

Ryacas – an R interface to the yacas computer algebra system

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Ryacas version 0.3-1 as of 2017-02-26

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1 Introduction

Ryacas is an R package that makes the **yacas** computer algebra system available from within R. The name **yacas** is short for “Yet Another Computer Algebra System”. **Ryacas** is available on the The

Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) at <http://cran.r-project.org/>. In addition, **Ryacas** is also described on <https://code.google.com/p/ryacas/>.

The **yacas** program is developed by Ayal Pinkhuis (who is also the maintainer of **yacas**) and others, and is available at <http://yacas.sourceforge.net> for various platforms. This site also contains a comprehensive documentation and the documentation contains many examples.

The examples given here are largely taken from the **yacas** documentation (especially from the introductory chapter) but are organised differently.

Ressources:

<http://yacas.sourceforge.net/ref.book.pdf>

2 A small session – polynomials

The **Ryacas** package works by sending “commands” to **yacas** which makes the calculations and returns the result to R. This can be done in various ways.

2.1 Calling with yacas commands as text strings

A simple way of calling **yacas** from R is by submitting **yacas** commands as a text string to the **yacas()** function.

```
> out <- yacas( "Expand( (1 + u)^4 )" ); out
expression(u^4 + 4 * u^3 + 6 * u^2 + 4 * u + 1)
> class( out )
[1] "yacas"
```

Notice that the output from **yacas()** looks like an R expression, but it is not; see below.

The result can be displayed nicer in different forms. For example

```
> PrettyForm( out )
      4      3      2
u  + 4 * u  + 6 * u  + 4 * u + 1

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>
> TeXForm( out )
expression("$u ^{4} + 4 u ^{3} + 6 u ^{2} + 4 u + 1$")
```

To obtain the tex form as a string to put into a file we can do:

```
> yacas(TeXForm(out), retclass = "unquote")
```

2.2 The output from yacas

The output from **yacas()** looks like an R expression, but it is not; it is a "yacas" object.

```
> class( out )
[1] "yacas"
> names( out )
```

```

[1] "text"      "OMForm"
> lapply( out, head )
$text
expression(u^4 + 4 * u^3 + 6 * u^2 + 4 * u + 1)

$OMForm
[1] "<OMOBJ>\r\n <OMA>\r\n      <OMS cd=\"arith1\" name=\"plus\"/>\r\n      <OMA>\r\n      <OMS cd=\"
The text slot in the output is an R expression that can be evaluated numerically as
> eval( out$text, list(u=1) )
[1] 16

```

in **Ryacas**, there is an `Eval()` function that operation that operates on **yacas** objects so one can also do

```

> Eval( out, list(u=1) )
[1] 16

```

2.3 Calling yacas with R expressions

In **Ryacas**, R expressions can be sent to **yacas** so one can do

```

> e <- expression( Expand( (1 + u)^4 ) )
> yacas( e )
expression(u^4 + 4 * u^3 + 6 * u^2 + 4 * u + 1)

```

This works fine as long as a valid R expression can be created – but consider expanding a polynomial in two variables

```

> e <- expression( Expand((1+x-y)^2, x) )      ## This works
> ## e <- expression( Expand((1+x-y)^2, {x,y}) ) ## This fails

```

The latter case fails because of the **yacas** syntax with curly braces which R's `expression()` function can not interpret. So in the latter case we have to pass the argument as a text string:

```

> yacas( "Expand((1+x-y)^2, {x,y})" )
expression(x^2 + (-2 * y + 2) * x + (y^2 - 2 * y + 1))

```

Another example of an operation that can not be handled using R expressions is differentiation. Doing

```

yacac(expression(D(x)Sin(x)))

```

produces an error. For such cases we can do

```

> yacas("D(x)Sin(x)")
expression(cos(x))

```

2.4 Using Sym objects

An elegant way of working with **yacas** is by using **Sym** objects. A **Sym** object is a character string that has class **Sym**. The function `Sym(x)` coerces an object **x** to a **Sym** object by first coercing it to character and then changing its class to **Sym**. For clarity we use two different symbols here:

```

> x_ <- Sym("x")
> x_
expression(x)

