

Mathematica: The Basics

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References:

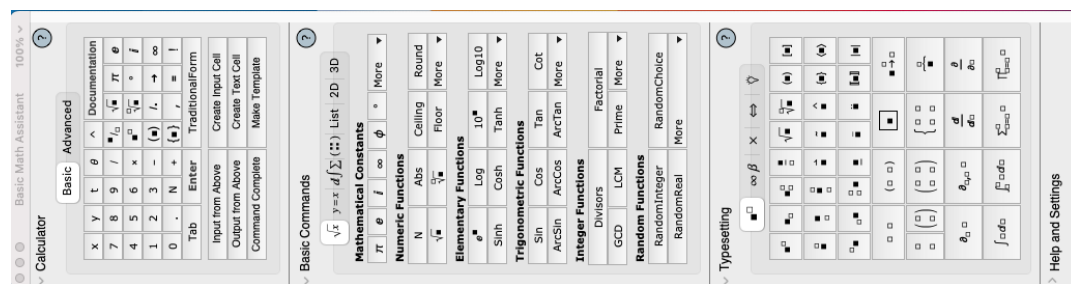
1. Michael Trott , The Mathematica GuideBook for Graphics (2004, Springer-Verlag New York)
2. Michael Trott - The Mathematica Guidebook for Programming (2005, Springer)
3. Michael Trott - The Mathematica GuideBook for Symbolics (2005, Springer)

Mathematica Syntax

Basic operation:

- Shift+Enter to run/evaluate
- Enter to move to a new line in the same cell (a cell is indicated by a single vertical - bar/bracket on the right hand side)
- Click on an empty space or down button on your keyboard to create a new cell (a horizontal line will appear, just type when you see that line)
- Double click the RHS bracket to collapse the cell
- To quickly evaluate the entire notebook, at the top menu, click Evaluation>Evaluate notebook

Palettes > Basic Math Assistant



Clear all stored values

```
In[ ]:= ClearAll["Global`*"]
```

Rules to remember

The first letter of ALL built-in functions and symbols is **ALWAYS CAPITAL LETTER**.

```
In[ ]:= Abs[-10]
Integrate[y, y]
```

```
Out[ ]:= 10
```

```
Out[ ]:=  $\frac{y^2}{2}$ 
```

Brackets usage:

round - parenthesis

square - functions

curly - sets, range, lists, matrices

Documentation

```
In[ ]:= ? Integrate
```

Symbol

`Integrate[f, x]` gives the indefinite integral $\int f \, dx$.

`Integrate[f, {x, x_{min} , x_{max} }` gives the definite integral $\int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} f \, dx$.

`Integrate[f, {x, x_{min} , x_{max} }, {y, y_{min} , y_{max} }, ...]` gives the multiple integral $\int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} dx \int_{y_{min}}^{y_{max}} dy \dots f$.

`Integrate[f, {x, y, ...} $\in reg$]` integrates over the geometric region reg .

```
In[ ]:= ?? Integrate
```

Symbol

`Integrate[f, x]` gives the indefinite integral $\int f \, dx$.

`Integrate[f, {x, x_{min} , x_{max} }` gives the definite integral $\int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} f \, dx$.

`Integrate[f, {x, x_{min} , x_{max} }, {y, y_{min} , y_{max} }, ...]` gives the multiple integral $\int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} dx \int_{y_{min}}^{y_{max}} dy \dots f$.

`Integrate[f, {x, y, ...} $\in reg$]` integrates over the geometric region reg .

Documentation [Local »](#) | [Web »](#)

Options `Assumptions` \rightarrow `$Assumptions` ... (4 total)

Attributes `{Protected, ReadProtected}`

Full Name `System`Integrate`

In[]:= **Information[Integrate]**

Out[]:=

Symbol i

Integrate[*f*, *x*] gives the indefinite integral $\int f \, dx$.

Integrate[*f*, {*x*, *x_{min}*, *x_{max}*}] gives the definite integral $\int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} f \, dx$.

Integrate[*f*, {*x*, *x_{min}*, *x_{max}*}, {*y*, *y_{min}*, *y_{max}*}, ...] gives the multiple integral $\int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} dx \int_{y_{min}}^{y_{max}} dy \dots f$.

Integrate[*f*, {*x*, *y*, ...} $\in reg$] integrates over the geometric region *reg*.

Documentation [Local »](#) | [Web »](#)

Options ▸ **Assumptions** \rightarrow \$Assumptions ... (4 total)

Attributes {Protected, ReadProtected}

Full Name System`Integrate

^

Numerical Computation

In[]:= **Head[3]**

Head[3.3]

Head[3 + 2 I]

Head[x]

Out[]:= **Integer**

Out[]:= **Real**

Out[]:= **Complex**

Out[]:= **Symbol**

In[]:= **Cos[Pi / 5]**

Out[]:= $\frac{1}{4} (1 + \sqrt{5})$

In[]:= **N[Cos[Pi / 5], 100]**

Out[]:= 0.8090169943749474241022934171828190588601545899028814310677243113526302314094 .
512248536036020946955687

In[]:= **NIntegrate[y^5, {y, 0, 3}]**

Out[]:= 121.5

Define Variable

a = 20;

a

20

$$a^{-1/2}$$

$$a * 2$$

$$\frac{1}{2 \sqrt{5}}$$

40

$$b = \text{Cos}[3] + \text{Log}[2.6] + a$$

19.9655

$$a + b$$

39.9655

A defined variable will continue to hold its value (globally: even in a different notebook) until you change or clear it.

