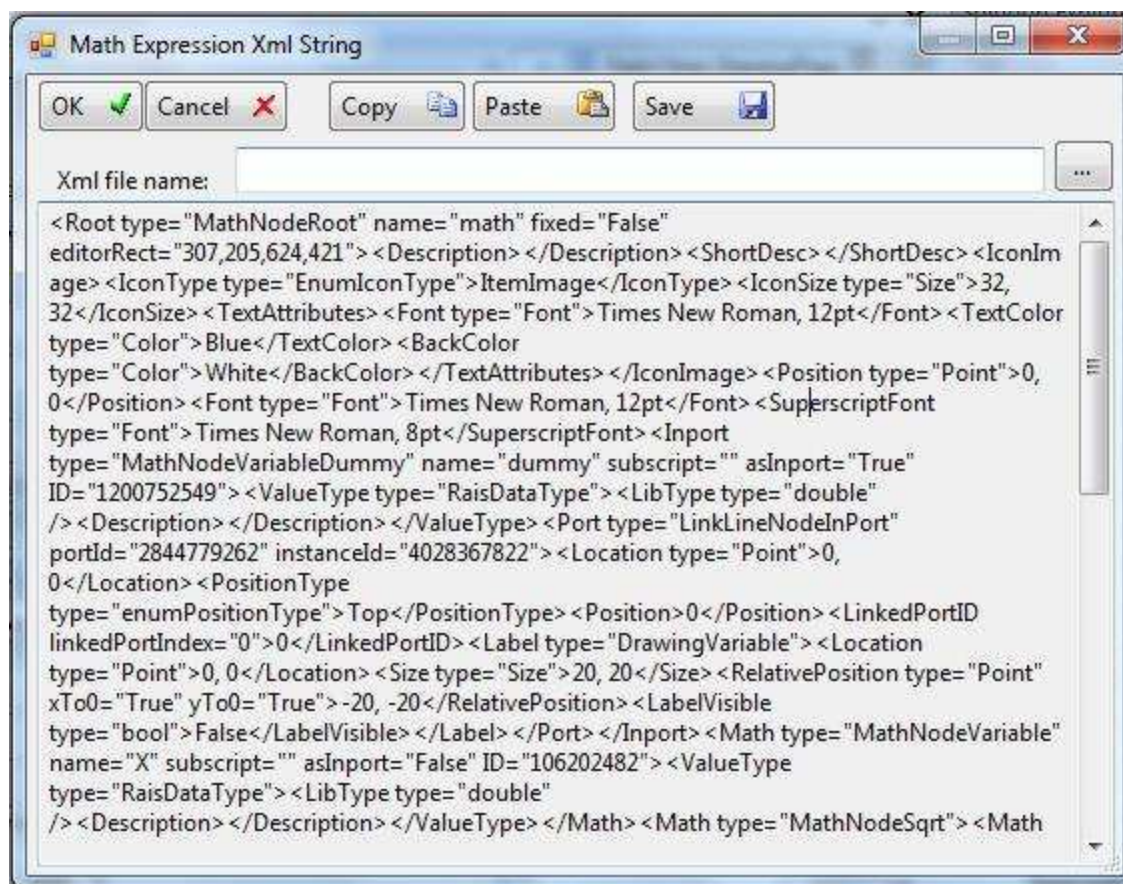
6.7 Save and Load Formula Xml at Design Time

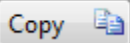
XmlString property can be used to save and load Xml contents of the formula at design time. At runtime it may also be used via a PropertyGrid control.

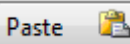
Access the XmlString property:

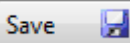



A dialogue box shows the Xml representation of the Math Expression. It does not allow editing manually because that will be too likely to make mistakes.




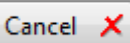
 -- Copy the xml contents to the Clipboard. Then the contents can be pasted to emails, text files, or other places as needed

 -- If others send Xml contents to you by email then the contents can be pasted here.

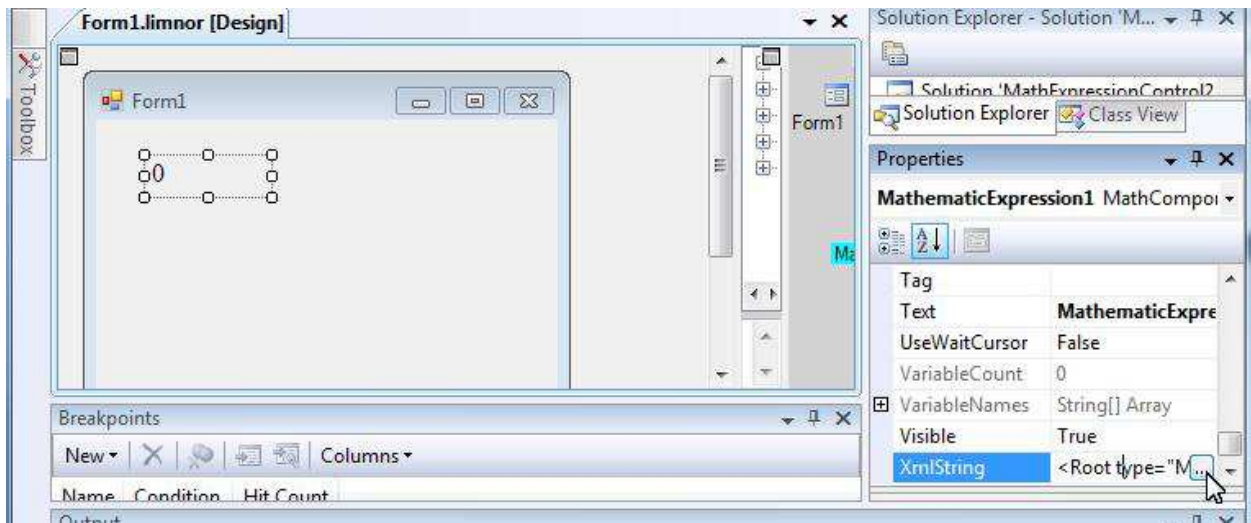
 -- Save the current Xml contents to a file. It will display a save-file dialogue box for you specifying the file.


 -- Show an Open-File dialogue box to select a xml file to load. The file contents will be displayed in the text box

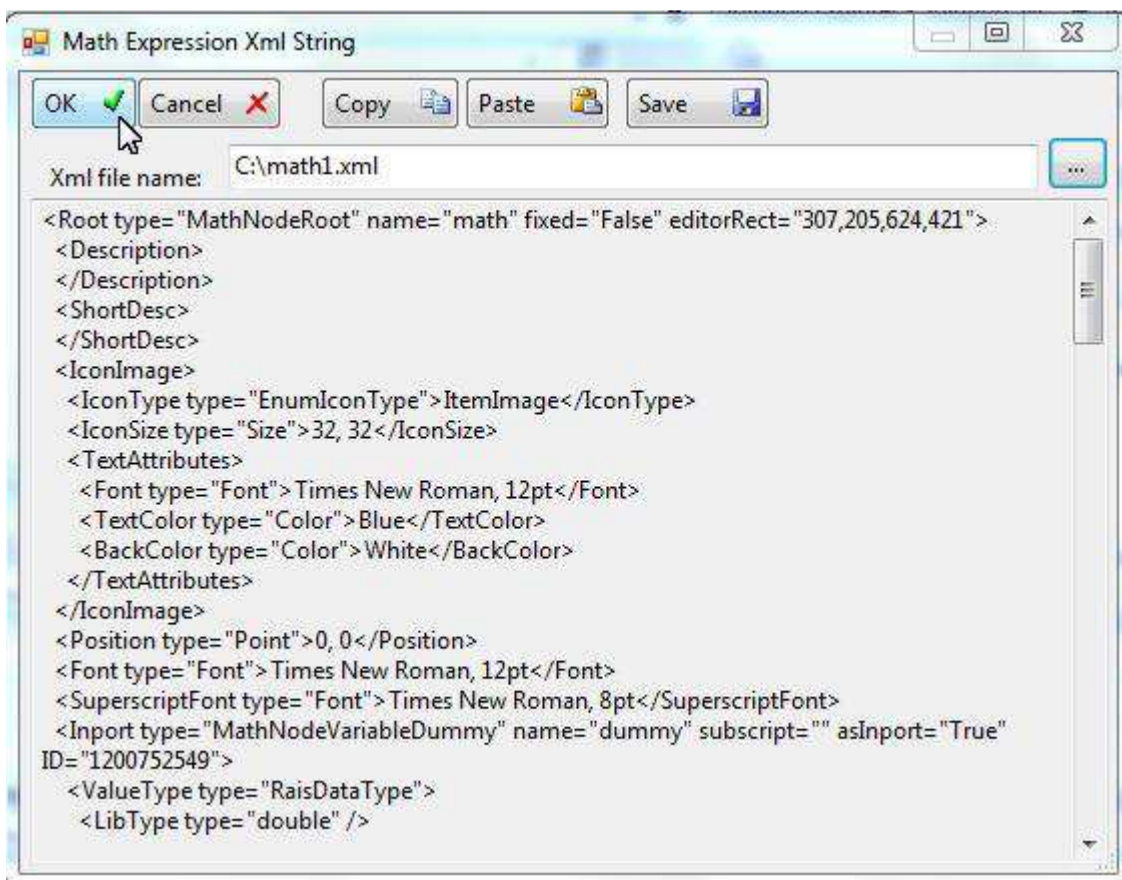
 -- Close the dialogue box and use the xml contents in the text box for the Math expression.