```

```
> dput( x_ )
structure("x", class = c("Sym", "character"))
```

One can combine `Sym` objects with other `Sym` objects as well as to other `R` objects using `+`, `-` and other similar `R` operators. For example

```
> x_ + 4
expression(x + 4)
> Eval(x_+4, list(x=1))
[1] 5
```

One can apply `sin`, `cos`, `tan`, `deriv`, `Integrate` and other provided functions to `Sym` objects. For example:

```
> x <- Sym("x")
> Integrate(sin(x), x)
expression(-cos(x))
> deriv(cos(x), x)
expression(-sin(x))
```

2.5 Recall the most recent line – the % operator

The operator `%` automatically recalls the result from the previous line.

```
> yacas("(1+x)^3")
expression((x + 1)^3)
> yacas("%")
expression((x + 1)^3)
> yacas("z:= %")
expression((x + 1)^3)
> (1+x)^3
expression((x + 1)^3)
> zs <- Sym("%")
> zs
expression((x + 1)^3)
```

2.6 Setting and clearing a variable

The function `Set()` and the operator `:=` can both be used to assign values to global variables in `yacas`:

```
> yacas("n := 10")
expression(10)
> yacas("n := n + n")
expression(20)
> yacas("Set(z, Cos(a))")
expression(TRUE)
> yacas("z+z")
```

```
expression(2 * cos(a))
```

Notice that these are variables in `yacas`, not in R. Variables in `yacas` can be removed `Clear()`

```
> yacas("n")
```

```
expression(20)
```

```
> yacas("Clear(n, z)")
```

```
expression(TRUE)
```

```
> yacas("n")
```

```
expression(n)
```

Variables in `yacas` can also be set with `Set()` from R:

```
> Set(m, 10)
```

```
expression(10)
```

Now `m` exists as a variable in `yacas` (and we can make computations on this variable as above). However we have no handle on this variable in R. Such a handle is obtained with with `Sym` objects:

```
> m <- Sym("m")
```

Now the R variable `m` refers to the `yacas` variable `m` and we can make calculations directly from R, e.g:

```
> Set(m, 123)
```

```
expression(123)
```

```
> m^2
```

```
expression(15129)
```

3 Yacas calculations

3.1 Symbolic and numerical calculations, precision

```
> yacas(expression( (1/2) / (4/5) ))
```

```
expression(5/8)
```

```
> Sym("1/2") / Sym("4/5") ## WRONG RESULT
```

```
expression(1/40)
```

```
> Sym("1/14 + 5/21 * (30 - 1 + 1/2)")
```

```
expression(149/21)
```

```
> Sym("55/10")
```

```
expression(11/2)
```

Notice that rational numbers will stay rational as long as numerators and denominators are integers.

Evaluations are generally exact:

```
> yacas("Exp(0)")
```

```
expression(1)
```

```
> yacas("Exp(1)")
```

```
expression(exp(1))
```

```
> yacas("Sin(Pi/4)")
```

```

expression(root(1/2, 2))
> yacas("355/113")
expression(355/113)
> exp(Sym(0))
expression(1)
> exp(Sym(1))
expression(exp(1))
> sin(Pi/4)
expression(root(1/2, 2))
> Sym("355/113")
expression(355/113)

```

To obtain a numerical evaluation (approximation), the `N()` function can be used: The `N()` function has an optional second argument, the required precision:

```

> x <- Sym("55/10")
> N( x )
expression(5.5)
> Eval( N( x ) )
[1] 5.5
> yacas("355/113")
expression(355/113)
> N( yacas("355/113"), 8 )
expression(3.14159292)
> N( "355/113", 8 )
expression(3.14159292)
>

```

The command `Precision(n)` can be used to specify that all floating point numbers should have a fixed precision of `n` digits:

```

> yacas("Precision(5)")
expression(Precision(5))
> yacas("N(355/113)")
expression(3.1415929203)
> ## Alternative
> ## Precision(5)
> ## N("355/113")