Calling previous values

$$\text{In}[*]:= \text{Clear}[a, b, c, d]$$

$$\text{In}[*]:= a = 4 + b;$$

$$\text{In}[*]:= c = 5 + b;$$

$$\text{In}[*]:= d = b;$$

$$\text{In}[*]:= \{\%, \%\}$$

$$\text{Out}[*]= \{b, 5 + b\}$$

$$\text{In}[*]:= \%218$$

$$\text{Out}[*]= 4 + b$$

To clear a variable or all variables

$$\text{ClearAll}[a]$$

a

a

$$a = 20$$

$$\text{ClearAll}[a, b]$$

a

b

20

a

b

```
a = 2; b = -3; c = 9; (*use ";" to suppress outputs*)
```

```
a
```

```
b
```

```
c
```

```
2
```

```
-3
```

```
9
```

```
ClearAll["Global`*"] (*Clear all the values*)
```

```
a
```

```
b
```

```
c
```

```
a
```

```
b
```

```
c
```

Arithmetic Operations

```
1 + 2 / 3 - 8 * 9
```

```
- 211
  3
```

```
9.7^1.2
```

```
15.2801
```

Some notes:

1) multiplication can be written in a few different ways: */space/()

```
a b
```

```
a * b
```

```
a (b)
```

```
a b
```

```
a b
```

```
a b
```

2) ways to write power: Shift+6 or Ctrl+6

3) ways to write divide: / or Ctrl+ /

4) to write square root: use function "Sqrt[]" or Ctrl+2

Some basic built in functions

Three ways calling built-in function

```
In[ ]:= {Abs[-10], Abs@-10, -10 // Abs}
```

```
Out[ ]:= {10, 10, 10}
```

```
In[ ]:= N[ $\frac{1}{3}$ ] (*default significant figures = 6*)
```

```
N[ $\pi$ , 8] (*Shows  $\pi$  value with 8 significant figures*)
```

```
Out[ ]:= 0.333333
```

```
Out[ ]:= 3.1415927
```

```
Exp[3] (*Exponent*)
```

```
Log[3]
```

```
Log[3] // N
```

```
N[Log[3]]
```

```
 $e^3$ 
```

```
Log[3]
```

```
1.09861
```

```
1.09861
```

Trigonometry

Mathematica uses radians by default

```
Cos[30] // N
```

```
0.154251
```

use “Degree” to convert values to radians, i.e. 30 Degree to radians:

```
Cos[30 Degree] // N
```

```
0.866025
```

```
In[ ]:= {Cos[30 Degree], Sin[30 Degree], Tan[30 Degree]}
```

```
Out[ ]:=  $\left\{ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right\}$ 
```

Symbolic Computations

Algebraic operation

In[]:= **Head[x]**

Out[]:= Symbol

In[]:= **Clear[a, b]**

b + a + a

Out[]:= 2 a + b

In[]:= **ReplaceAll[2 a + b, {a → 1, b → 0}]**

Out[]:= 2

In[]:= **2 a + b /. {a → 1, b → 0}**

Out[]:= 2

In[]:= **3 a + 1.3 b + $\frac{6}{7}$ b**

Out[]:= 3 a + 2.15714 b

In[]:= **g = Factor[$\frac{1}{1024}$**
 $(-768 t \cos[2 t] + 48 t \cos[4 t] + 384 (-1 + 2 t^2) \sin[2 t] - 12 (-1 + 8 t^2) \sin[4 t] +$
 $4 t (72 t^2 + 2 (96 - 64 t^2) \cos[2 t] + 4 (-3 + 8 t^2) \cos[4 t] - 128 t \sin[2 t] +$
 $16 t \sin[4 t]) + 4 (24 t^3 + (96 - 64 t^2) \sin[2 t] + (-3 + 8 t^2) \sin[4 t]))]$


Out[]:= $-\frac{1}{8} t^3 (-3 + 4 \cos[2 t] - \cos[4 t])$

In[]:= **Expand[g]**

Out[]:= $\frac{3 t^3}{8} - \frac{1}{2} t^3 \cos[2 t] + \frac{1}{8} t^3 \cos[4 t]$

In[]:= **? FullSimplify**

Out[]:=

Symbol	
System`FullSimplify	
Documentation Local » Web »	
Options	Assumptions -> \$Assumptions ... (6 total)
Attributes	{Protected}
Full Name	System`FullSimplify