 -- Close the dialogue box and do not change the Math Expression.

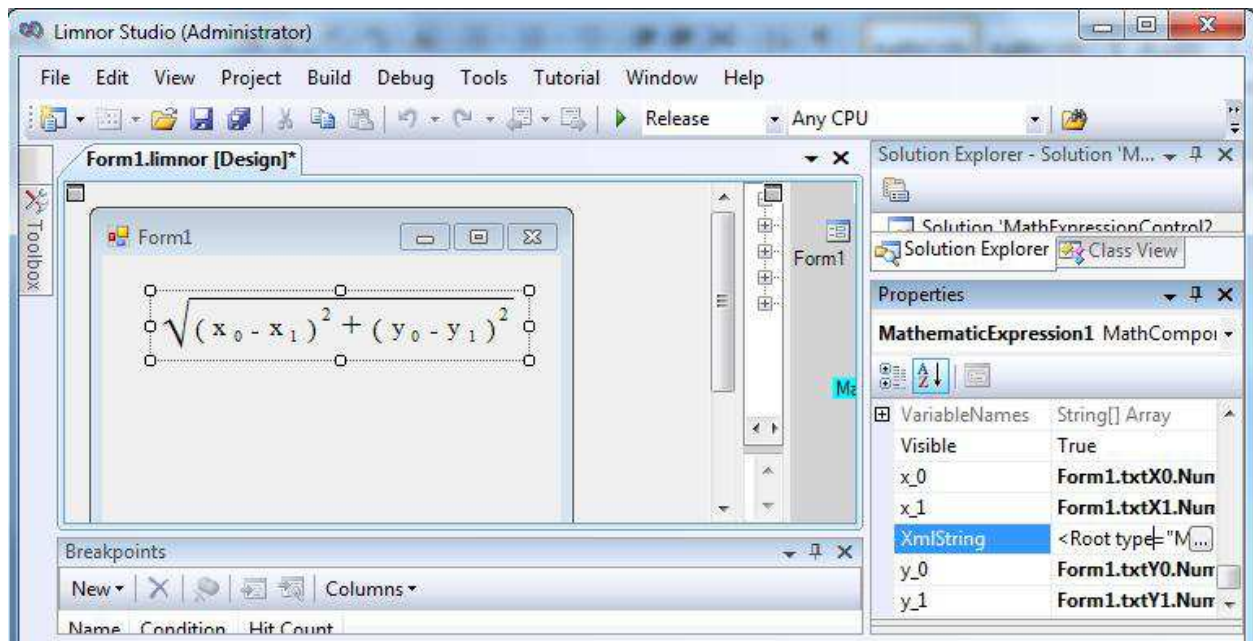
Suppose we create another application and use a Math Expression Control which is empty. We access its XmlString property:



We created a xml file at c:\math1.xml before. Now we load this file by clicking . The xml contents are loaded into the text box:

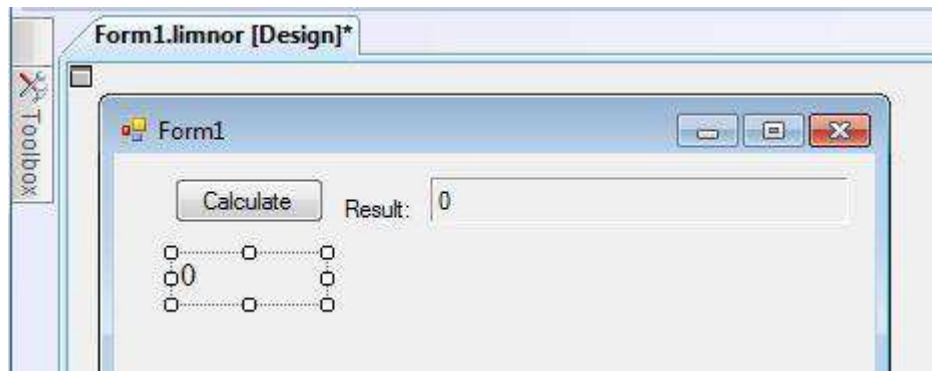


Click OK. We have the Math Expression represented by the xml contents:

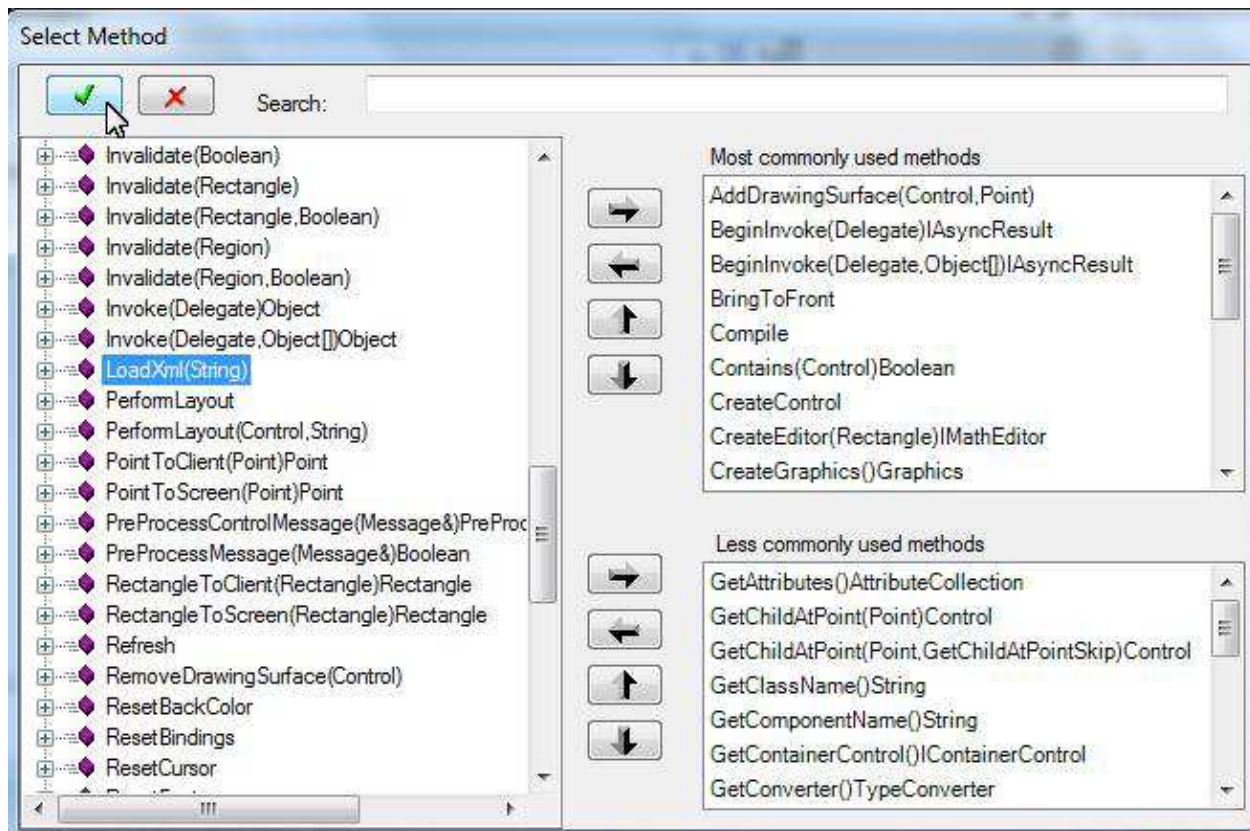


6.8 Load Xml at Runtime

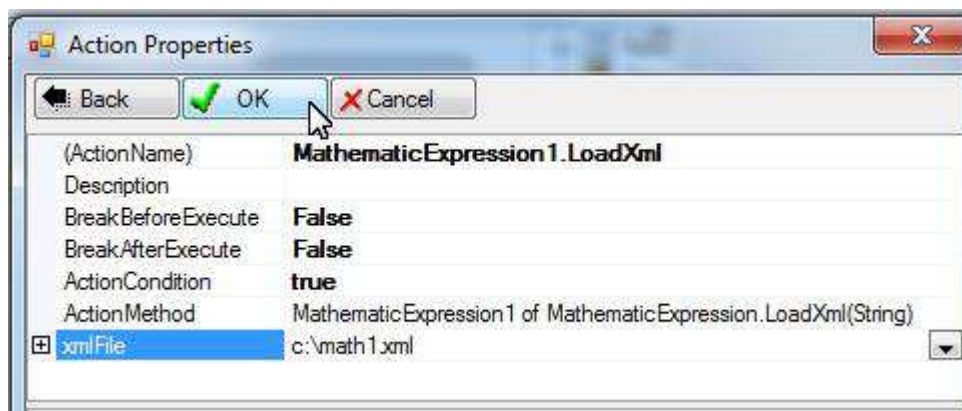
Create a new application and add a Math Expression Control to a form. As we did before we add a label for displaying calculation result. Create an Execute action and assign it to the Click event of a button.



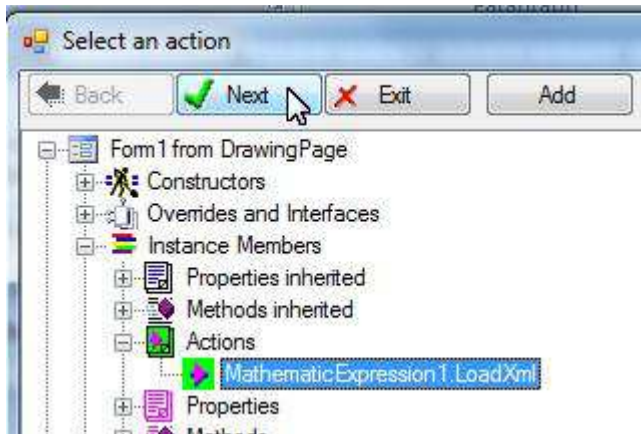
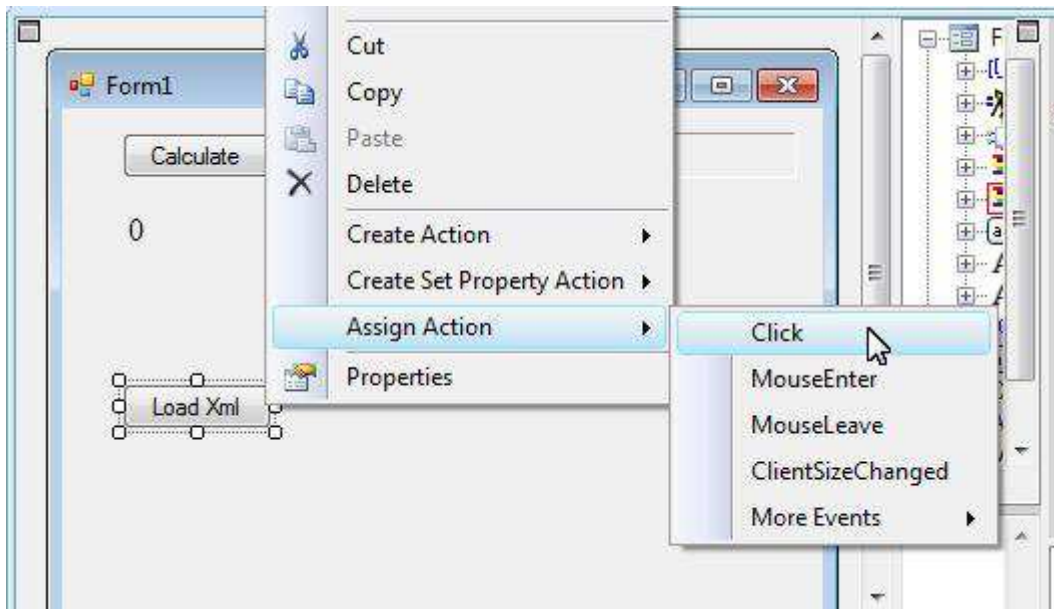
LoadXml method allows us to load math expression from an xml file. Right-click the Math Expression Control; choose “Create Action”; choose “More Methods”; choose “All methods”. Select LoadXml:



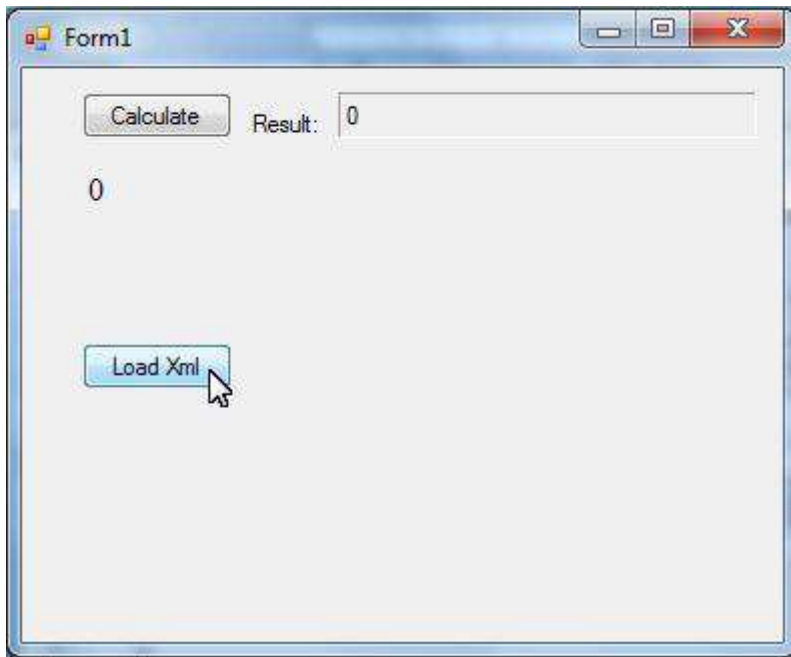
For simplicity, use a constant file name for this action:



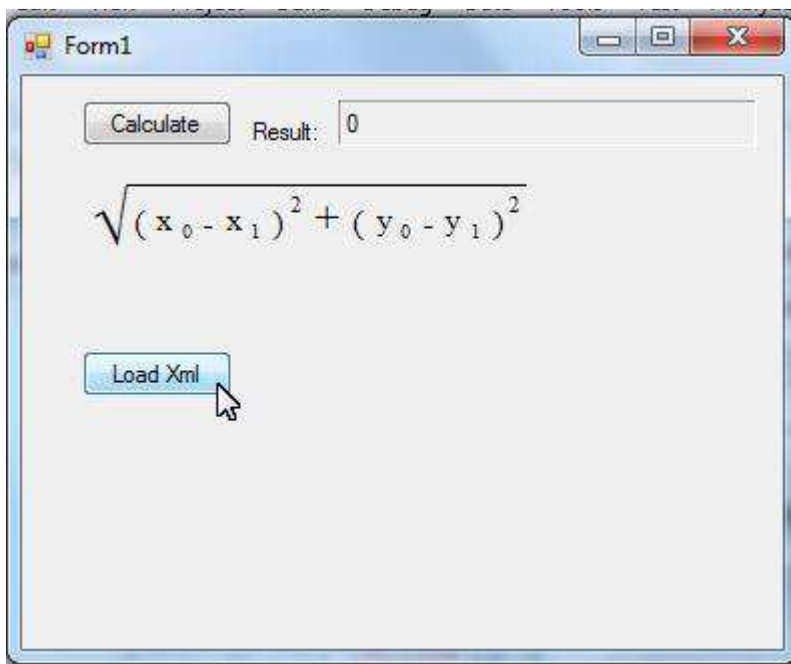
Assign the action to the Click event of a button:



Run the application to test. Click the Load Xml button:

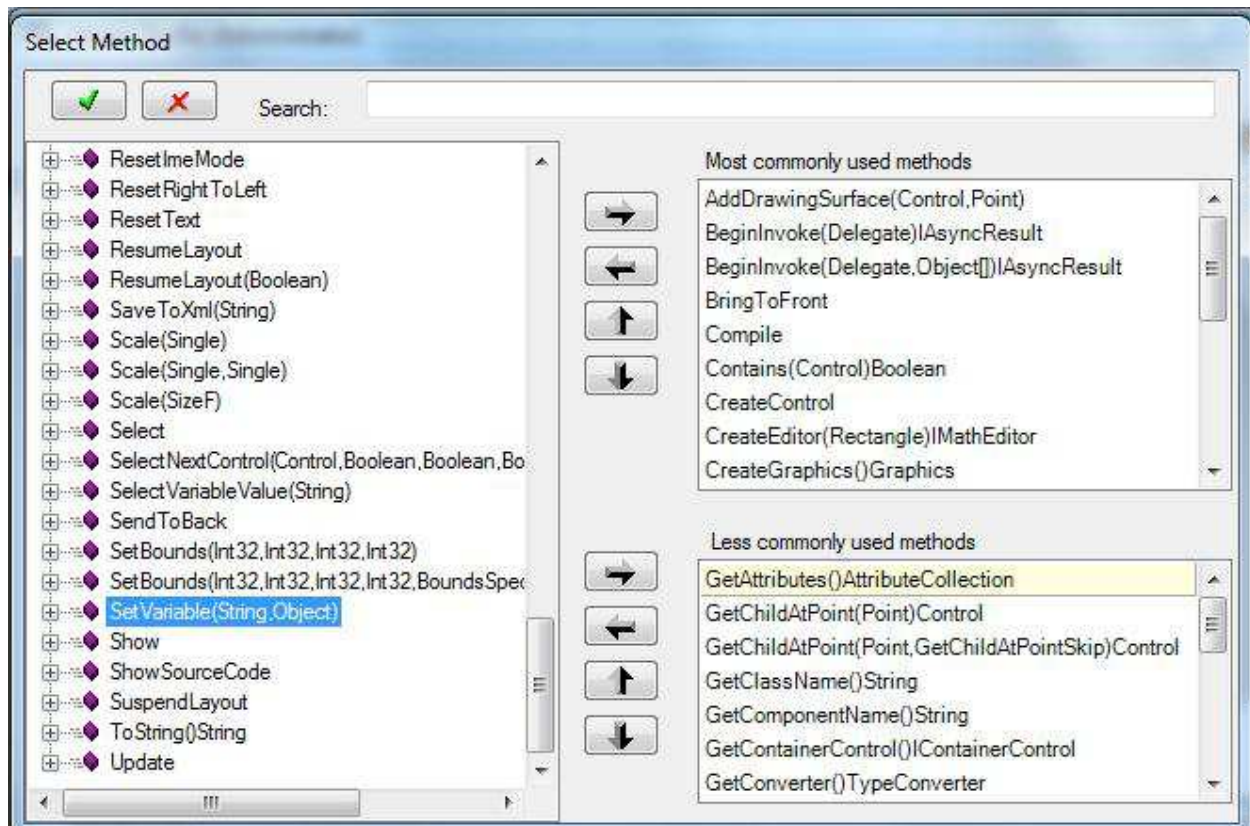


The formula represented by the Xml file displays:

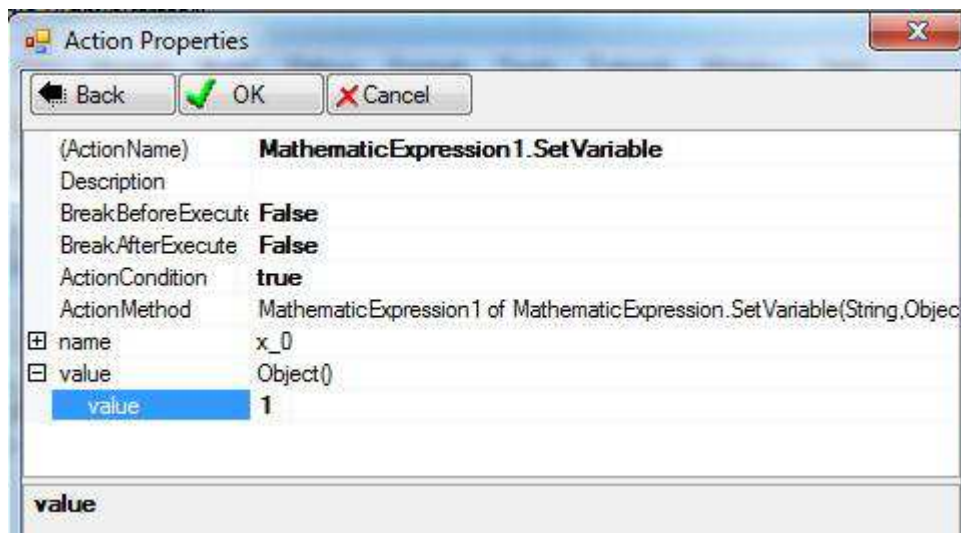


6.9 Set variable value by name

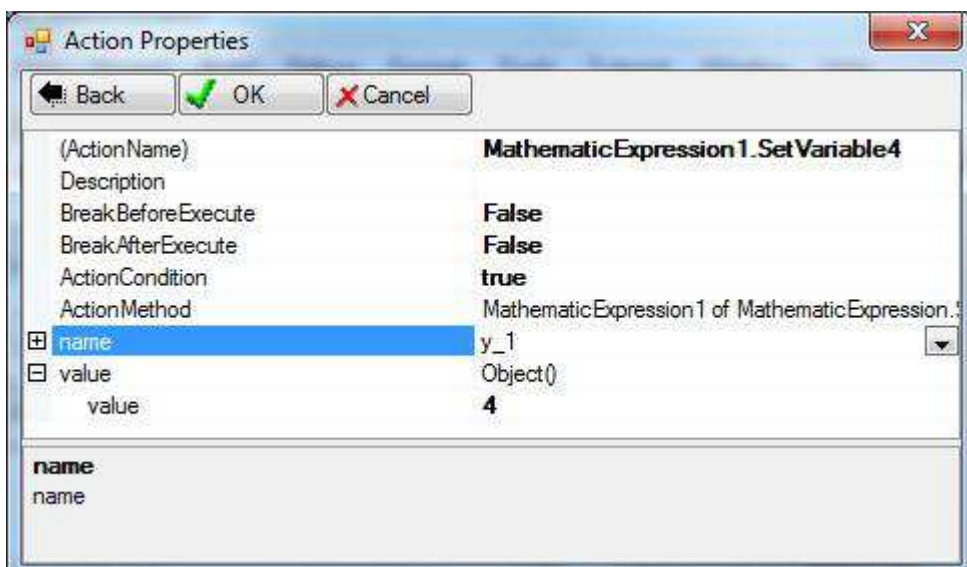
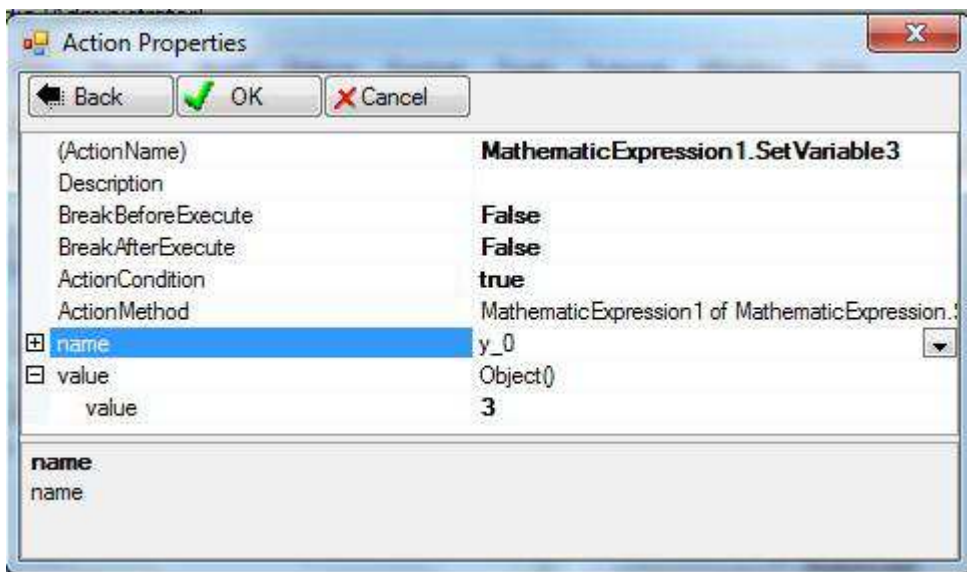
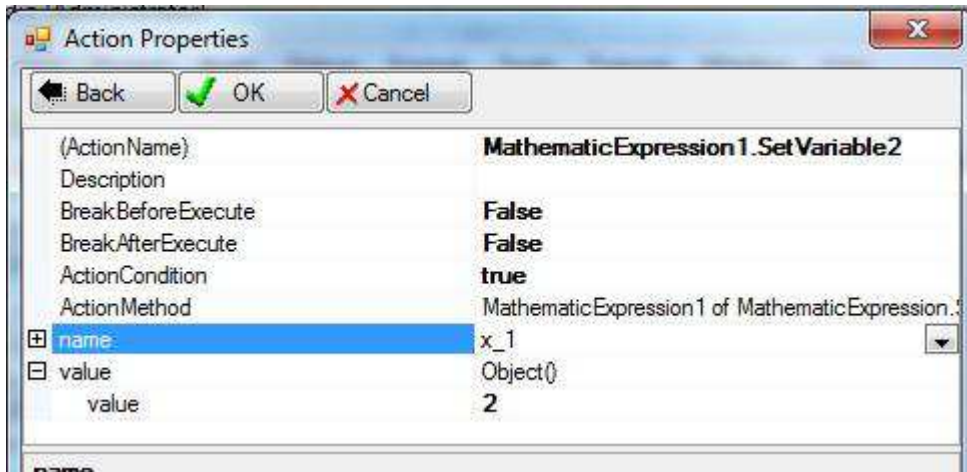
After we load the math expression from xml, we need give variables values before doing calculation. SetVariable method allows us to do that. Right-click the Math Expression Control; choose "Create Action"; choose "More Methods"; choose "All Methods". Select SetVariable method:



“name” property of this action is the name of the variable. x_0 is named as x_0 , “value” property of this action is the value to be given to the variable:



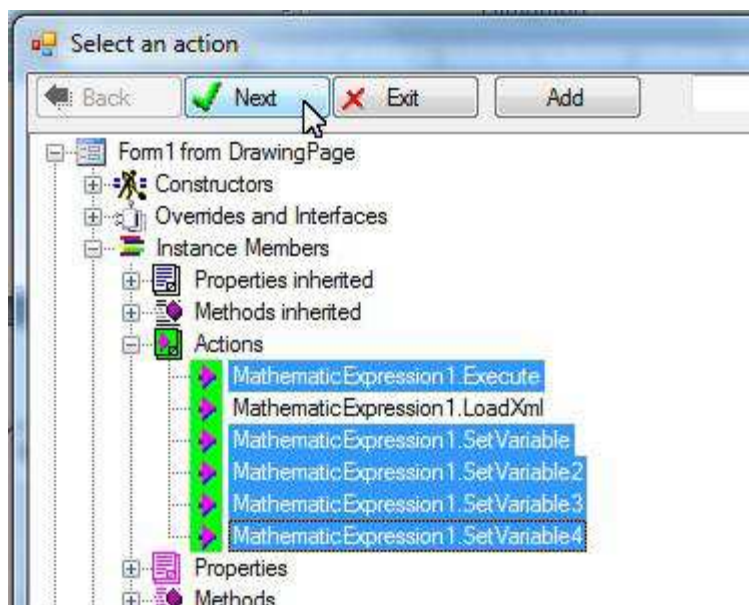
For each variable, create an action to give value:



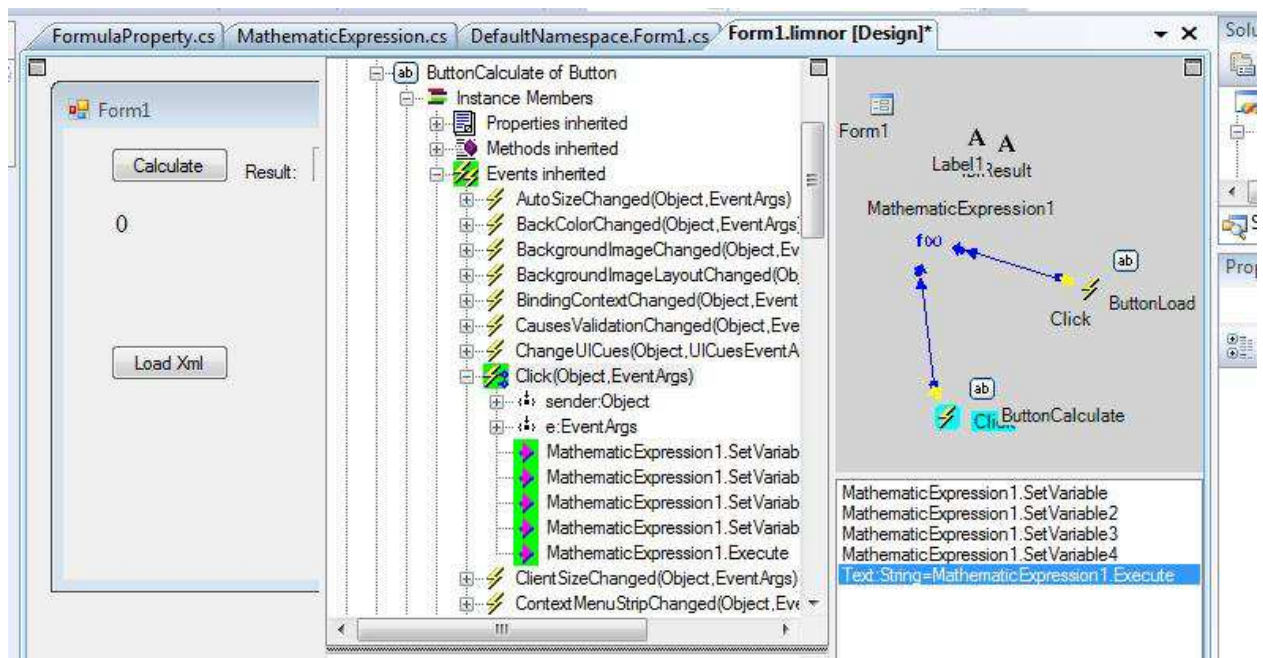
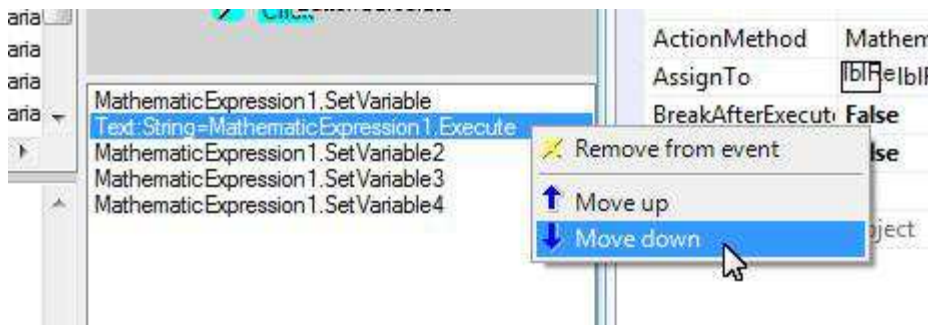
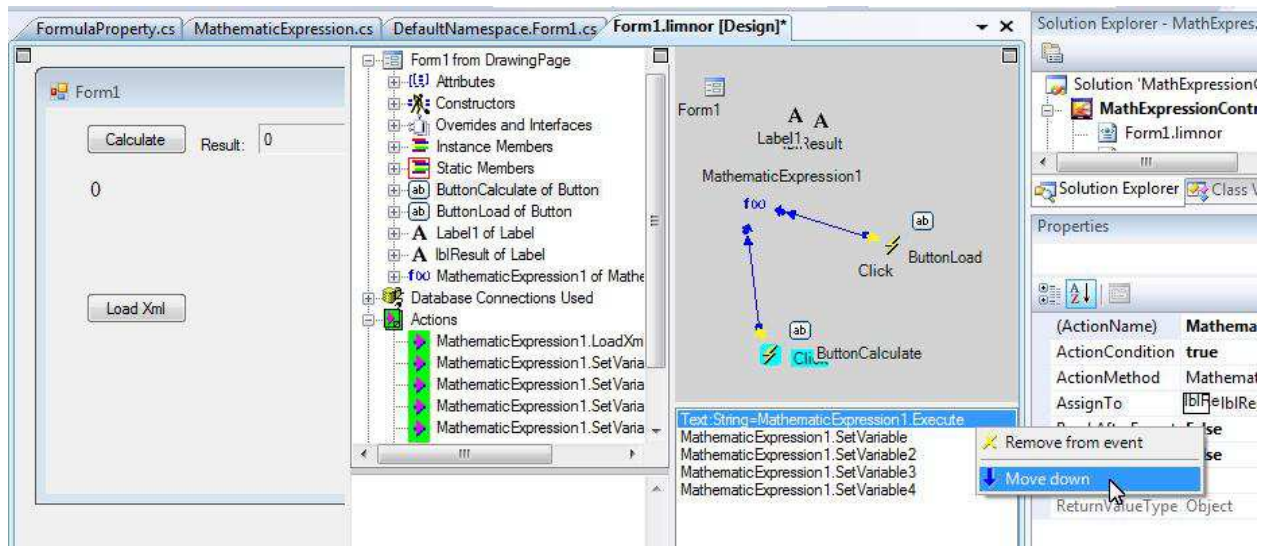
Assign the actions to the Click event of the Calculate button:



Select the actions to be used:

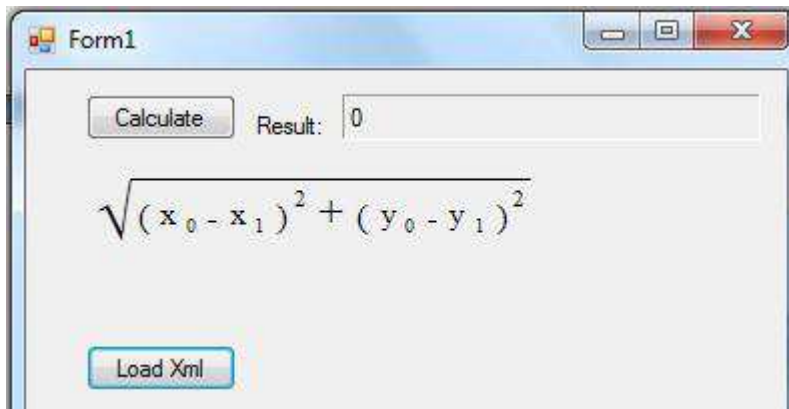
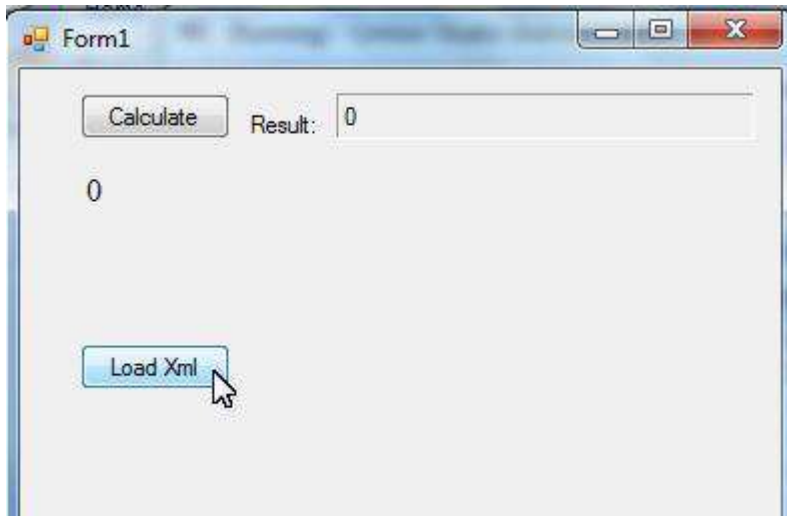


We need to move the calculation action to the end of the action list for the Click event because the calculation should be done after all variables get their values:

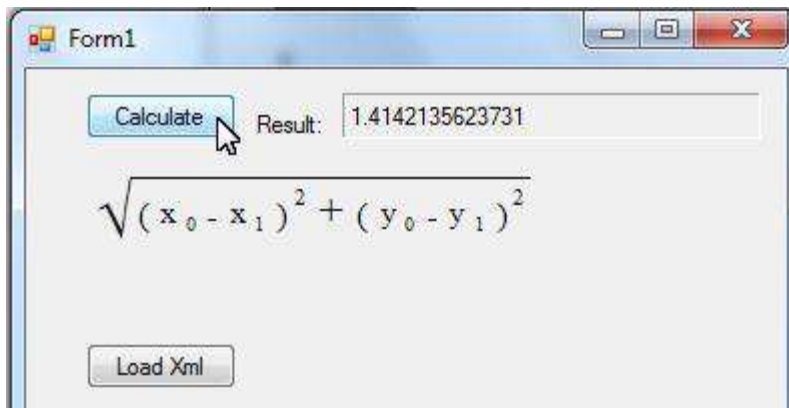


We may test it now.

Click Load Xml button to load the math expression from the xml file:



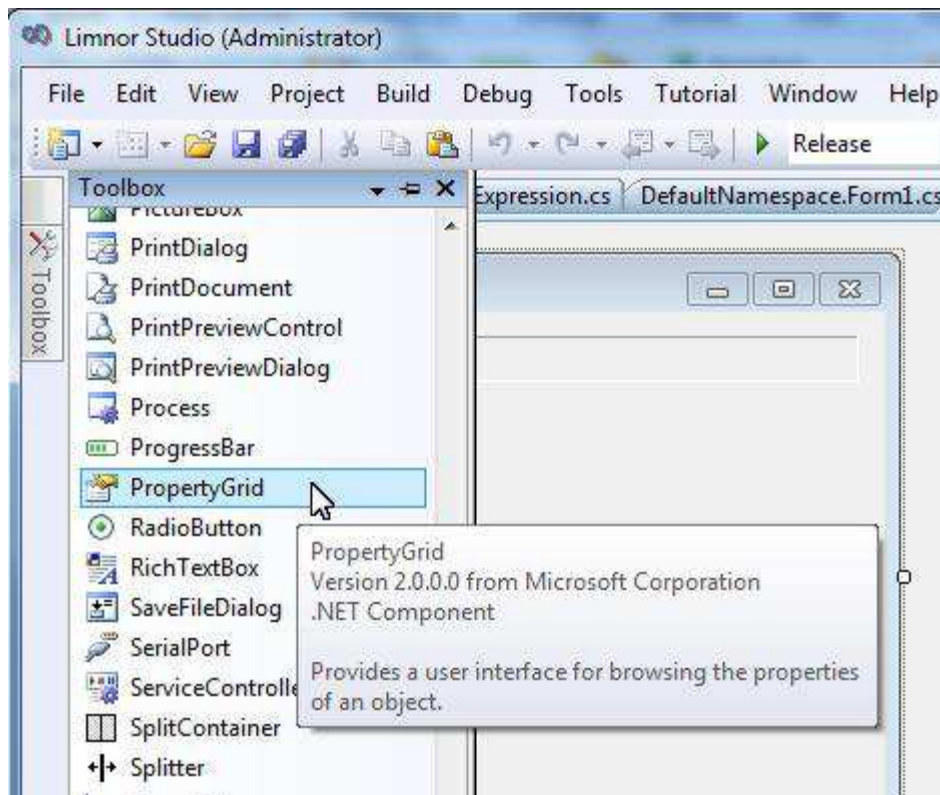
Click Calculate button:



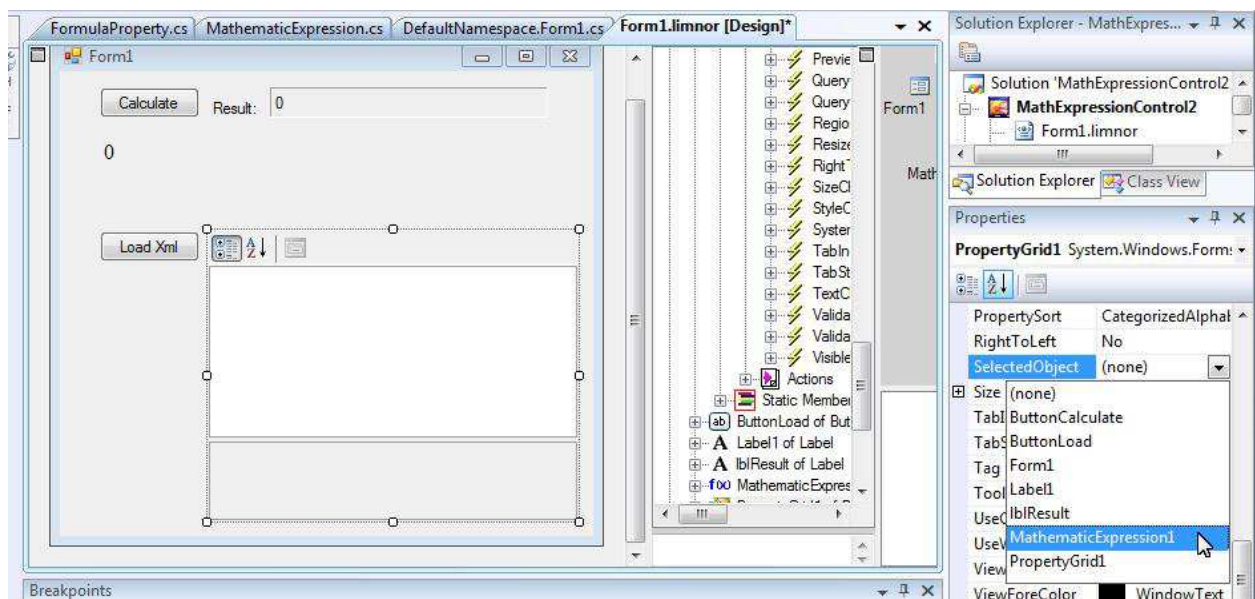
6.10 Use PropertyGrid to give variables values

We need to know the variable names in order to use SetVariable actions. We may use a PropertyGrid to give variable values because a PropertyGrid tells us the variable names and allows us to give values.

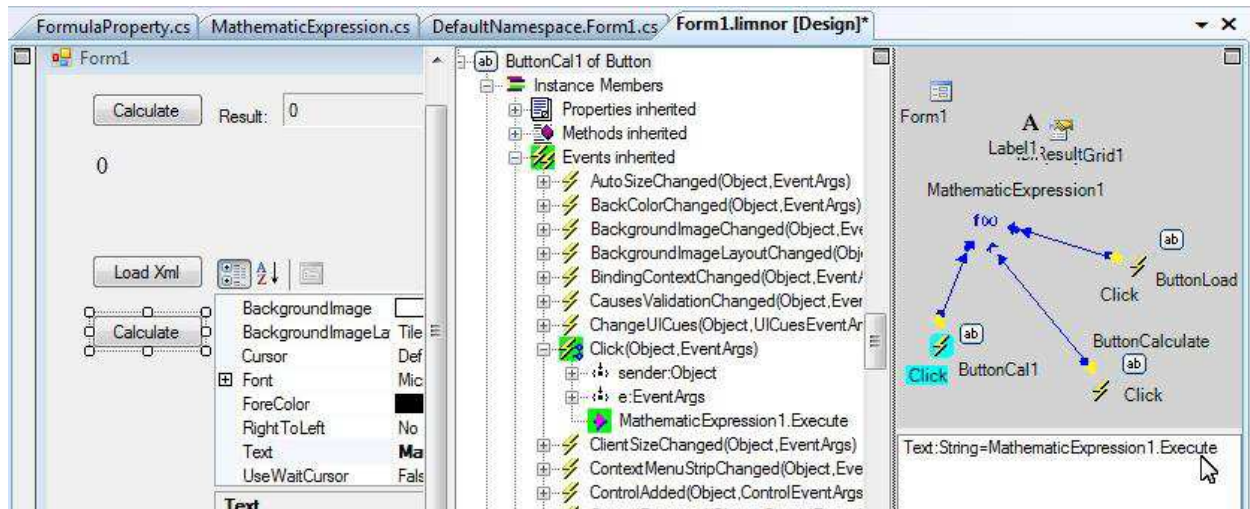
Add a PropertyGrid to the form:



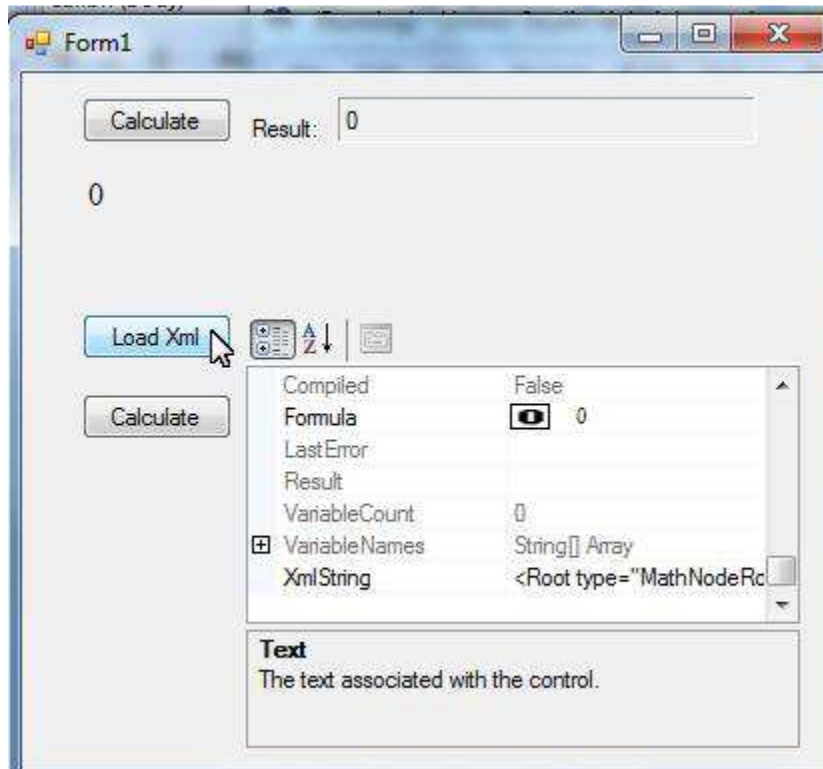
Set its SelectedObject to the Math Expression Control:



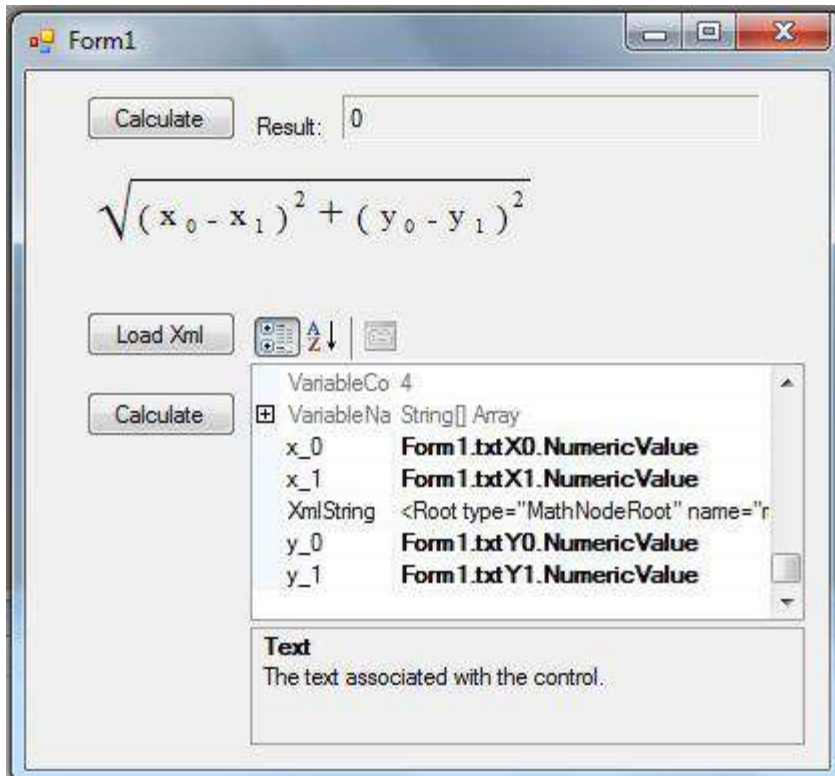
Add another Calculate button. Only assign the Execute action to it:



Run the application. Click Load Xml button:

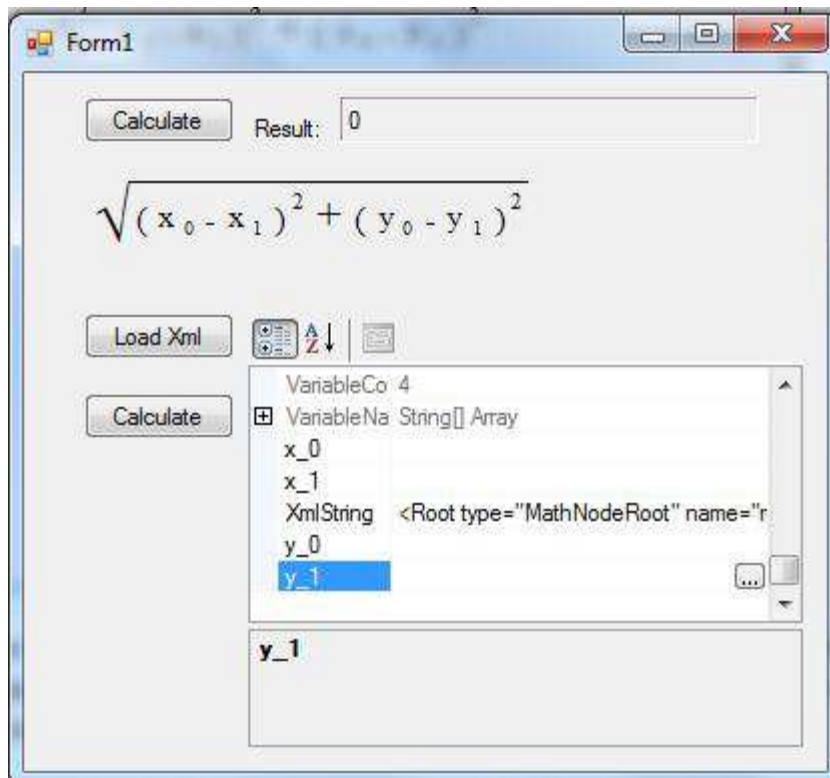


We can see that the variables appear in the PropertyGrid:

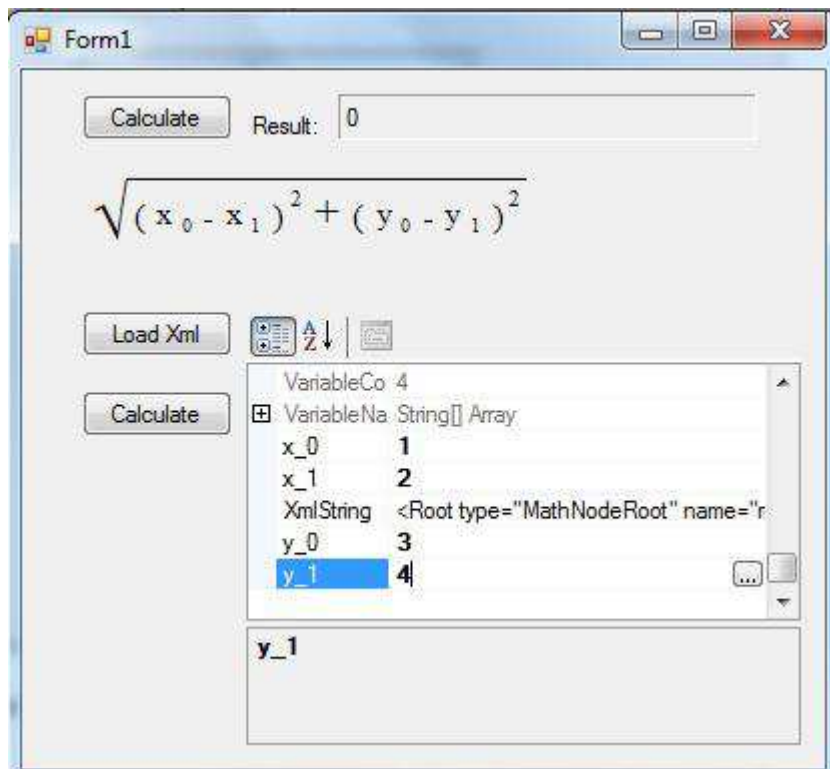


Note that the variables show some value mappings because when the Xml file was generated the mappings were there. But those mappings are not valid in this application because we do not have those text boxes.

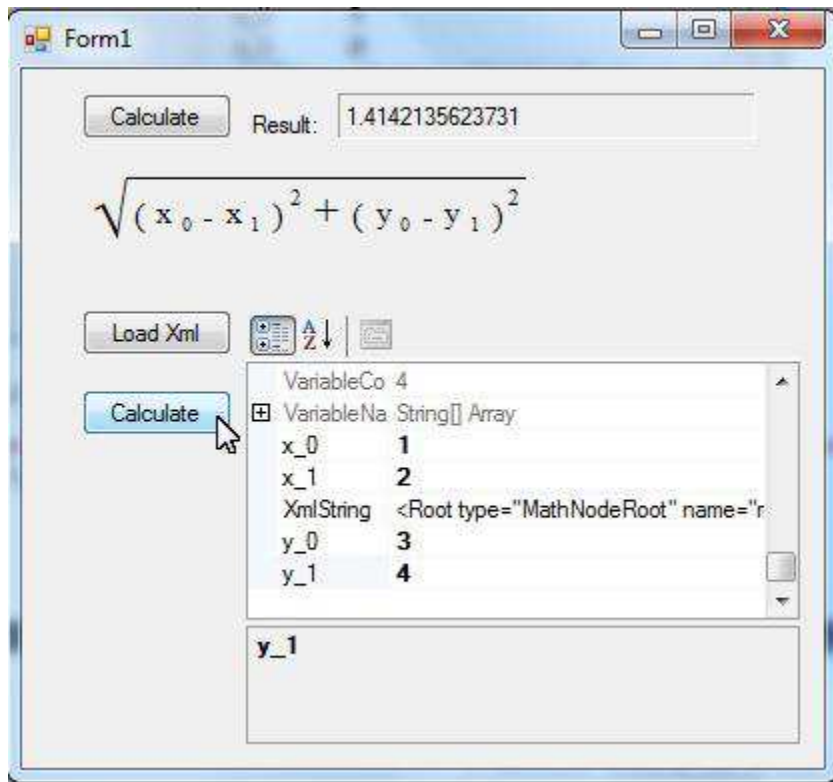
First, remove all those invalid mappings:



Type in the values we want to give to the variables:



Click the new Calculate button; the calculation result appears:



7 Feedback

Please send your feedback to support@limnor.com.