```

Combining symbolic and numerical expressions:

```

> x <- Sym("x")
> N(sin(1)^2 + cos(x)^2)
expression(cos(x)^2 + 0.708073418273571)

```

3.2 Differentiation

```
> yacas("D(x) Sin(x)")
expression(cos(x))
> yacas("D(x, 2) Sin(x)")
expression(-sin(x))
> x <- Sym("x")
> deriv(sin(x), x)
expression(cos(x))
```

3.3 Integration

```
> yacas("Integrate(x,a,b)Sin(x)")
expression(cos(a) - cos(b))
> a <- Sym("a"); b <- Sym("b")
> Integrate(sin(x), x, a, b)
expression(cos(a) - cos(b))
```

3.4 Expanding polynomials

```
> yacas("Expand( (1 + x)^3 )" )
expression(x^3 + 3 * x^2 + 3 * x + 1)
> yacas("Factor( x^2 - 1 )" )
expression((x + 1) * (x - 1))
> xs <- Sym("xs")
> Expand((1+xs)^3)
expression(xs^3 + 3 * xs^2 + 3 * xs + 1)
> Factor(xs^2-1)
expression((xs + 1) * (xs - 1))
```

3.5 Taylor expansion

```
> yacas("texp := Taylor(x,0,3) Exp(x)")
expression(x + x^2/2 + x^3/6 + 1)
> xs <- Sym("xs")
expression(xs)
> texp <- Taylor(exp(xs), xs, 0, 3)
expression(xs + xs^2/2 + xs^3/6 + 1)
Expand exp(x) in three terms around 0 and a:
> yacas("Taylor(x,0,3) Exp(x)")
expression(x + x^2/2 + x^3/6 + 1)
> yacas("Taylor(x,a,3) Exp(x)")
```

```

expression(exp(a) + exp(a) * (x - a) + (x - a)^2 * exp(a)/2 +
  (x - a)^3 * exp(a)/6)
> xs <- Sym("xs")
> Taylor(exp(xs),xs,0,3)
expression(xs + xs^2/2 + xs^3/6 + 1)
> as <- Sym("as")
> Taylor(exp(x),x,as,3)
expression(exp(as) + exp(as) * (x - as) + (x - as)^2 * exp(as)/2 +
  (x - as)^3 * exp(as)/6)

```

3.6 Inverse Taylor

The `InverseTaylor()` function builds the Taylor series expansion of the inverse of an expression. For example, the Taylor expansion in two terms of the inverse of $\exp(x)$ around $x = 0$ (which is the Taylor expansion of $\ln(y)$ around $y = 1$):

```

> yacas("InverseTaylor(x,0,2)Exp(x)")
expression(x - 1 - (x - 1)^2/2)
> yacas("Taylor(y,1,2)Ln(y)")
expression(y - 1 - (y - 1)^2/2)
> ys <- Sym("ys"); xs <- Sym("xs")
> InverseTaylor(exp(xs),xs,0,2)
expression(xs + xs^2/2 + 1)
> Taylor(log(ys),ys,1,2)
expression(ys - 1 - (ys - 1)^2/2)

```

3.7 Factorial

```

> yacas("40!")
expression(8.15915283247898e+47)
> yacas("40!", retclass = "character")
815915283247897734345611269596115894272000000000
> Factorial(40)
expression(Factorial(40))

```

3.8 Limits

```

> yacas("Limit(x,0) Sin(x)/x")
expression(1)
> yacas("Limit(n,Infinity) (1+(1/n))^n")
expression(exp(1))
> yacas("Limit(h,0) (Sin(x+h)-Sin(x))/h")
expression(cos(x))

```



```

> x <- Sym("x"); n <- Sym("n"); h <- Sym("h")
> Limit( sin(x) / x, x, 0)
expression(1)
> Limit( (1 + (1 / n))^n, n, Infinity )
expression(exp(1))
> Limit( (sin(x + h) - sin(x)) / h, h, 0)
expression(cos(x))