In[]:= **FullSimplify[g]**

Out[]:= $t^3 \sin[t]^4$

```
In[ ]:= FullSimplify[25 q^2 + 67 q + q s + s^2]
```

```
Out[ ]:= 25 q^2 + s^2 + q (67 + s)
```

```
In[ ]:= Reduce[x^2 - y^3 == 1, {y}]
```

```
Out[ ]:= y == (-1 + x^2)^(1/3) || y == -(-1)^(1/3) (-1 + x^2)^(1/3) || y == (-1)^(2/3) (-1 + x^2)^(1/3)
```

```
In[ ]:= Trace[%]
```

```
Out[ ]:= {%, Out[$Line - 1], {{ $Line, 334}, {334 - 1, 333}}, %333,
  y == (-1 + x^2)^(1/3) || y == -(-1)^(1/3) (-1 + x^2)^(1/3) || y == (-1)^(2/3) (-1 + x^2)^(1/3)}
```

```
In[ ]:= Solve[x^2 + a x + 1 == 0, x]
```

```
Out[ ]:= {{x -> -1/2 (a - Sqrt[-4 + a^2])}, {x -> -1/2 (-a + Sqrt[-4 + a^2])}}
```

Functions like FullSimplify and Factor are called “Built-in Functions”. They are predefined functions that are written in the *Mathematica* programme.

Differentiation (Look up “D” or “differentiation” in documentation center for more info)

? D

D[f, x] gives the partial derivative $\partial f / \partial x$.

D[f, {x, n}] gives the multiple derivative $\partial^n f / \partial x^n$.

D[f, x, y, ...] differentiates f successively with respect to x, y, ...

D[f, {{x1, x2, ...}}] for a scalar f gives the vector derivative $(\partial f / \partial x_1, \partial f / \partial x_2, \dots)$.

D[f, {array}] gives a tensor derivative. >>

```
In[ ]:= D[Cos[x], x]
```

```
Out[ ]:= -Sin[x]
```

```
In[ ]:= D[x^3, x]
```

```
Out[ ]:= 3 x^2
```

```
In[ ]:= D[x^3, {x, 2}] (*second derivative*)
```

```
Out[ ]:= 6 x
```

```
In[ ]:= D[x^3 + y, x] (*partial*)
```

```
Out[ ]:= 3 x^2
```


Integration (Look up “integrate” in documentation center for more info)

? Integrate

`Integrate[f, x]` gives the indefinite integral $\int f dx$.

`Integrate[f, {x, xmin, xmax}]` gives the definite integral $\int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} f dx$.

`Integrate[f, {x, xmin, xmax}, {y, ymin, ymax}, ...]` gives the multiple integral $\int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} dx \int_{y_{min}}^{y_{max}} dy \dots f$. >>

`Integrate[x, x]`

$$\frac{x^2}{2}$$

`Integrate[x y, x]`

$$\frac{x^2 y}{2}$$

`In[]:= Integrate[t3 Sin[t]4, t]`

$$\text{Out[]}= \frac{1}{1024} \left(-192 (-1 + 2 t^2) \cos[2 t] + 3 (-1 + 8 t^2) \cos[4 t] + 4 t (24 t^3 + (96 - 64 t^2) \sin[2 t] + (-3 + 8 t^2) \sin[4 t]) \right)$$

`In[]:= Integrate[Exp[-3 t] * t^(2/5), {t, 1, Infinity}]`

$$\text{Out[]}= \text{ExpIntegralE}\left[-\frac{2}{5}, 3\right]$$

Defining functions

$$f(x) = \sin(x^2)$$

`In[]:= f[x_] := Sin[x2]`

`In[]:= ? f`

Out[]:=	Symbol
	Global`f
	Definitions f[x_] := Sin[x ²]
	Full Name Global`f
	^

Calling functions and evaluating functions at certain points

```
In[ ]:= f[x]
Out[ ]:= Sin[x^2]

In[ ]:= f[a + 3]
Out[ ]:= Sin[(3 + a)^2]

In[ ]:= f[b]
Out[ ]:= Sin[b^2]

In[ ]:= f[π] // N
Out[ ]:= -0.430301
```

Multivariable function $g(x, y) = e^x + xy$

```
In[ ]:= Clear[g]
      g[x_, y_] := Exp[x] + x y

In[ ]:= ? g
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

Symbol
Global`g
Definitions g[x_, y_] := Exp[x] + x y
Full Name Global`g
^

Calling functions and evaluating functions at certain points

```
In[ ]:= g[x, y]
Out[ ]:= e^x + x y

In[ ]:= g[2, 8]
Out[ ]:= 16 + e^2
```

The underscores behind the variables are compulsory when defining functions, but are not needed when calling them. We CANNOT define a function with `g[x]:=x`.

The function definitions will remain until you clear or change it.

```
In[ ]:= Clear[h]
      h[x_] [y_] := Exp[x] + x y
      h[2] [8]

Out[ ]:= 16 + e^2
```

setting conditions for the input

```
In[ ]:= Clear[f1]
      f1[x_Integer] := x * x

In[ ]:= {f1[], f1[3], f1[3.2]}
Out[ ]:= {f1[], 9, f1[3.2]}
```

More than a variable as input

```
In[ ]:= Clear[f2]

In[ ]:= f2[x__] := x * x

In[ ]:= {f2[], f2[{2, 3}]}
Out[ ]:= {f2[], {4, 9}}

In[ ]:= f2[{4.3, 5.3, 6.3}]
Out[ ]:= {18.49, 28.09, 39.69}
```

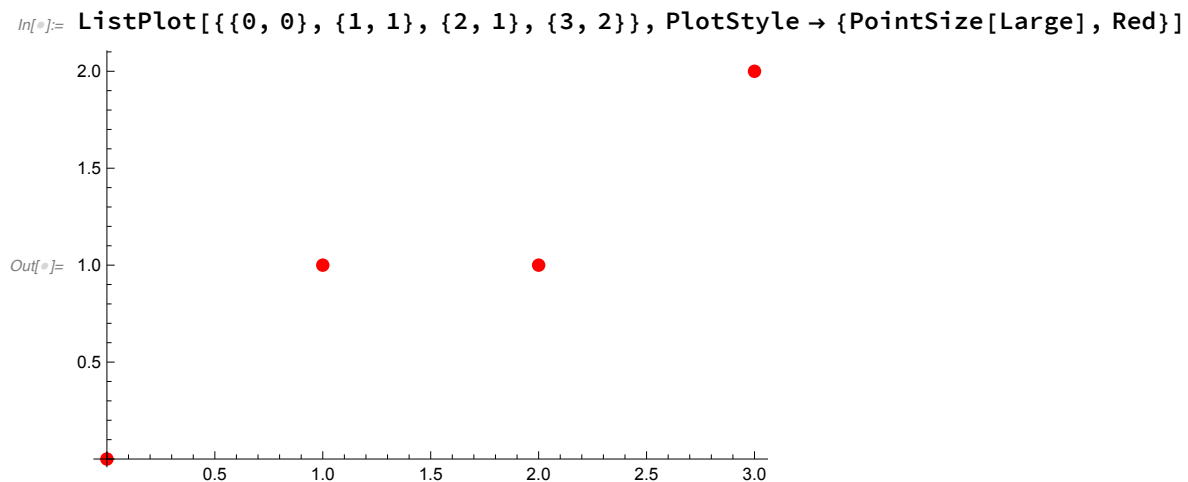
Deleting function definition

```
ClearAll["Global`*"] (*will clear all the variables and functions*)
```

Plotting

Points

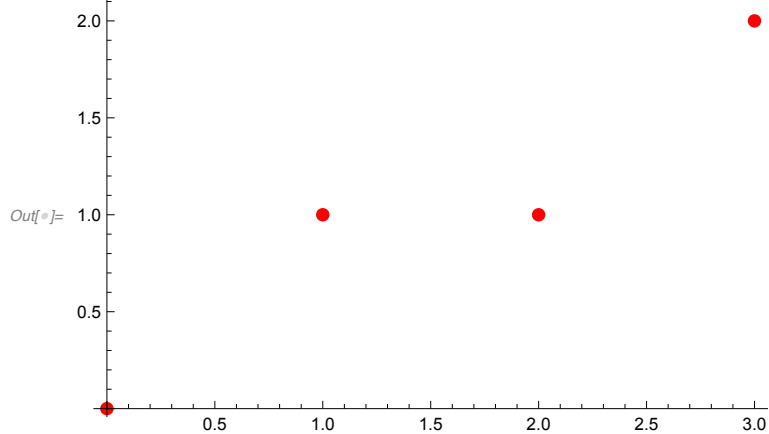
Plotting a series of points (Cartesian coordinates)



You can “store” all the plot as well

```
In[ ]:= P = {{0, 0}, {1, 1}, {2, 1}, {3, 2}};
fig1 = ListPlot[P, PlotStyle -> {PointSize[Large], Red}];
```

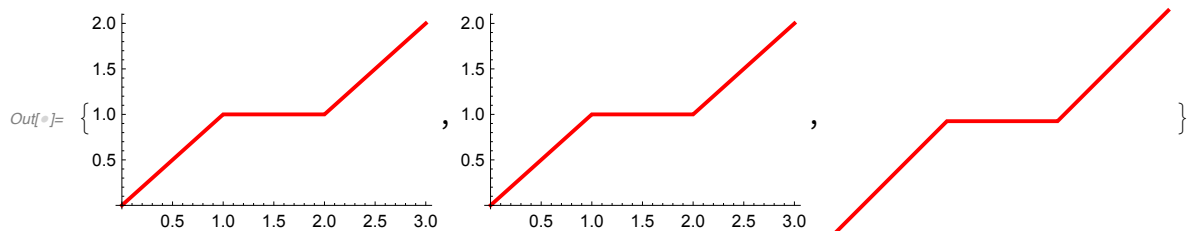
```
In[ ]:= fig1
```



Other than “ListPlot”, we can opt for “Graphics” (“Graphics” do not display axes):

Connecting the points with straight lines