```

3.9 Simplifying an expression

The function `Simplify()` attempts to reduce an expression to a simpler form.

```

> y <- Sym("y")
> yacas("(x+y)^3-(x-y)^3")
expression((x + y)^3 - (x - y)^3)
> yacas("Simplify(%)")
expression(6 * (x^2 * y) + 2 * y^3)
> (x+y)^3-(x-y)^3
expression((x + y)^3 - (x - y)^3)
> Simplify("%")
expression(6 * (x^2 * y) + 2 * y^3)

```

3.10 Complex numbers and the imaginary unit

The imaginary unit i is denoted `I` and complex numbers can be entered as either expressions involving `I` or explicitly `Complex(a,b)` for $a + ib$.

```

> yacas("I")
expression(complex_cartesian(0, 1))
> yacas("I^2")
expression(-1)
> yacas("7+3*I")
expression(complex_cartesian(7, 3))
> yacas("Conjugate(%)")
expression(complex_cartesian(7, -3))
> yacas("Exp(3*I)")
expression(complex_cartesian(cos(3), sin(3)))
> I
expression(complex_cartesian(0, 1))
> I^2
expression(-1)
> 7+3*I

```

```

expression(complex_cartesian(7, 3))
> Conjugate("%")
expression(complex_cartesian(7, -3))
> exp(3*I)
expression(complex_cartesian(cos(3), sin(3)))
> z <- 7+3*I
> 1/z
expression(complex_cartesian(7/58, -3/58))
> z*(1/z)
expression(1)
We get the famous identity  $\exp(i\pi) = -1$  with
> exp(I*Pi)
expression(-1)

```

3.11 Solving equations

3.11.1 Solving equations symbolically

Solve equations symbolically with the `Solve()` function:

```

> yacas("Solve(x/(1+x) == a, x)")
expression(list(x == a/(1 - a)))
> yacas("Solve(x^2+x == 0, x)")
expression(list(x == 0, x == -1))
> Solve(xs/(1+xs) == as, xs)
expression(list(xs == as/(1 - as)))
> Solve(xs^2+xs == 0, xs)
expression(list(xs == 0, xs == -1))
> Solve(List(xs^2+ys^2==6, xs-ys==3), List(xs,ys))
expression(list(list(xs == root(6 - ys^2, 2), ys == ys)))
> mu <- Sym("mu") # mean
> v <- Sym("v") # variance
> Solve(List(mu==(xs/(xs+ys)), v==((xs*ys)/(((xs+ys)^2) * (xs+ys+1)))),
+      List(xs,ys))
expression(list(list(xs == mu^2 * (1 - mu)/v - mu, ys == xs/mu -
xs)))

```

(Note the use of the `==` operator, which does not evaluate to anything, to denote an "equation" object.)

3.11.2 Solving equations numerically

To solve an equation (in one variable) like $\sin(x) - \exp(x) = 0$ numerically taking 0.5 as initial guess and an accuracy of 0.0001 do:

```

> yacas("Newton(Sin(x)-Exp(x),x, 0.5, 0.0001)")

```

```
expression(-3.1830630118)
> Newton(sin(xs)-exp(xs),xs, 0.5, 0.0001)
expression(-3.1830630118)
```

3.12 Solving ordinary differential equations

```
> yacas("OdeSolve(y'==4*y)")
expression(C12403 * exp(2 * x) + C12407 * exp(-2 * x))
> yacas("OdeSolve(y'==8*y)")
expression(C12437 * exp(8 * x))
```

4 Matrices

```
> PrettyPrinter()
expression(PrettyPrinter())
> A <- yacas("A:={{4,-2,4,2},{-2,10,-2,-7},{4,-2,8,4},{2,-7,4,7}}")
> PrettyForm(A) ## FIXME: SHOULD THIS WORK??

list( list( 4 , -2 , 4 , 2 ) , list( -2 , 10 , -2 , -7 ) ,

list( 4 , -2 , 8 , 4 ) , list( 2 , -7 , 4 , 7 ) )

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> yacas("PrettyForm(A)")

/
| ( 4 ) ( -2 ) ( 4 ) ( 2 ) |
|
| ( -2 ) ( 10 ) ( -2 ) ( -7 ) |
|
| ( 4 ) ( -2 ) ( 8 ) ( 4 ) |
|
| ( 2 ) ( -7 ) ( 4 ) ( 7 ) |
\

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> R <- yacas("R := Cholesky(A)")
> yacas("PrettyForm(R)")

/
| ( 2 ) ( -1 ) ( 2 ) ( 1 ) |
|
| ( 0 ) ( 3 ) ( 0 ) ( -2 ) |
|
| ( 0 ) ( 0 ) ( 2 ) ( 1 ) |
|
```

```

| ( 0 ) ( 0 ) ( 0 ) ( 1 ) |
\                               /

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> yacas("RtR:=Transpose(R) * R")
expression(list(list(4, -2, 4, 2), list(-2, 10, -2, -7), list(4,
  -2, 8, 4), list(2, -7, 4, 7)))

> yacas("PrettyForm(RtR)")
/                               \
| ( 4 ) ( -2 ) ( 4 ) ( 2 ) |
|                               |
| ( -2 ) ( 10 ) ( -2 ) ( -7 ) |
|                               |
| ( 4 ) ( -2 ) ( 8 ) ( 4 ) |
|                               |
| ( 2 ) ( -7 ) ( 4 ) ( 7 ) |
\                               /

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> yacas("M:={ {u1,u1,0},{u1,0,u2},{0,u2,0} }")
expression(list(list(u1, u1, 0), list(u1, 0, u2), list(0, u2,
  0)))

> yacas("PrettyForm(M)")
/                               \
| ( u1 ) ( u1 ) ( 0 ) |
|                               |
| ( u1 ) ( 0 ) ( u2 ) |
|                               |
| ( 0 ) ( u2 ) ( 0 ) |
\                               /

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> u1 <- Sym("u1"); u2 <- Sym("u2")
> M <- List(List(u1, u1, 0), List(u1, 0, u2), List(0, u2, 0))
> PrettyForm( M )
/                               \
| ( u1 ) ( u1 ) ( 0 ) |
|                               |
| ( u1 ) ( 0 ) ( u2 ) |
|                               |
| ( 0 ) ( u2 ) ( 0 ) |
\                               /

```

```

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> yacas(TeXForm(M), retclass = "unquote")

```

4.1 Inverse

```

> yacas("Mi:=Inverse( M )")
expression(list(list(u2^2/(u1 * u2^2), 0, -(u1 * u2)/(u1 * u2^2)),
  list(0, 0, u1 * u2/(u1 * u2^2)), list(-(u1 * u2)/(u1 * u2^2),
    u1 * u2/(u1 * u2^2), u1^2/(u1 * u2^2))))
> yacas("Simplify( Mi )")
expression(list(list(1/u1, 0, -1/u2), list(0, 0, 1/u2), list(-1/u2,
  1/u2, u1/u2^2)))
> yacas("PrettyForm(Simplify( Mi ))")
/
| / 1 \ ( 0 ) / -1 \ |
| | -- |      | -- | |
| \ u1 /      \ u2 / |
|                    |
| ( 0 ) ( 0 ) / 1 \ |
|          | -- | |
|          \ u2 / |
|                    |
| / -1 \ / 1 \ / u1 \ |
| | -- | | -- | | --- | |
| \ u2 / \ u2 / | 2 | |
|          \ u2 / |
\
/

```

```

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> Mi <- Inverse( M )
> Simplify( Mi )
expression(list(list(1/u1, 0, -1/u2), list(0, 0, 1/u2), list(-1/u2,
  1/u2, u1/u2^2)))
> PrettyForm(Simplify( Mi ))
/
| / 1 \ ( 0 ) / -1 \ |
| | -- |      | -- | |
| \ u1 /      \ u2 / |
|                    |
| ( 0 ) ( 0 ) / 1 \ |
|          | -- | |
|          \ u2 / |
|                    |
| / -1 \ / 1 \ / u1 \ |
| | -- | | -- | | --- | |
| \ u2 / \ u2 / | 2 | |
|          \ u2 / |
\
/