```
In[ ]:= {ListPlot[{{0, 0}, {1, 1}, {2, 1}, {3, 2}}, PlotStyle -> {Thick, Red}, Joined -> True],
ListLinePlot[{{0, 0}, {1, 1}, {2, 1}, {3, 2}}, PlotStyle -> {Thick, Red}],
Graphics[{Red, Thick, Line[P]}]}
```



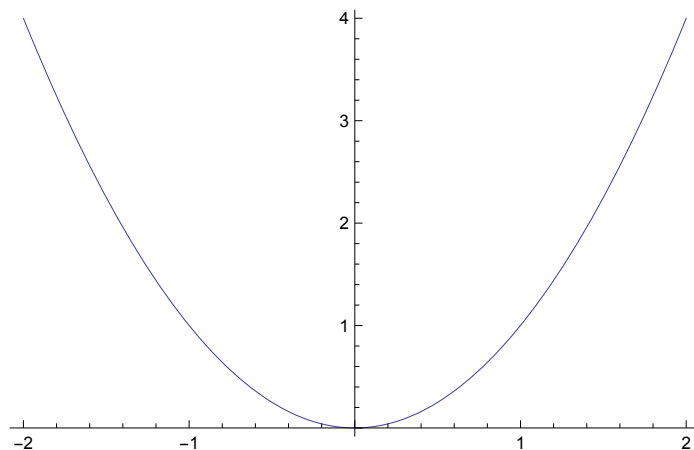
In[]:= Options[ListPlot]

Out[]:= {AlignmentPoint → Center, AspectRatio → $\frac{1}{\text{GoldenRatio}}$, Axes → Automatic, AxesLabel → None, AxesOrigin → Automatic, AxesStyle → {}, Background → None, BaselinePosition → Automatic, BaseStyle → {}, ClippingStyle → None, ColorFunction → Automatic, ColorFunctionScaling → True, ColorOutput → Automatic, ContentSelectable → Automatic, CoordinatesToolOptions → Automatic, DataRange → Automatic, DisplayFunction → \$DisplayFunction, Epilog → {}, Filling → None, FillingStyle → Automatic, FormatType → TraditionalForm, Frame → Automatic, FrameLabel → None, FrameStyle → {}, FrameTicks → Automatic, FrameTicksStyle → {}, GridLines → None, GridLinesStyle → {}, ImageMargins → 0., ImagePadding → All, ImageSize → Automatic, ImageSizeRaw → Automatic, InterpolationOrder → None, IntervalMarkers → Automatic, IntervalMarkersStyle → Automatic, Joined → False, LabelingFunction → Automatic, LabelingSize → Automatic, LabelStyle → {}, MaxPlotPoints → ∞ , Mesh → None, MeshFunctions → {#1 &}, MeshShading → None, MeshStyle → Automatic, Method → Automatic, PerformanceGoal → \$PerformanceGoal, PlotLabel → None, PlotLabels → None, PlotLayout → Overlaid, PlotLegends → None, PlotMarkers → None, PlotRange → Automatic, PlotRangeClipping → True, PlotRangePadding → Automatic, PlotRegion → Automatic, PlotStyle → Automatic, PlotTheme → \$PlotTheme, PreserveImageOptions → Automatic, Prolog → {}, RotateLabel → True, ScalingFunctions → None, TargetUnits → Automatic, Ticks → Automatic, TicksStyle → {} }

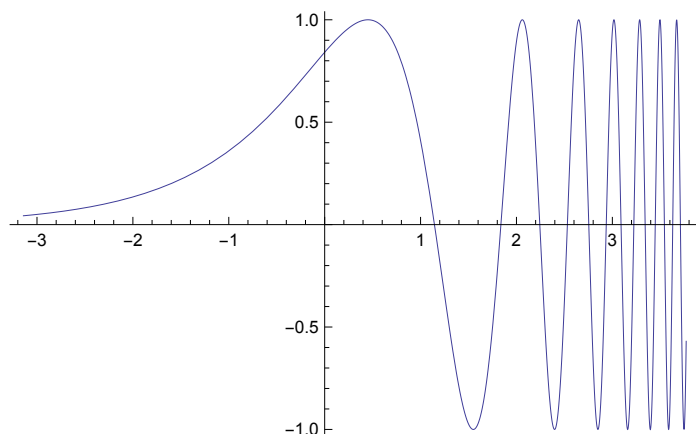
Explicit Function

2D plot

Plot[x², {x, -2, 2}]



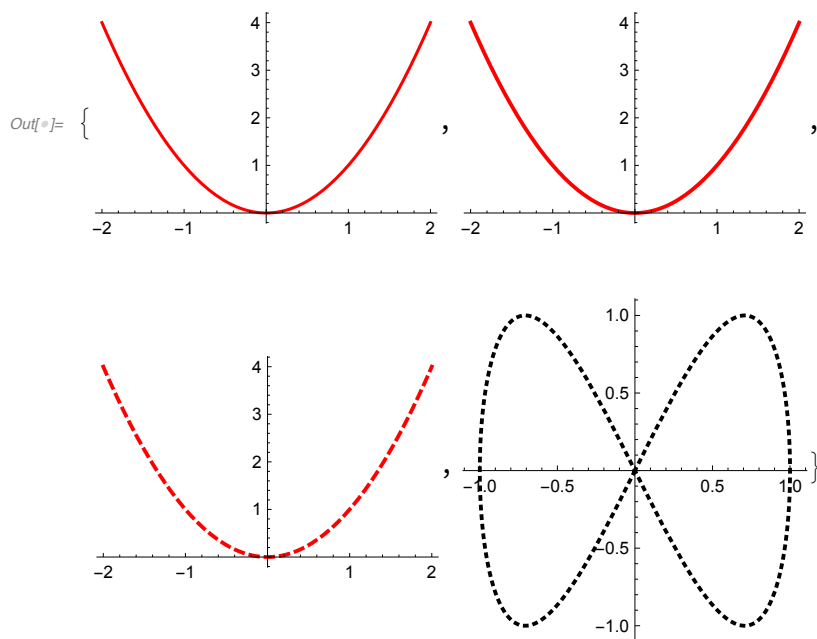
```
f[x_] := Sin[Exp[x]]
Plot[f[x], {x, - $\pi$ , 1.2  $\pi$ }]
```



Editing Plot (Colour, Axes, etc.)