```

$$\frac{\sqrt{u_2} \sqrt{u_2} \sqrt{u_2}}{\sqrt{u_2}}$$

```

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

```

4.2 Determinant

```

> yacas("Determinant( M )")
expression(-(u1 * u2^2))
> yacas("Determinant( Mi )") ## FIXME: Whats up here?
expression(-(u2^2 * (u1 * u2)^2)/(u1 * u2^2)^3)
> yacas("Simplify( Mi )")
expression(list(list(1/u1, 0, -1/u2), list(0, 0, 1/u2), list(-1/u2,
  1/u2, u1/u2^2)))
> yacas("Simplify(Determinant( Mi ))") ## FIXME: Whats up here?
expression(-1/(u2^2 * u1))
> determinant( M )
expression(-(u1 * u2^2))
> determinant( Mi )
expression(-(u2^2 * (u1 * u2)^2)/(u1 * u2^2)^3)
> Simplify( Mi )
expression(list(list(1/u1, 0, -1/u2), list(0, 0, 1/u2), list(-1/u2,
  1/u2, u1/u2^2)))
> Simplify(determinant( Mi ))
expression(-1/(u2^2 * u1))

```

5 Printing with PrettyForm, PrettyPrint, TexForm and TeX-Form

Printing the result in nice forms:

```

> yacas("PrettyForm(texp)")
      2      3
      x      x
x + -- + -- + 1
      2      6

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> yacas("TeXForm(texp)", retclass = "unquote")

```

```

$x + \frac{x ^{2}}{2} + \frac{x ^{3}}{6} + 1$
> yacas("TeXForm(texp)", retclass = "unquote")

$$x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + 1$$

> PrettyForm(texp)

$$\frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + 1$$

<OMOBJ>
<OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>
> TeXForm(texp)
expression("$x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + 1$")
There are different ways of displaying the output.

```

5.0.1 Standard form

The (standard) yacas form is:

```

> yacas("A:={{a,b},{c,d}}")
expression(list(list(a, b), list(c, d)))
> yacas("B:= (1+x)^2+k^3")
expression((x + 1)^2 + k^3)
> yacas("A")
expression(list(list(a, b), list(c, d)))
> yacas("B")
expression((x + 1)^2 + k^3)
> as <- Sym("as"); bs <- Sym("bs"); cs <- Sym("cs"); ds <- Sym("ds")
> A <- List(List(as,bs), List(cs,ds))
> ks <- Sym("ks")
> B <- (1+xs)^2+ks^3
> A
expression(list(list(as, bs), list(cs, ds)))
> B
expression((xs + 1)^2 + ks^3)

```

5.0.2 Pretty form

The Pretty form is:

```

> yacas("PrettyForm(A)")
/
| ( a ) ( b ) |
|             |
| ( c ) ( d ) |

```

```

\          /

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> yacas("PrettyForm(B)")

      2      3
( x + 1 ) + k

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> PrettyForm(A)

/          \
| ( as ) ( bs ) |
|              |
| ( cs ) ( ds ) |
\          /

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

> PrettyForm(B)

      2      3
( xs + 1 ) + ks

<OMOBJ>
  <OMS cd="logic1" name="true"/>
</OMOBJ>

```

5.0.3 TeX form

The output can be displayed in TeX form:

```

> yacas("TeXForm(B)", retclass = "character")
'$\left( x + 1\right) ^{2} + k ^{3}$'

```

This function sets up the function printer to print out the results on the command line. This can be reset to the internal printer with `PrettyPrinter()`.

Currently implemented prettyprinters are: `PrettyForm`, `TeXForm`, `Print` and `DefaultPrint`.

```

> PrettyPrinter()
expression(PrettyPrinter())

```