```
In[ ] := {Plot[x2, {x, -2, 2}, PlotStyle → Red],
  Plot[x2, {x, -2, 2}, PlotStyle → {Red, Thick}],
  Plot[x2, {x, -2, 2}, PlotStyle → {Red, Thick, Dashed}], ParametricPlot[
    {Sin[t], Sin[2 t]}, {t, 0, 2 Pi}, PlotStyle → {Black, Dotted, Thick}]}

```



Combining two graphs

```
In[ ]:= {figure1 = Graphics[{Red, PointSize[Large], Point[P]}],
        figure2 = Graphics[{Black, Thick, Line[P]}]}
Show[figure2, figure1]
```

Out[]:= {



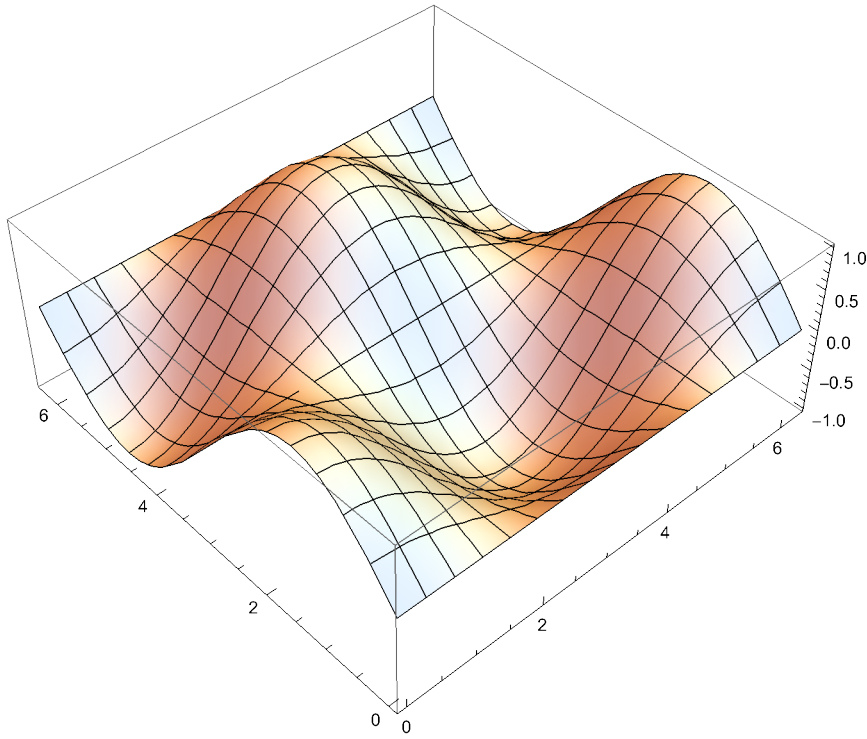
,

Out[]:=



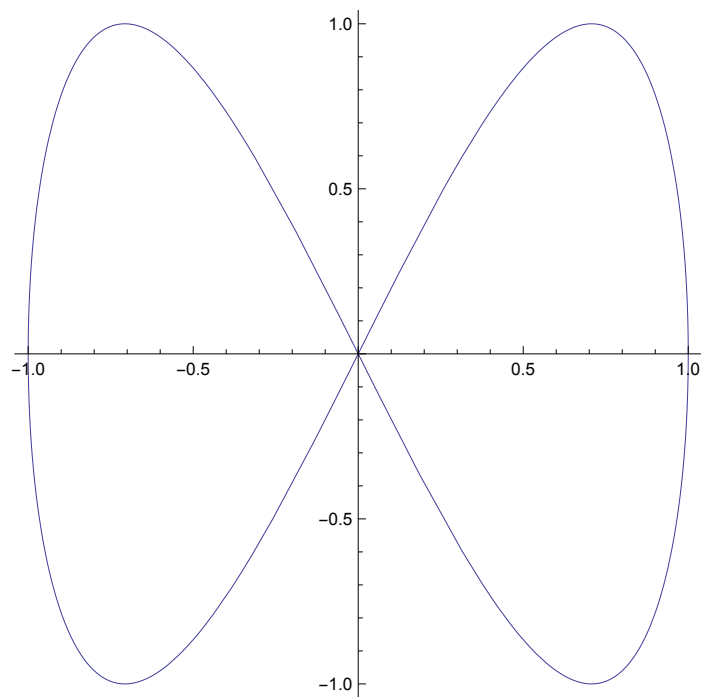
3D Plot

```
g[x_, y_] := Cos[x] Sin[y]  
Plot3D[g[x, y], {x, 0, 2  $\pi$ }, {y, 0, 2  $\pi$ }]
```

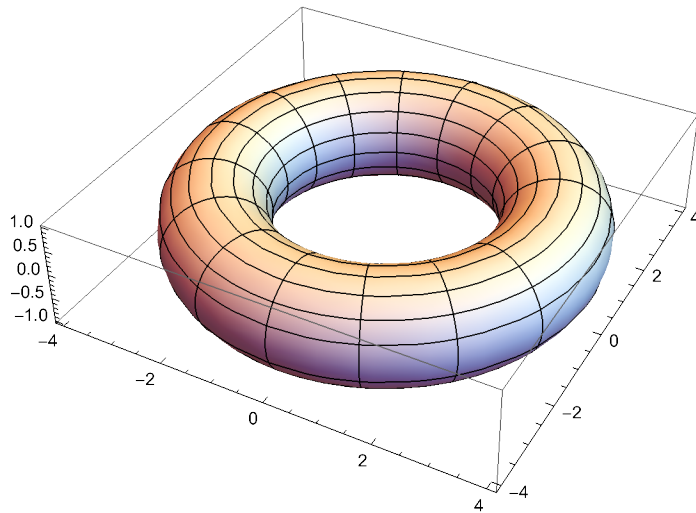


Parametric Plot

```
ParametricPlot[{Sin[t], Sin[2 t]}, {t, 0, 2 Pi}]
```

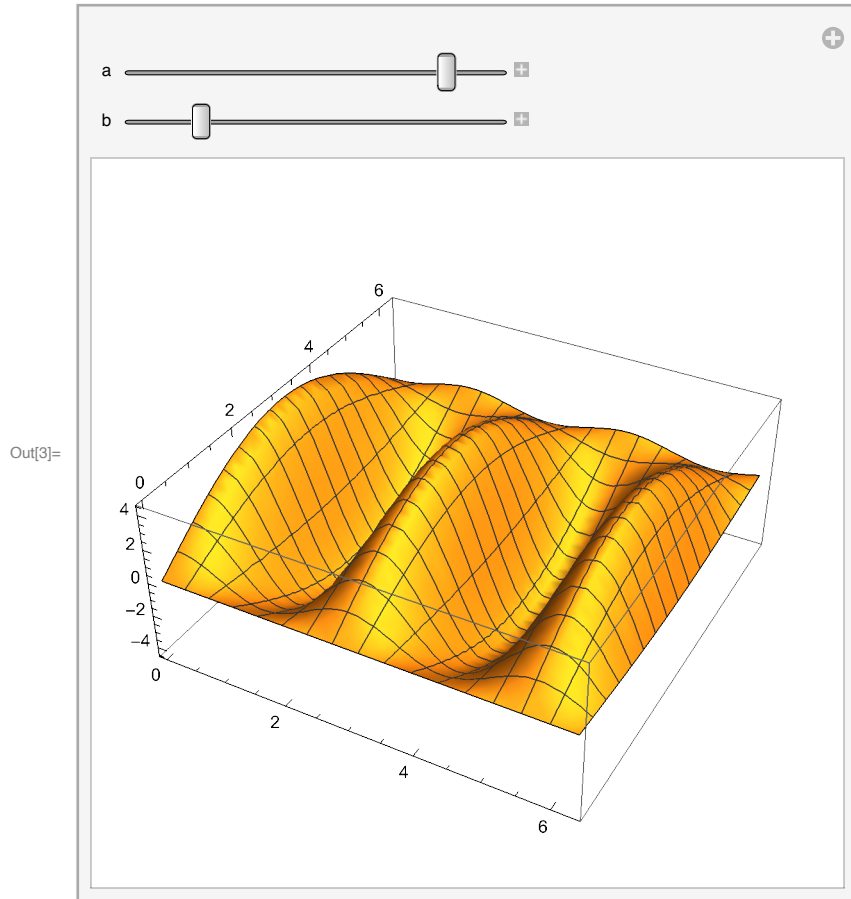



```
ParametricPlot3D[  
  {Cos[t] (3 + Cos[u]), Sin[t] (3 + Cos[u]), Sin[u]}, {t, 0, 2 Pi}, {u, 0, 2 Pi}]
```



Simulation and Animation

```
In[1]:= Clear[g, a, b, x, y]
g[x_, y_, a_, b_] :=  $\frac{a \cos[a x] \sin[b y]}{b}$ 
Manipulate[Plot3D[g[x, y, a, b], {x, 0, 2  $\pi$ }, {y, 0, 2  $\pi$ }], {a, -3, 3}, {b, 0.01, 3}]
```



Vectors and Matrices

Lists is a n-tuple: order matters

```
In[27]:= list1 = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};
list2 = {6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1};
list3 = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6};
list4 = {6, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1};
```

```
In[26]:= list1 == list3
```

Out[26]= True

List properties

In[31]:= **list1 == list4**

Out[31]= **False**

In[46]:= **list1[[3]]**

Out[46]= **3**

In[47]:= **list1[[1 ;; 3]]**

Out[47]= **{1, 2, 3}**

Simple List Operation

In[33]:= **Length[list1]**

Out[33]= **6**

In[6]:= **2 * list1**

Out[6]= **{2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12}**

In[7]:= **list1 + list2**

Out[7]= **{7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7}**

In[8]:= **$\sqrt{\text{list2}}$**

Out[8]= **$\{\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{5}, 2, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{2}, 1\}$**

In[9]:= **$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} + \{2, 5, 7, 8, 4\} / \{a, 4, 6, y, 7\}$**

Out[9]= **$\left\{1 + \frac{2}{a}, \frac{13}{4}, \frac{25}{6}, 4 + \frac{8}{y}, \frac{39}{7}\right\}$**

Generate a list using “Table[]”

Table[i, {i, 1, 10}]

{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10}

Table[Cos[2 i], {i, 1, 10}]

**{Cos[2], Cos[4], Cos[6], Cos[8], Cos[10],
Cos[12], Cos[14], Cos[16], Cos[18], Cos[20]}**

Table[i * j, {i, 1, 2}, {j, 1, 2}]

{{1, 2}, {2, 4}}

Vector

In[19]:= **v1 = {1, 3};**

v2 = {-2, 6};

v3 = {3, 1}

Out[21]= **{3, 1}**

```
In[22]:= v1 == v3
```

```
Out[22]= False
```

Simple Vector Operations

```
In[12]:= q = 2; r = 7;
```

```
In[13]:= q v1 - r v2
```

```
Out[13]= {16, -36}
```

Matrices

```
In[16]:= A = {{1, 2}, {a, b}}
```

```
B = {{1, 2, 3}, {a, b, c}, {2 a, 3 b, 4 c}}
```

```
Out[16]= {{1, 2}, {a, b}}
```

```
Out[17]= {{1, 2, 3}, {a, b, c}, {2 a, 3 b, 4 c}}
```

Showing Matrices in Standard Form

```
MatrixForm[A]
```

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

```
MatrixForm[B]
```

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ a & b & c \\ 2 a & 3 b & 4 c \end{pmatrix}$$

Size of a Matrix

```
Dimensions[M]
```

```
{3, 1}
```

```
Dimensions[A]
```

```
{2, 2}
```

Simple Matrix Operations

```
In[34]:= A.B(*Example of problem usually encountered*)
```

 **Dot:** Tensors {{1, 2}, {a, b}} and {{1, 2, 3}, {a, b, c}, {2 a, 3 b, 4 c}} have incompatible shapes.

```
Out[34]= {{1, 2}, {a, b}} . {{1, 2, 3}, {a, b, c}, {2 a, 3 b, 4 c}}
```

```
In[35]:= M = {{6}, {4}, {2}}
```

```
Out[35]= {{6}, {4}, {2}}
```

In[36]:= **B * M (*Example of incorrect usage*)**

... **Thread**: Objects of unequal length in {1, 2, 3} {6} cannot be combined.

... **Thread**: Objects of unequal length in {a, b, c} {4} cannot be combined.

... **Thread**: Objects of unequal length in {2 a, 3 b, 4 c} {2} cannot be combined.

... **General**: Further output of Thread::tlen will be suppressed during this calculation.

Out[36]= {{6} {1, 2, 3}, {4} {a, b, c}, {2} {2 a, 3 b, 4 c}}

In[37]:= **U = B.M**

MatrixForm[B.M]

Out[37]= {{20}, {6 a + 4 b + 2 c}, {12 a + 12 b + 8 c}}

Out[38]//MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} 20 \\ 6 a + 4 b + 2 c \\ 12 a + 12 b + 8 c \end{pmatrix}$$

In[41]:= **4 U**

MatrixForm[%]

Out[41]= {{80}, {4 (6 a + 4 b + 2 c)}, {4 (12 a + 12 b + 8 c)}}

Out[42]//MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} 80 \\ 4 (6 a + 4 b + 2 c) \\ 4 (12 a + 12 b + 8 c) \end{pmatrix}$$

In[43]:= **4 U - M**

MatrixForm[4 U - M]

Out[43]= {{74}, {-4 + 4 (6 a + 4 b + 2 c)}, {-2 + 4 (12 a + 12 b + 8 c)}}

Out[44]//MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} 74 \\ -4 + 4 (6 a + 4 b + 2 c) \\ -2 + 4 (12 a + 12 b + 8 c) \end{pmatrix}$$

GETTING PART OF A LIST/MATRIX

In[60]:= **A = {{1, 2, 3}, {a, z, b}};**

In[61]:= **A[[1]]**

Out[61]= {1, 2, 3}

In[62]:= **A[[2]]**

Out[62]= {a, z, b}

In[66]:= **A[[2, 2]]**

Out[66]= z

In[68]:= **A[[2, 2 ;; 3]]**

Out[68]= {z, b}

END